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TELLS HOW WHEAT PRICE STABILIZED

REPORT ON WAR MEASURE

Expert Describes Causes Leading to Fixing of Price to Protect Farmers During Conflict

A report by Dr. Frank M. Surface, an economist of the United States grain administration, made public today, reveals for the first time a chapter of war history which is of special interest to the American farmer. Because of the persistent misrepresentation that the price of wheat, determined by the Committee appointed by President Wilson, was not in the best interests of the farmer, members of that Committee had requested that a full report should be issued on the subject.

New Information
A new item in war history is revealed by the fact that without the action of the American officials, the farmer would have received only about \$1.50 per bushel for his 1917 crop of wheat instead of the \$2.20 determined by this committee as a fair price. It is now shown that this action was taken solely to protect the American farmers and resulted in a gain of millions of dollars to them.

The report states that, in the spring of 1917, the Allies, by bidding against each other, had forced the price of wheat from \$1.50 to over \$3.00 per bushel. In order to abolish this competition between themselves the Allied Governments before we came in to the war, had consolidated their purchasing of world wheat into one buying agency. Through the control of world shipping and the blockade against the enemy, this agency was the sole buyer of export wheat.

In Foreign Hands
The domestic price of wheat to the American farmer was fixed by the price which could be realized for the export surplus. As export buying was all in one hand, the operation of the law of supply and demand had been abolished, and the price of wheat to the American farmer, therefore, would be determined by the price which this buying agency determined to pay. Price fixing for American wheat was thus already under way in foreign lands. Congress had provided a minimum price of only \$2.00 per bushel for the 1918 crop, and it had made to provision for the 1917 crop then being harvested.

Meant Low Price
The Allied Governments had fixed prices of wheat in their own countries at about \$1.80 per bushel, and in order to lay down American wheat to their people at this price, they considered that they should pay the American farmer about \$1.50 per bushel at Chicago for the 1917 crop. In support of this contention, their agents felt that any higher price to the American farmer would require an increase in the price of bread in the Allied countries; that the American farmer had realized only about \$1.30 per bushel for his previous year's wheat, despite the \$3.00 corner on the Chicago market which occurred after nearly 95% of the wheat had left the farms. They also pointed out that they could purchase abundant supplies of wheat in Argentina and Australia at \$1.50 per bushel or less, and that the only reason they were prevented from availing themselves of such cheaper supplies from these more distant markets was because of the demand of the American Government for the use of their shipping for transporting our ships and supplies.

Act to Protect Farmer
In the face of this situation, it was clear that unless action should be taken, the American farmer would receive \$1.50 per bushel for his wheat, and the price was already falling rapidly toward that level. To prevent this, Mr. Hoover took the matter up in justice to the producers who have shown great patriotism in special effort to increase production. Mr. Hoover wrote President Wilson in July 1917, "it is absolutely vital that we shall protect the farmer from a slump in price this year due to glut or from the uncontrolled decisions of any one buyer."

Acting on this recommendation, President Wilson appointed an independent committee which comprised 6 farm representatives, 2 consumers representatives, 3 economists and business men. This committee determined on \$2.20 at Chicago as a fair price, and Dr. Surface in his report, states that it is obvious, that had it not been for this decision by the committee, the American farmer would have received far less for his wheat than was the case. The report shows that Mr. Hoover, then Food Administrator, took no part in the committee's determinations, thus disposing of the myth that Mr. Hoover fixed the price.

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NEW ALASKA MAP HAS BEEN ISSUED

New and Corrected Down to Date and Is Obtainable from Gov. Department

A new base map of Alaska has just been issued by the Department of the Interior through the geological survey.

The map is printed in black and blue and is sold by the Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. The scale is about 80 miles to 1 inch. This map has been brought up to date by the inclusion of numerous additions and corrections to the earlier editions, as the result of field surveys that have been made during the last few years. Among the most noteworthy changes are those resulting from the exploration of the last two years in the northwestern part of the Territory from the Brooks Range northward to the Arctic coast and in the Alaska Peninsula, where for several years the search for oil has led to widespread investigations. The map has been compiled from all authoritative sources of information. For most of the shore line the charts of the Coast and Geodetic Survey have been used, and for most of the inland region the original surveys of the Geological Survey have furnished the best available data.

Many new names of towns and of natural objects have been added to the map and the positions of Mount McKinley National Park and of the Katmai National Monument, which were not shown on earlier editions of the map, have been outlined. Although large tracts of Alaska have not yet been surveyed in sufficient detail to permit their accurate representation, this new map is unquestionably the most correct map of Alaska for its scale, and it should be useful for all purposes for which knowledge of the general geography of the Territory is required.

Claimed a man needs 51 cents worth of food a day, while a woman only needs 41 cents worth. Not been observed that the girls were eating any less ice cream.

PUBLIC SERVICE CO. YEAR BOOK ISSUED

Interesting and Beautifully Printed Book Tells of Progress

Local stockholders of the Public Service company of northern Illinois are receiving copies of their company's 1925 Year Book.

The Year Book, a beautifully printed and artistically arranged publication, contains a mass of information about the rapidly developing territory served by the company in northeastern Illinois. The company has over 25,000 stockholders each of whom will receive a copy.

Among the interesting features it contains are airplane views taken in the territory last fall. Several of the company's plants and the residential and business sections of a number of cities are pictured.

The book shows that 12 communities—Cabery, Kempton, North Riverside, Specialville, Buckingham, East Wenona, Buffalo Grove, Fairview, Reddick, Orchard Place, Otto and Custer Park—were added to the company's lines last year.

In connection with the addition of these towns, the book points out that the company, by constantly broadening its field of service, was enabled to bring electricity and gas to these communities which otherwise might not have received the advantages of such service for years to come.

The publication also points out the number of customers served at the end of 1924 was 283,623, an increase of 12.1 per cent over 1923. This increase, in itself, is an indication of the stability and growth of business in the territory served.

The final pages of the publication list the company's stores, offices, electric generating stations, electric substations, gas manufacturing plants, heating plants and the cities, towns and villages served.

There is some appropriateness in marking shipments of bootleg stuff "lobster," as they will be largely consumed by lobsters.

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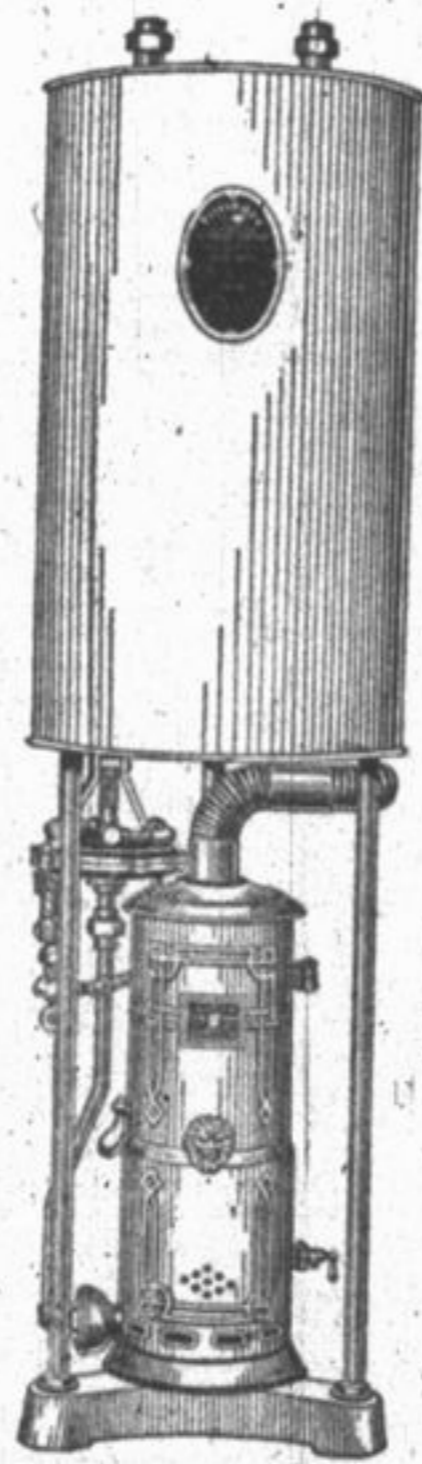
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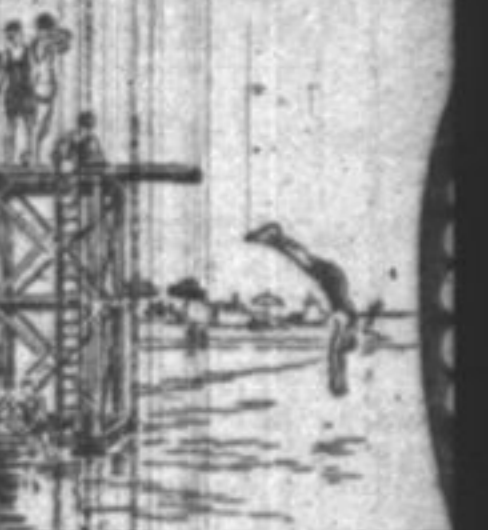
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