

CANADA AND U. S. GRAPPLE WITH FOOD MONOPOLIES

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL ENDEAVORING TO BRING DOWN THE COST OF LIVING

Dominion Not Only Place Where Corporations and Food Combines Fix Prices—Hon. Mr. Crothers Waging Vigorous Campaign.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—Canada to a very large extent is under the heel of corporations in the food line. The necessities of life, domestic trade is largely throttled by combines and agreements and there are retail merchants from coast to coast bound hand and foot. The consumer is victimized accordingly and has to pay the price demanded under buying and selling agreements and arrangements. This in effect is what has been discovered as a result of the investigations which have been taking place during the past few weeks under the cost of living regulations. It may be said so far as individuals are concerned, that the retail merchants have come out of the preliminary investigations in a very satisfactory light.

Grothers After Them.—"Hundreds of written inquiries have been made throughout the country covering many articles, and answers under oath have been received in a great majority of cases, and several further oral investigations have been made," says Hon. T. W. Crothers, Minister of Labor.

"Those coming from retail merchants, speaking generally, have been quite satisfactory in so far as showing their prices are not immoderate. These inquiries and investigations, however, have revealed a widespread system in active operation of buying and selling agreements and arrangements long established by manufacturers and jobbers of various foods and forced upon retail merchants fixing commissions, prices, etc., preventing wholesome competition and freedom in domestic trade restricting the same, and tendency to enhance cost to the consumer. It is believed this system contravenes the provisions of the order-in-council and the guilty parties so far as known are being advised thereof and requested to abandon their objectionable methods and to conform to the law forthwith. And their attention having been thus directed to these illegal practices, it is confidently expected that they will be abandoned to the material advantage of the consumer."

NEW YORK TRIBUNE CALLS ON WILSON TO DECLARE WAR

Leading Republican Organ of United States Says If President's Words Mean Anything He is Bound to Ask Congress to Declare War.

New York, Feb. 28.—Under the caption "Time to Declare War," the Tribune in its leading editorial this morning says: At last the administration faces an "overt act" on Germany's part which it can hardly explain away. American citizens travelling on the Lusitania have been murdered under exactly the same conditions as those under which American citizens were murdered nearly two years ago on the Lusitania and the Arabic. Mr. Wilson has said many times that he would not tolerate any more such murders. He

has pledged himself again and again to "protect our people in their legitimate and peaceful pursuits on the seas." The implication of all his promises has been that if one more American life should be sacrificed he would meet force with force. Now the occasion has come which compels him to make his words good. If the words mean anything the administration is bound in honor to ask congress to declare war. Nothing short of a declaration of war will suffice.

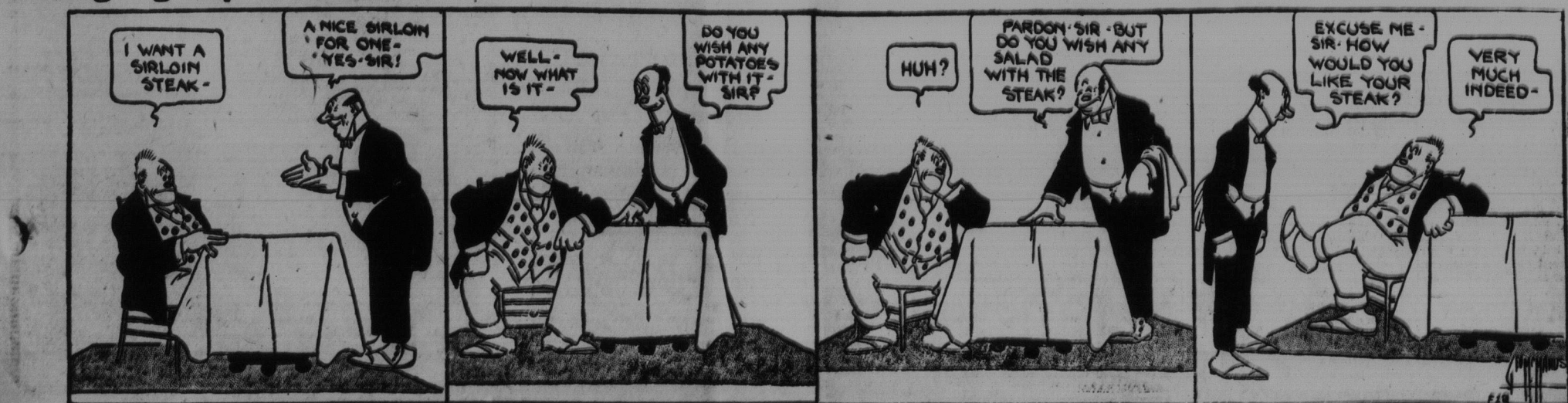
NOT KNOWN WHETHER DUTCH BOATS AFLOAT

Latest Information, Officially, Indicates Vessels Probably Lost.

London, Feb. 28.—At the Dutch legation it was said today there was no confirmation of the report published earlier in the week, that the Dutch steamers Bandoeng, Eemland and Zandijk were three of the fleet of seven Dutch merchant ships torpedoed by German submarines Feb. 22 at the western approach to the English Channel. Three of the Dutch steamers, the Gasterland, Jacatra and Noordwijk, were known definitely to have been sent to the bottom, while a fourth vessel, the Monado, was reported to have been towed into Portsmouth. An announcement made in London on Feb. 24 said the other three vessels, though severely damaged, had remained afloat.

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LEGISLATION IS PROPOSED FOR HOSPITAL

Want Outside Counties to Pay Cost of Caring for Their Own Sick.

The special committee of the municipal council appointed at the last session to draft a bill dealing with hospital matters for presentation to the coming session of the legislature, met yesterday afternoon, and after carefully considering a draft which had been prepared by the county secretary, decided to postpone action for a short time. In the meantime each councillor will be furnished with a copy of the proposed bill as well as the commissioners of the General Public and the St. John County Hospital, after which the matter will be dealt with by the bills committee of the council.

The bill provides first, that in the event of any non-resident of the city being admitted to the General Public Hospital, and unable to pay for his board and treatment, the commissioners of the hospital may render a bill to the city, town or county from which such patient came, and the city, town or county shall be bound to pay such charges. It further provides that the city, town or county from which said person came may recover from said person the amount so paid to the hospital, provided he is possessed of any property; otherwise the amount so expended shall be included in the general assessment of such city, town or county.

The bill also provides that any person, common carrier or transportation company bringing any person in from outside the province for treatment shall be liable for the cost of maintenance and also for the removal of such person when called upon by the hospital authorities to remove them, and failure to comply with these requirements makes them liable to a fine of \$100, or in default of payment imprisonment for not less than three months or more than one year. Part two of the bill deals with the new agreement with the Victorian Order of Nurses and legalizes the payment to them of \$4,000 in lieu of any moral or legal claim which they might have on the commissioners of the hospital.

Part three deals with permanent sidewalks in Lancaster and increases the amount authorized from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Part four deals with the St. John County Hospital, and provides that two years' residence in the city or county must be proven before any person may be admitted to that institution, and that no settlement can be acquired by any person who comes into the city or county designedly for the purpose of entering the hospital.

man, engineer on the C. P. R., took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, Pleasant Point, to St. Rose's church, where burial services were conducted by Rev. Charles Collins. Interment was made in Holy Cross cemetery.

The funeral of James Stephenson, who died at Evandale, Kings county, and whose body was brought here for interment, took place on the arrival of the Boston train at noon yesterday. Services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Bertram of Westfield and interment was made in Fernhill.

The funeral of Justus George Chees-

DRASTIC MEASURES TO CONTROL PRICES OF FOOD

Riots in United States Are Inciting Legislators to Take Drastic Measures to Eliminate Abuses and Aid the Poor.

New York, Feb. 28.—The riots against high prices of foods are inciting our legislators to drastic measures for control of prices, etc., but these are rarely efficacious. Abuses, and there are some, may be cured by investigation and action, but the most effectual method in the long run is conservation of food supply. The car shortage situation is responsible for much of the scarcity. The Interstate Commerce Commission claims to have the problem near solution. We look with some scepticism upon what that means. The tie-up at our ports caused by the German sea warfare is halting many thousand cars. The American Railway Association, working with the commerce commission, has instituted arrangements by which food and fuel will be rushed to many cities by special shipment. The association officials declare the danger of inadequate supply of living necessities because of the transportation problems, has lessened greatly within the last two weeks and that the possibility of a general shortage through the East is slight. They claim

DR. D. TOWNSEND GAVE SCHOLARLY ADDRESS

Superintendent of River Glade Sanatorium Addresses Large Audience at Y.M.C.A. on "Tuberculosis, its Prevention and Cure."

"Tuberculosis, its Prevention and Cure" was the subject of a scholarly address by Dr. David Townsend, superintendent of the provincial sanatorium at River Glade, before a large and appreciative audience at the Y. M. C. A., Cliff street, last evening. Dr. William P. Broderick occupied the chair and introduced the speaker of the evening with a few appropriate remarks. Dr. Townsend, with the assistance of slides, pointed out the various types and stages of the white plague. He referred to the work which was being carried on at the provincial sanatorium and the results that had been achieved. He made a strong appeal to his auditors to endeavor to work for the prevention of this disease and pointed out the steps which were followed in its cure. Dr. Townsend referred to the large number of deaths annually from the effects of tuberculosis and said that the cooperation of every citizen was essential in wiping out this disease.

A hearty vote of thanks, moved by Dr. McDonald and seconded by Dr. Barry, was extended to Dr. Townsend by the chairman. Remarks of a flattering character concerning Dr. Townsend for the good work he is doing in his able address were made by Dr. Ferris, superintendent of the St. John County Hospital, J. A. Likely, E. L. Rising, Dr. McAvaney and others.

His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc, the priests of the Cathedral parish, as well as other local clergymen, were included in the large audience.

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of foodstuffs from this country in the calendar year 1916 were actually smaller in amount than in the preceding year. "The recent rise appears to be due to internal causes, such as the shortage in last season's crop and the congestion of railroad traffic rather than to sales to Europe." This is proved by a large decrease in bulk shipments in 1916, notwithstanding that the money value on account of higher prices was greater. In England, the food question in England has been taken up seriously and a limitation of consumption is being effected, not by compulsion, but through an appeal to patriotism. The National Food Commission has decided not to establish compulsory rationing to a fixed quantity per head, because this involves a very elaborate machinery which in itself absorbs labor, so badly needed, and for that reason alone ought to be avoided unless absolutely necessary. The commission states that having carefully weighed the advantages and disadvantages, they have come to the conclusion that a voluntary system is preferable until further experience is gained, and to meanwhile rely on the nation's instinct of self-discipline.—Bache's Review.

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