

From Our New York Correspondent.

A Kick From the Farmer

There comes from St. Paul, Minn., one of the breeziest and most minatory reports which the Farmers, as a body, have ever sent to the public. At a convention held there yesterday by the Non-Partisan League representatives the delegates denounced profiteering in no uncertain terms. In opening the session of the conference the President declared that the profiteers through the government had fixed the price for the farmers' product, wheat, so this conference had been called, not to protest against that price, but to protest against the failure to fix the prices of the things the profiteers dealt in.

The farmers, he said, would cheerfully produce crop after crop at a loss so that liberty and democracy might survive; they would give their sons to die in France, but the exploiter must give up his profits. The purpose of the conference was not to protest against the government's action in fixing the price of wheat too low but to support the government in a programme of fixing reasonable prices on all commodities, to the end that the war for liberty should not work injustice and that no man should use patriotism as a cloak for profits extracted from a nation in the agony of a great conflict. One of the speakers scored the big interests. He declared that we should have a square deal to-day were it not for the "patriotism" of iron and steel, coal and flour. He said that the government should force these profiteers to produce without profit as the farmers are doing! If these gentlemen are trimmed they will have some real patriotism, and the country will be ahead that much.

He declared that there can be no question of the patriotism of the farmers and laboring men. All they want is a square deal and this is what the conference was called for—to put the question up to the food commission. The farmers, he said, have had poor crops for two years, and the price for wheat \$2.20 while good, in other times, is too low for this year! If the price of wheat is to be fixed, then, "we ask the government to go down the line and fix the price on all the necessities of life. I believe the government is going to do this. I believe there is patriotism enough in the country and among the wealthier classes and the Eastern people to see that the poorer classes get a square deal."

This utterance was endorsed by the one thousand delegates who had assembled at St. Paul and the results of the Conference will likely produce some effect. Though Mr. Hoover has stated that the fixing of prices generally has not met with success, there are many who do not agree with him, and they are asking the question why the prices of other commodities cannot be adjusted as in the case of wheat. While the hundreds are making huge profits tens of thousands are struggling for an existence.

The Bakers Blame the Farmers.

The other side of the story is that millers are blaming the farmers for the wheat shortage, and this statement is made by the master bakers of the United States who are now in session at their annual convention in Chicago. The bakers do not hesitate to say that Congress has legislated and that the Food Committee has fixed prices that make the farmer the dominant person in the fight against high prices. The fixing of wheat at \$2.20 a bushel, undreamed of a few years ago, with a minimum of \$2 for 1918, they declare not only boosts the price of flour to the neighborhood of \$12 a barrel, retail, but places the consumer at the mercy of the farmer, who is, even now, holding back his grain for higher prices.

Millers assert that they cannot get sufficient wheat to grind—that the farmers are hoarding—while exporters assert the Eastern seaboard is free of wheat, and unless farmers let go of their crops the supply to the Allies will be down to the danger point.

It is asserted that the pinch the millers and others are experiencing in the matter of getting the farmers to release their wheat at the fixed price, due to their objection of 1 per cent. will bring about drastic measures by the Administration—the confiscation of wheat for consumption and ship-

ping from those farmers holding out and the paying them of the price named by the Government. The situation in Minneapolis is by no means encouraging. With flour orders increasingly heavy and the mills finding it hard to get wheat enough to operate at desired capacity. The situation has begun to show signs of improvement over last week, however. Last week it was feared that the mills would have to close down. If the conditions continue there seems no doubt that the Food Administration will have to act.

The whole business here just now is simply a case of calling the other fellow a swindler. The fact is that the "patriots" in every department are just trying to unload the responsibilities for the peculiar economic situation on "the other fellow."

The amount of wheat in store and afloat in New York to-day is shown to be 1,342,830 bushels; it was 6,299,492 bushels at this time last year. The local wheat stock in Chicago is 69,000 bushels against 7,447,000 a year ago.

The present visible supply in Canada is 3,099,830 bushels compared with 12,044,000 bushels last year.

Reports are current that neutral countries would not obtain any more American wheat for some time, and that no foreign shipments would be made, except on the strictest rationing basis.

Heavy recent sales of oats for export are explained to have been brought about because wheat for which vessels room had been chartered is not available for shipment.

Efforts are now being made to have two breadless days in several sections of the country, or to at least forego the use of white bread. Boston sets out to give the country a lesson and an appeal has been issued to housewives, hotels, cafes and clubs by the Food Comptroller of the State.

A Distinguished Newfoundlander

The famous Arctic Explorer, Capt. Bob Bartlett, is now in the city, having come up from St. John's by steamer a day or two ago. He is being feted by the Geographic Societies and is very busy discussing his northern experiences. Capt. Bob is a very genial character, and he is also very interesting. He knows more about Arctic conditions than any living man, and he seems to have an actual craving for northern trips.

He is withal very unassuming, and the writer has met the Captain frequently since he became an American citizen. Many of us think that Captain Bob should never have changed his allegiance; but, as he expresses it himself, he is getting his "bread and butter" from Americans and he thought it fitting that he should become a citizen of the Great Republic. He has now offered his services to the Washington authorities, and it is not unlikely that he will receive an appointment in naval work, possibly a command of one of the patrols which are now doing service in northern waters. He will be a valuable addition to the Service, as he is a thorough seaman and is as fearless as he is capable.

The Herring Market

The Fishing Gazette is authority for the statement that the demand for your Scotch-cured herring continues active in spite of the high prices which have ruled here for some time. It fears that the demand will not be so brisk after the Jewish holidays which are now on—the week being practically a grand Jewish celebration. It says, however, that the stocks of Newfoundland pack are not plentiful, the sales of the past fortnight having cleaned up many lots that were left over from last fall and winter and most of the product received during the spring.

UNDER THE ONE ROOF TREE

HALF-AND-HALF WOMEN

By CORDELIA PIERCY

Has the war produced or revealed the half-and-half woman? We know that the world-upheaval has brought to light latent ability, administrative capacity, and business qualifications where their possession was never suspected; we know that the work done by some women has, by its efficiency, staggered male onlookers; we know that women have proved themselves capable of carrying out duties in professions and occupations which were formerly exclusive to men; we know that thousands of leisured women have, through the medium of voluntary work, found their self-reliance and with it their self-respect; and we know that none of these things could have been accomplished had not earnestness first prompted action.

What one can achieve by earnestness all can achieve. Yet the half-and-half woman abounds in every direction to-day; her work marks the half-and-half trade mark, her conversation discloses her half-and-half mental outlook. I have met her in important offices where she draws a salary in exchange for incompetency which she shows no inclination to turn into proficiency. I have met her in canteens where she is not only a nuisance to those in authority but also has a demoralizing effect upon her co-workers.

I have met her clothed in a V.A.D. uniform, and I have pitied the matron, nurses, and earnest V.A.D.'s who have had to rely upon her for help. I have sat next to her in public vehicles and overheard her prattle about her patriotism, and in the next breath tell her companion that she can, by the adoption of sundry dodges, get three times her weekly ration of sugar. I have, week after week, watched her hack a cooked

ham to pieces where her fellow-assistant with the same length of experience behind a provision counter will skillfully carve appetising slices.

Only Stop-gaps

I have listened to the dressing-room conversations of girl clerks and learnt that a new discovery in face-powder can rouse enthusiasm where important news from the theatre of war will leave them untouched and uninterested.

I have tramped from end to end of a huge building in search of a public exhibition of pictures depicting women's work where feminine members of the staff disclaimed all knowledge of the whereabouts I sought, although I ultimately found my destination a few yards from the spot where I made inquiry!

I have heard women express most ardent longings for peace and the next minute map out a visiting and pleasure-seeking programme which did not include the lifting of a finger towards their share of helping to win the war.

But perhaps the most pathetic half-and-half of all is the just-left-school lass who earns pocket-money by day with which to enhance the charm of her appearance at night when she sallies forth to meet the man in khaki who will never be her husband because he cannot marry all the little happenings who lie in wait for him at every corner.

From men who control large staffs of clerks I have gathered two outstanding opinions: first, that earnest, conscientious, capable women surpass in usefulness, reliability, and industry former masculine clerks; secondly, that out of every dozen females eight are either immature for the competitive world, or dull, or apathetic, and lack the ambition to develop into anything beyond stop-gaps.

There are about 740 different kinds of birds in Australia.

Preachers Too Busy

The present taste is for bright (and brief) conversation from the pulpit rather than for preaching. Are we right in assuming that the taste is a good one? asks the Challenge. The Hebrew prophets did not cajole and woo men to live the heroic life; they called them. Our Lord used the imperative continually.

"The great preachers of the past were not content to touch on the big themes as a butterfly the flowers, but they treated them by going to the heart of them. Before they addressed the crowds, they went apart into the wilderness. We are all journalists, and if we go apart anywhere, it is most likely in a crowd to a conference. The modern cult of fellowship has its peculiar dangers. Have we faced them? Is Elijah on Horeb merely an archaism?"

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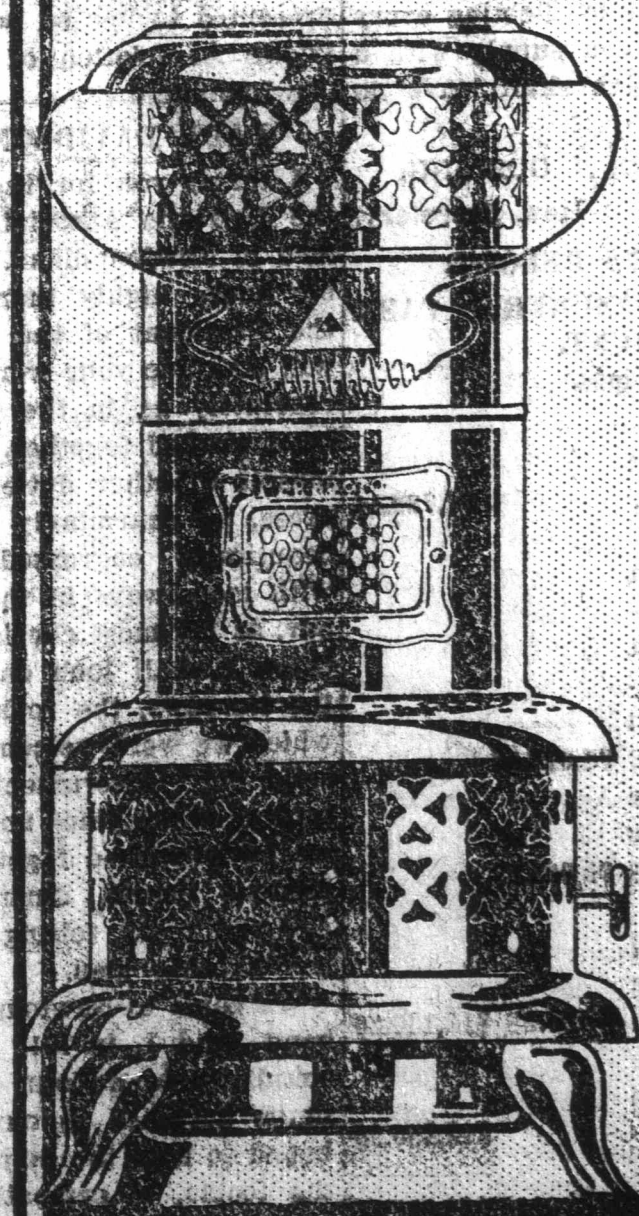
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Grain and Provisions Markets

Wheat—Advices from Liverpool, says the Stock Report of The Tribune to-day, are to the effect that supplies of wheat for the season are now assured and that it is only a question of getting tonnage for transportation. Receipts at Western points continue to increase, the total for yesterday being 1,152,000 bushels, compared with 1,821,000 bushels for the corresponding day last year. Stocks of wheat at Minneapolis have increased 84,000 bushels during the year.

Corn—Corn has been moving feverishly for the last few days, and it is said that the fear of serious damage by frosts has passed.

Oats—The oat market is steady, with high prices prevailing.

Quotations:

Wheat: \$2.27 for No. 2, and \$2.50 for No. 1 Duluth Northern. Corn: \$2.17 for No. 2 Yellow; December, \$1.19; May, \$1.16½. Oats: Cash, No. 3 White, 65½¢; September, 59½¢; December, 58½¢. Flour and Meal: Flour, Minn., spg. pat., \$13.25. Cornmeal, kilt dried, \$10.20. Bran, in sacks, \$38.00. Pork and Beef: Mess Pork, brl., \$47 to \$47.50. Mess Beef, brl., \$29 to \$30. Potatoes, brl., \$4 to \$4.25. Oranges, box, California, \$2.25 to \$5.00.

These quotations will not likely vary for some time, at least as regards the staples. I am credibly informed by one of the largest handlers of meat products in the market, that beef is becoming scarce.

—REX.

New York, Sept. 20, '17.

Included in the exhibition of war photographs at the Grafton Galleries is one said to be the largest photograph in the world. It is 22ft. long, 11ft. high, and was taken at Vimy Ridge.

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