REWARD FOR CONVICTION OF INCENDARIES OFFERED.

The Chicago Board of Underwriters has offered $4,500 in rewards for the apprehension, conviction and imprisonment, in execution of sentence after conviction, of those responsible for setting the fires which started the conflagration back of the stock yards on August 2, during the race riots. Separate rewards of $1,500 each on three fires are offered. The State Fire Marshal's Department and the city authorities contend that these fires had nothing to do with the race riots, in which case the riot and civil commotion clause of the policies would not apply and the insurance companies would be liable. The companies believe that the fires were started by rioters and are offering these rewards in hope of securing information to justify their claim.

LABOUR COSTS OF THE WAR

The troubles with the so-called "labor element" which are now being experienced all over the country, are undoubtedly to be regarded as one important cost of the war. During the conflict every concession, whether reasonable or unreasonable, was made to the demands of labor here and abroad and high wages as well as other changes in working conditions were readily granted.

The New York Journal of Commerce says : The cost of these charges was paid by the Government out of the proceeds of bond sales and was regarded as the inevitable and necessary concomitant of war expense. As a result of this way of handling matters there has grown up a general idea that capitalists can pay higher wages out of their capital, or that the Government can take over business and pay deficits out of taxation.

Unfortunately the time has now come when there is a shortage of commodities. In many staple lines the report is positive that the supply of goods is insufficient to meet demand. More work, more output, greater efficiency are the only measures that will help. To attempt to pay the "living wage" out of capital is impossible, and is an effort which is itself primarily responsible for the conditions which have been arrived at in many industries. It is unavoidable to recognize the fact that increases of wages can be provided only by the growth of real business and productivity, and that any other basis of wages is faulty. It was during the war that the ideas now finding lodgment in many minds with reference to this whole question received their first and strongest sanction, and it was then that labor was encouraged to demand an entirely new status—one which it was impossible for any human agency to give. The unsound doctrines of wages disseminated in the reports of the War Labor Board and in other war publications were responsible for much of the agitation which has survived the war. Much more time will be required for the overcoming of these false views than was needed for their original development, and this must be reckoned a part of the incidental disturbance attendant upon the war itself. Other countries are passing through a similar experience and are recognizing the necessity of a re-education of their people along sounder lines.

EXCHANGE AND MONEY

The foreign exchange markets during the past week in New York again experienced some sensational movement in rates. Sterling exchange, for instance, lost most of the recovery of the previous week, due to the walkout of British Railway employees, thereby completely tieing up the English railroads and causing the cancellation of much shipping between England and that country. The markets, therefore, responded to this news because of the sensitiveness due to the enormous speculation in exchange at the present time. The speculation is based mainly on the hope that the peace treaty will be ratified before very long, which events of the past week indicate. Senator Lodge in commenting on the impatience of banking firms over delay in the peace treaty stated that the firms "had a direct pecuniary interest in securing an early opportunity to reap a harvest." Grant that this may be true (but it is not the case), but are the tactics of Senator Lodge above question. It can be stated that the bankers are more familiar with the international financial situation than is Mr. Lodge, and know what effect the delay in ratification of the treaty is having on foreign business.

Money on call on the Stock Exchange again got as high as 15 per cent. during the past week, while rates for commercial purposes remained at the 6 per cent. level. This renewed flurry in rates again proves that there is not enough funds available to carry on such speculation as has been witnessed in the past week, and whatever monies the banks have on hand are required for purely commercial lines. The flurry in rates was again the cause of criticism on the part of speculators, who are loath to believe that it is nothing more than stock market speculation which is responsible for the rising rates. The exchange authorities in an announcement showing how these loans were made, proved that it is the late borrowers who are responsible for the higher rates, these brokers coming into the market when all the loanable funds are provided for. Therefore, these high money rates, while meaning very little to commercial enterprises, act as a warning against undue speculation in the security markets.