

The Evening Times ★ Star

PAGES NINE TO SIXTEEN

ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY MAY 25, 1917

SIXTEEN PAGES

PREVENTION OF SPECULATION IN FOOD DEMANDED

Congress Committee Told That Crisis May Lead to Social Upheaval in United States

Washington, May 22.—The fight in congress over placing in President Wilson's hands the authority to select Herbert C. Hoover as food administrator reached an acute stage when officials who have been attempting to grapple with the situation asserted solemnly that the country was approaching a crisis that might lead to social upheaval unless legislation was passed which would make it possible to take over the problem along constructive lines.

While Mr. Hoover continued his conferences with representatives of the Western Grain Exchange on the theory that he will soon be named as head of the food control department, George W. Anderson of Boston, special assistant to Attorney-General Gregory, appeared before the house agricultural committee with others to demand that delay be ended for the welfare of the country.

"Controlled drastic laws as the only check the food speculator and the supply."

"Nothing must be done," was one of the statements he made. "That a social and political upheaval is threatened cannot be denied or disregarded. I see the signs of it. Anyone with his ear to the ground knows it. There will be a phenomenon in America consistent with law and order unless something is done to prevent it."

Mr. Anderson said he felt that the situation could be held in check if the proper authority was given in food control legislation. The grain dealers shared in his belief, in so far as it affected their products. They gave out this brief statement after their conference with Mr. Hoover:

"The representatives of the grain trade are convinced that with elimination of waste and proper conservation in this country an ample supply of grain will be available for domestic consumption, as well as to provide for the require-



THE WAY TO 'GET THERE' IS TO GO THERE.

ments of our allies, and that the problem therefore is one of administration." There was a flurry also at the department of agriculture when the report got out that a food producer of prominence had lodged a complaint there backed up by evidence, that there was about a far-reaching conspiracy to boost prices and take advantage of the war conditions. Karl Vrooman, the assistant secretary of agriculture, later verified this report, describing the man as

one who "is known all over the country." The prominent producer who appeared today, Mr. Vrooman said, had been sent to the department of justice to set forth there his complaint in detail.

Drastic Remedies

Mr. Anderson spent most of the day before the house committee with Prof. Vernon Kellogg of Stanford University, a member of the Belgian Relief Committee. Mr. Anderson advocated legis-

BOMBING HUNS FROM SKIFF TAKES PLACE OF TRENCH RAID

Boating to Battle a Novel Feature of Warfare on One Section of Western Front

With the Belgian Army in Flanders, May 1—Boating to battle is one of the novelties of fighting on this part of the western front, where the Belgian and German lines are separated by miles of flooded land. Trench raids are almost unheard of here. The only thing approximating them are bombing expeditions carried out from skiffs, which are paddled skilfully under cover of darkness to the enemy's lines.

"Just at the edge of the water in front of our trench," said a Belgian officer, "we have two little 'coches' where our two boats lie hidden, and when darkness has come we set out on patrol, sometimes with padded oars, sometimes with punt poles—for in some places the water is quite shallow. We creep toward the German lines. At any moment a star shell may give you away, and bullets spluttering up the water around you or whistling overhead, warn you that you are being watched. 'No Man's Sea' is not always a healthy game."

The Crowning Excitement.

"But the crowning excitement comes when you meet a German patrol boat. Once when I was out with a sergeant and two men we heard the steady splash of a punt pole in the water coming toward us. We took out the safety pins from our bombs and waited until they were almost on us. And then we let fly. Look!—and he rolled up the sleeve of his tunic to show a deep scar near his elbow—I got this from a bit of one of our own bombs so close did we let the Germans come. But not one of them could have escaped, for at least three of our bombs dropped right into the boat, and there were great bits of woodwork drifting about next day. The strangest part of it all is that the fellows in the trenches on both sides are frightened to fire for fear of hitting their own men. As a matter of fact, all four of us were slightly hit in the run for home, but the Boches never got home at all."

"There's only one other way of getting close to the German in the flooded-lands. At intervals there are raised roads run-



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How He Felt.

The two girls were talking with a young lieutenant who had got a bullet through his arm.

"And what were your emotions during the first battle?" asked one girl.

"What were my emotions?"

"Yes. How did you feel?"

"Oh, slightly bored," was the reply.

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