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NEW U.S. WHEAT STANDARDS

The Office of Markets, United States Department of Agriculture, has issued to the grain trade the following notice regarding the new standards for wheat:

"Your attention is called to the fact that the official grain standards of the United States for hard red winter wheat, soft red winter wheat, common white wheat, and white club wheat become effective on July 1, 1917, and the standards for all other wheat on August 1, 1917.

"On and after these dates respectively the grading of all wheat which is sold, offered for sale, or consigned for sale by grade and shipped in interstate or foreign commerce must be according to these standards.

"The new classification involves many changes from all classifications heretofore in use; for example, the trade should know that 'soft red wheat' after July 1 will be soft red winter wheat, which contains garlic or wild onion bulblets or has an unmistakable odor of garlic or wild onions. This is but one of the several important changes which will be found under the new standards. It points out to the trade the urgent need of a thorough knowledge of the new standards."

The regulations of the United States concerning the shipment of foodstuffs to neutral are causing anxiety in Sweden. It is rumored that unless changes are made common action will be taken by the neutral countries, probably to annul their agricultural contracts with Britain.

Our Ottawa Letter

Continued from Page 1

...not the people to trust them? If the government refuse to have faith in the people I think that the people, at the first opportunity will hurl this faithless government from power. But if we have faith in the people we establish democracy in government, which we say, is the principle for which this whole war is fought.

Clear-cut opposition to the proposals that have been made to conscript the wealth and resources of the country, in addition to its manpower, came from Col. J. A. Currie, Conservative member for North Simcoe. Col. Currie has seen service at the front and is personally one of the popular fighters about the house. In former days when he was a working newspaper man he was credited with having radical sentiments, but since becoming a successful business man and manufacturer his ideas have undergone considerable change. As he frankly stated to the house he objects to any doing away with the constitutional safeguards that Parliament throws around money and wealth.

Currie Favors Rich

Col. Currie was also opposed to the imposition of an income tax, at least for the present. "We all acknowledge that an income tax is one way of raising revenue," he said. "The question is whether such a method is expedient at the present time. At this time those who are entirely dependent upon their incomes need all their money because things were never so high in value as they are just now. Then why do honorable members want to impose an income tax on those people now? Why not wait and see if this war lasts another year or another two years? We may have to come to an income tax but there is time enough. Keep cool. Other members want to conscript wealth. Conscripting of wealth is an expression. Do they want conscription of wealth to be a general levy or do they want a selective process? If they want a general levy we have that already, because everyone, if he wears clothes or buys anything that is brought into the country, is paying his particular tax at the present time; we are all equal before the law. Do they want selective conscription of wealth? Yes, they want selective conscription, they want the money people to pay." That the idea was a very repugnant one to the good colonel was very apparent, for he went on to suggest that if money is really needed it might be taken from wealthy religious institutions, which he described as "the richest corporations in the country."

COAL MINERS BACK

Calgary, Alta., July 3.—According to reports reaching Calgary work was resumed this morning in all the coal mines of District 18, comprising Alberta and eastern British Columbia. The conditions which the operators were directed to observe by the Commissioner, W. H. Armstrong, evidently proved acceptable to the men who phased on them by referendum vote Saturday. It is stated that many of the mines are having great difficulty in obtaining enough men, so many of them having taken other employment during the long strike. The output will therefore probably be restricted for some weeks.

COUNCIL'S PRICE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations regarding the fixing of grain prices drafted by the Canadian Council of Agriculture were presented to the Board of Grain Supervisors at its sittings in Winnipeg.

- 1—That there be unanimity of action and method on the part of your board and similar boards in the United States.
- 2—The use, as far as possible, of such existing organizations and facilities as may be necessary and advantageous for the expeditious collecting, forwarding, marketing and distribution of Canadian grain crops.
- 3—In the opinion of your board war conditions warrant control of or fixing of prices, we are strongly opposed to speculative disturbance of values would then recommend that a flat basis price, with fixed spreads on lower grades at pooling discounts be set at commencement of the season, rather than maximum and minimum values, as the latter method would afford facilities for speculation within its range of values, the flat basis price to carry with it a provision to cover the net carrying cost of grain delivered on subsequent dates, this provision being in our opinion necessary to protect the owner of grain who, through conditions over which he has no control, may be unable to make immediate shipment and at the same time offers practical inducement to the owner to unduly hold his grain from the market.
- 4—That due regard to encouragement of greater production and the interests of both the producer and consumer be given in the event of prices being controlled or fixed by your board.
- 5—That in order to insure a free and regular movement of grain to market your board, if necessary, arrange for an order that there be furnished to it periodically statements of stocks, giving ownership and location of them.
- 6—That, as cost of flour to consumer should hinge directly on bulk wheat values, which are now in your control, we recommend that your board make representation to the proper authority for power to exercise such control over flour prices as will ensure a fair value relationship between flour and bulk wheat bought for milling purposes, which condition existed recently.

WEEDS COMMISSIONERS BUSY

The members of the Manitoba Weeds Commission have just concluded a very extensive series of meetings throughout nearly every portion of the province. One hundred and twenty meetings were attended since New Year. As a rule two meetings were held each day. The attendance varied greatly but was usually good. The subjects discussed included the identification and eradication of weeds, the injury caused by weeds and the most suitable methods of cultivation for their eradication. The Noxious Weeds Act and the manner of its enforcement were also explained at each meeting.

The commission believe that these farmers' gatherings will prove of immense value as a means of educating the public in regard to the injury caused by noxious weeds. Farmers will also be stimulated to greater effort to wards weed eradication. The noxious Weeds Act will also be better understood and its enforcement simplified.

During the summer months the members of the Weeds Commission will visit each municipality and in company with the local municipal weed inspector drive over a portion of the district. This plan gives the commission an opportunity of getting in close touch with the local conditions, and besides they can often greatly assist the local inspector in enforcing the Act.

An anti-conscript meeting called to meet in the market square in Winnipeg on July 1 was broken up by returned soldiers. Four of the "ants" were held by the police. The speaker, Albin Queen, was driven from the scene and several were slightly injured. There were 9,000 people in the crowd but no property damage was done. Only the intervention of the police averted a serious riot.

COAL OPINIONS AND FIGURES

The coal miners in District No. 18, i.e. S. Alberta and the Fernie, B.C. district have broken strike and are now getting out the main supply of fuel and motive power for western Canada. It is very fortunate that they have got back to work. The shortage possibly resulting from the long tie-up will likely be serious before another winter is over. In a recent address before the Edmonton Board of Trade, N. C. Pitcher, general superintendent of the North American Collieries, one of the largest operators in District No. 18, said:

"Alberta is going to be at least 1,000,000 tons short in coal output compared with last year, even if there is the same labor supply, which is altogether doubtful. The prospect of better crops this year means a larger demand for coal, which will accentuate the shortage. There is plenty of development work in the mines and they are equipped. If the men who would be required could be obtained, the output would possibly be 2,000,000 tons more than is expected. This would mean a surplus of 1,000,000 tons instead of a shortage compared with a year ago.

At the rate wages are going up and the rate material is going up, together with the deficiency in labor, coal which could be got at \$5.00 now might go up to \$7.50, with the grave possibility of people not getting any if they did not make their orders in time. There would be a good deal less American coal coming in this year and this would add to the shortage. Alberta's coal output last year was 4,640,000 tons. But get your orders in now, let them pile up on the merchant's desk and let him deal with them in the best manner that he can. If you do that you won't have to go short."

The attitude of the operators or at least a part of them was shown in Mr. Pitcher's proposed solutions of the difficulty. One was conscription or mobilization of labor and the other was the importation of Oriental labor. A construction engineer in a gold mining district in China had told one of the coal operators in western Canada that he could contract for 50,000 Chinamen to work in the mines in the west and he would guarantee to take every one back at the expiration of the war. No doubt these laborers could be easily secured, but getting rid of them at the close of the war would likely be quite a different matter. There is no reason to believe that such guarantees would be carried out.

Mr. Pitcher dealt exhaustively with the history of the present case from the operators' viewpoint. He pointed out that the average wage on the last offer to every man and boy in District 18, 7,000 employees, was \$4.62, contract mining \$5.57, minimum wage \$3.91.

Some Recent Coal Figures

The total Canadian consumption of coal last year (ending March 31), according to the Department of Mines, Ottawa, was 29,400,000 tons, of which the railways took over 25 per cent. Of this total home production totalled 14,482,000 tons and imports totalled 17,541,000 tons. Home production in 1916 increased about one and a quarter million tons and imports increased over five million tons. Most of this increase was in soft coal (run of mine).

It is interesting to notice that production fell off very seriously in every province and territory of the Dominion in 1916 but Alberta and British Columbia. Last year Alberta produced 4,559,000 tons compared to 2,465,000 tons in 1915 or 19 times as much. British Columbia produced 2,544,000 tons in 1916 as against 127,400 tons in 1915; over 20 times as much. Saskatchewan fell off from 2,065,000 in 1915 to 281,500 in 1916, a decrease of nearly 800 per cent. New Brunswick decreased from 8,300,000 tons to 143,450 tons, a decrease of about 2,300 per cent. Nova Scotia's decrease was small and that province still continues to be much the heaviest producer, having 6,912,140 tons in its credit last year.

Up to the end of March this year Alberta was making a much faster gain in production than any other province, having since January 1 mined 1,337,670 tons, or at the rate of over 5,000,000 tons for the year. The strike will greatly reduce production.

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