

THE NEW ORLEANS BEE

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CENSORSHIP OF THE NEWS

Newspaper publishers who are holding their annual meetings this week are expressing alarm and disapproval over the disposition manifested in Washington to fit the press with a muzzle for the period of the war.

Many newspapers have protested against the application of this old-world idea to the press of the United States. The Kansas City Star, a strong supporter of the government in its war measures, states the case concretely:

Were it possible to suppress legitimate newspaper criticism in time of war every incompetent official, every dishonest business would be the gainer, while the whole country would suffer.

Every decent newspaper expects to co-operate with the government in refraining from the publication of news that would give aid to the enemy. The few irresponsible guerrillas must be subjected to control. But this control ought to be so carefully safeguarded that it could not lend itself to abuse.

The President has appointed a board of censors consisting of a magazine writer and the two Cabinet officers whose departments are directly involved in the conduct of the war. There will be a constant incentive for the men doing the actual work to cover up deficiencies in the departments by an arbitrary censoring of news.

Perhaps it is just as well that we should find out all that war will do to make us uncomfortable at the outset. The people of the United States have certainly shouldered burdens this month. Plundered on the one side by food robbers who apparently enjoy immunity from interference, they are called upon to face conscription, a necessary but highly disagreeable evil, enormous appropriation bills, the making of a war loan which will put every man, woman and child in the United States \$70 in debt, the imposition of taxes of a magnitude hitherto undreamed of and the marching away of husbands, sons and brothers to concentration camps. They should be left free at least to know the truth as to what is being done with their men and money.

The European censorship is example enough for us. Trained writers have been busy for months along the battle lines on behalf of the country's great press associations and great newspapers, to tell how the war is progressing. Nobody is better able to judge what may be published without harm, but the word of some grocer's clerk, promoted to be a censor, is supreme and they can send only what his narrow and suspicious mind classifies as flawless.

To silence the press is the dearest wish of the demagogue, the grafter, the thieving contractor and the incompetent officer. Let not such a disastrous policy prevail in the United States.

The interstate commerce commission has requested the railroads entering St. Louis to establish joint rates with the Inland Navigation company, now operating a barge line from St. Louis to New Orleans. This will facilitate the cheaper handling of water course traffic down the river and should be productive of good resolutions by the New Orleans business men, many of whom have heavy, non-perishable shipments which could arrive here next week as conveniently as though they were rushed here by express.

A Maryland capitalist suggests that "we put the slackers on the farms." We regard this as an unwise suggestion. If we must depend upon the farmers to keep us from starving, we submit that the farm is no place for slackers. Besides, the farms have their share of slackers; we understand that there are many farm hands who refuse to get up and go to work before four-thirty a. m.

A rice expert at long range, telling all he could learn about it in New York, made the following assertion which will make south-west Louisiana landowners sit up and their hair begin to curl: "Production dropped, in the three states, to 41,000,000 pounds between 1866 and 1880. By 1885, the center for rice-growing had been shifted to Louisiana, to the prairies in the southwestern part of that state, where the buckshot clay is so stiff that it must be flooded with water before it can be plowed."

The fishermen of Gloucester, Mass., have given up their strike for the patriotic reason that nobody should interfere with any item of food supply. Let us hope that some middle man in the meantime is not rounding up their catch and doubling prices to line his own pocket.

"With the entrance of America into the great world war a new era arises for Greece," said Constantinos Zambounis, editor of the Greek satirical weekly, Satyros, in New York the other day. Apparently there are occasions when Constantinos is not satirical.

The terrible attack upon the American border guard at El Paso last week seems to have had no aftermath, in spite of the fact that more soldiers to guard the border would materially help business.

The Sinn Fein convention was held at Dublin last week, but it seemed to lack the "pep" of former years. Men less courageous and determined, however, would have held no convention at all.

LOUISIANA CONDENSED.

Shreveport physicians adopted resolutions Friday night condemning the prescribing of drugs and narcotics which is responsible for the increase of the dope evil in that city.

H. D. Crain has lost his fight to be declared a member of the school board of St. Mary in district court last week, but will appeal the case.

Steve Fitzhner, an Austrian, who raised an Austrian flag last week, is now in jail at Pointe-a-la-Hache.

Carencro won seven events in the Lafayette parish rally day exercises.

St. John police jury will call an election in June to vote on a bond issue of \$180,000 for good roads.

The Utopia club of Amite is going to transform itself into some sort of a war relief club.

Albert Corbello, a rice farmer, was killed by lightning stroke in his field near Woodlawn Friday.

J. H. Goff, a peddler of phony jewelry, was arrested in Alexandria and given a fifteen day sentence.

The wireless station at Southwest Industrial Institute has been dismantled, in accordance with the government's orders.

Morrow had a flag raising and patriotic speeches Friday.

Louis Le Blanc's home at Plaquemine was destroyed by fire Friday. Loss \$2,000.

The Hammond farmers association has acquired a \$10,000 headquarters building. Cheeseborough high school in Tangipahoa will close May 4.

West Baton Rouge citizens have formed a Home Protective Association to combat high water and spies.

Supervisors of a road district embracing three wards of St. Landry have called an election June 5 to vote on a bond issue of \$500,000 to construct 96 miles of good roads.

W. B. Kilgro was found guilty of killing Walter May at Varnado March 21 and got a life term.

Eugene Pipes, a Crowley merchant, has protested to President Wilson because his enlistment was turned down on account of his being equipped with seven fingers on each hand. He explains that he can handle the most intricate machinery.

New Iberia negroes have pledged themselves to cultivate the vacant ground and provide themselves with food.

The U. S. Postoffice building at Opelousas is being enlarged and remodeled.

Mrs. Essie Lowenton and her two daughters moved suddenly at Shreveport Sunday, learning that the neighbors were planning a horse- whip, tar and feathers party. The night before the officers found a negro in the house who was killed while trying to escape.

Plaquemine negroes held a loyalty meeting at Plaquemine Saturday night. Dr. R. M. Littell is chairman of the Opelousas chapter of the Red Cross. Mrs. Harriet Boula died at Colfax last week aged 107. Garden making is the order of the day at White Castle. Charles Guerriero, a Monroe bartender, was stabbed and fatally wounded Saturday night by a dissatisfied patron. The Calcasieu police jury will let the contract May 1 for 70,000 square yards of concrete. Acadia parish held a well attended school rally Saturday.

DISTRICT PROBE INTO FOOD COST

MARKETING THE CHIEF DRAWBACK, COMMISSION SAYS

LAY BLAME ON THE MIDDLEMAN

Collection of Garbage Has Fallen Off Showing Housewives Practice Food Economy

Washington, April 26.—The first Federal investigation of the "high cost of living" was completed today, when the food committee of the District of Columbia made its report to the District commissioners.

The investigation started as a strictly local affair, but the causes of the District of Columbia's problem were found to be so ramified that the probe was extended to the entire nation. Many of the conclusions are applicable to almost any city in the country.

The investigators were George M. Roberts, superintendent of weights, measures and markets; C. F. Nesbit, superintendent of insurance, and William C. Woodward, health officer.

The cost of living is high, they said, primarily because of faulty marketing machinery. There were other causes, too, but these were comparatively unimportant. The committee recommended a municipal wholesale market.

The recommendation was aimed at the middleman. The food committee found him responsible for much of the rise in prices. The establishment of a municipal market would also tend to attract food products from new sources of supply.

"Farmers living remote from the city would be induced to send their produce," the committee says, "because of the assurance that they would be handled by responsible government officials and sold at the prevailing market prices.

"No attempt should be made to establish such a market as a monopoly, but simply as an agency, because of its very character, tending to encourage the shipment of foodstuffs to this city. The reduction of food prices is henceforth to be primarily a city problem. The additions to the price paid the farmer for food products after they reach the city and before they reach the consumer are not the affair of the farmer. They are something he should not be expected to remedy. The city itself must see to the cartage, storage and distribution of its food."

When the committee started work they found prices were so high that the poor were being forced to live almost exclusively upon hog livers, hog kidneys, neck bones and hog faces.

Part of the increased cost of food the committee found justified under present conditions, but unnecessary under comprehensive marketing plans. That some measure of the increase was "inflated value" the committee holds is demonstrated by the following table of prices prevailing before the committee was appointed:

Potatoes, per barrel, \$6.50. Onions, per hundred pounds, \$11. Eggs, per dozen, 43 cents.

Three days after the committee had started work prices had dropped as follows:

Potatoes, per barrel, \$ 5.00. Onions, per hundred pounds, \$11. Eggs, per dozen, 30 cents.

Transportation is found to be one of the real causes of mounting food prices. By a comprehensive table the committee shows that food products loaded in Indianapolis, New York city and Battle Creek did not reach Washington a far more than a month. This tended to keep prices high.

Speculation in food is held to be among the contributing causes of the high cost of living. Another cause is the apartment house system of living. Apartment house dwellers, unable to store food in any quantities, buy in very small lots, practically depending upon the corner grocery as their pantry. Frequent deliveries are demanded—and paid for by the consumer.

While the farmer is held least responsible for the increased cost of his products, it is pointed out that the cost of producing foodstuffs has greatly increased during recent years. This is due to the increased value of farm lands, the cost of machinery, of fertilizers and of labor.

The conclusions of the food committee, after months of investigation, as set forth in the committee report, are that: "After all the causes which may reasonably tend to increase prices are considered, there appears no just ground for such high prices of many products as are demanded of the consumer at this time."

LA. STATE PRESS ASSOCIATION CLOSES INTERESTING SESSION

The last of the local visitors to the annual meeting of the Louisiana Press association returned home yesterday morning. The attendance was hardly up to the average, but the papers and discussions were full of interest. The officers elected for the coming year are: S. M. Lewis, the Leader, Ruston, president; James N. Turner, the Banner-Democrat, Lake Providence, first vice-president; Mrs. Conrad J. Leong, the Banner, New Roads, second vice-president; L. E. Bentley, the Chief, Donaldsonville, secretary; L. Lipp, the West-Carroll Gazette, Oak Grove, treasurer.

The next meeting of the association will be held in New Orleans.

Senator E. M. Stafford of New Orleans probably aroused most of the interest of the session Tuesday, when, in speaking of the power of the country press, he invoked it in behalf of the repeal of the much-discussed widow's dower, and the substitution thereof of a pension for widows with children and in needy circumstances applicable to all in the state.

Senator Stafford stated that the benefit of the widow's dower was more apparent than real, since only a fraction of one per cent of the widows had benefited by it. At the same time it operates as a bar to the operation of the Federal loan bank in this state. The right to waive the dower had been given to those seeking to borrow from homestead associations and it could well be extended to the farmer who seeks to erect a homestead for himself in the country.

Senator Stafford concluded: "If every widow in necessitous circumstances could receive one thousand dollars, much hardship and misery could be avoided, but my experience has been that when most of our men are in necessitous circumstances they are forced to part with the ownership of everything that can be converted into money, and when they do this there is nothing left for his widow to claim."

"I am in favor of helping the widows and children in need, and I am, therefore, heartily in favor of it."

Resolved, That the Louisiana Press Association hereby recommends and earnestly insists that the present Louisiana printing law be changed and amended and as amended and changed that it be readopted in the following particulars:

"First. That the various parishes, towns and municipalities be instructed by a specific statement that they are required to publish all the proceedings, including the list of claims approved and ordered paid by them and also that the treasurers of the parishes and of the several boards and municipalities shall prepare and publish quarterly statements of the receipts and disbursements of all public money that passes through their hands.

"Second. That the paragraph in section of act which provides that letting of printing of parishes, boards and municipalities may be by competitive bidding be stricken out as not conducive to the public good."

SILENT TRIBUTE IS PAID DEAD PRELATE

Continued from Page One.

The Nuncio, the archbishop's minister, W. J. Wagnerspack, Paul Sapdeville, Rabbi Max Heller, Bishop Davis Sessoms, and Rev. A. Gordon Bakewell.

During the long services thousands of Catholics in various organizations formed along the line of the procession and waited the word to move. Shortly after noon the word was given, and the long procession moved toward Chartres and the St. Louis cathedral, where final interment took place. The procession moved as rapidly as possible, but it took forty-five minutes for it to pass.

The cortege was preceded by Captain Capote and fifteen mounted patrolmen, and immediately behind the police members of Catholic laymen's societies and non-affiliated laymen moved. Among the organizations well represented in the line were: The Knights of Columbus, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Holy Name Societies, Catholic Knights of America, the Third Order of St. Francis, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Catholic Knights Mutual Benevolent Association.

In the second division of the line 1,000 children of all New Orleans Catholic schools and colleges and orphan asylums marched.

The third division comprised Catholic women's societies and among the organizations participating were: The Sodality Union of the Blessed Virgin, Catholic Women's club, Catholic Alumnae, St. Margaret's Daughters, Women's Catholic Order of Foresters, Auxiliary of the House of Good Shepherd, Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hibernians, Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association, the Daughters of Isabella, and St. Joseph's School Mother's club.

The fourth division had in line several hundred acolytes of various Catholic churches, all of whom wore cassocks and surplices.

The fifth division was given over to Catholic negro men and women of the various organizations.

The sixth division, which immediately preceded the hearse, was composed of members of the clergy and visiting church dignitaries, more than 300 in number, with the fourth degree Knights of Columbus as a guard of honor. The rear of the mammoth procession was brought up by the hearse and accompanying carriages.

The body was attended by a guard of honor of eight Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. When the cortege arrived at the St. Louis Cathedral only the officiating clergy and members of the Archbishop's family were allowed to enter.

The grave of Archbishop Bleck is

ROAD BOOSTERS PLAN GREAT TOUR

Arrangements are being completed along the Jefferson Highway route for the "sociability tour" planned to promote the building of the highway, from Winnipeg, Canada, to New Orleans.

J. D. Clarkson, general manager of the Jefferson Highway, expects more than ten thousand motor cars to take part in the run. Four cars will leave Winnipeg Monday morning, May 14, and make the trip to New Orleans and return. Hundreds of cars will join the procession from town to town for a two or 3-day run, according to Mr. Clarkson, and each town of importance will be given at least an hour of road speeches. Three to five speakers will make the round trip.

The first Sunday after the start will be spent in Kansas City. The tourists will arrive at 12:30 o'clock in the afternoon and leave the next morning on the southern half of the highway. The second Sunday will be spent at Shreveport, the third Sunday at New Orleans. On the return trip Sundays will be spent in these cities: Greenville and Denis in Texas; Des Moines, Minneapolis and St. Paul, and Winnipeg. Four days will be spent at New Orleans for a big road meeting and five days at St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Resolved, That it is our desire to see placed on the statute books a more liberal libel law, so fixed that the soil against a newspaper publisher must be brought at the domicile of that publication."

Resolved, That it seems as unjust to tax editors as it does to tax schools, authors or poets, and seems nothing short of putting a premium upon ignorance, and we protest against this injustice and discrimination."

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Les Saisons de Haydn Chant par le "University Chorus". Solistes: Laura Stevenson Spang, soprano; Bentley Nicholson, tenor; Richardson Loperich, basso.

A OPERA FRANCAIS Jeudi, 26 avril 1917 A 8 heures P. M. Siéges réservés, \$1.00, 75c, 50c. Chez tous les magasins de musique.

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