

THE DAILY MAIL

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KEEPING UP PRICES.

When prices fall—as some prices have been falling of late—some people must lose money. It may be money that they have previously made during a time of high prices, or it may only be money that they had confidently expected to make; but in either event the losers are unhappy. Cotton and sugar are two commodities that have greatly declined in the markets of the world, and wheat is following their example.

In the emergency there is a widespread feeling among the growers and the dealers in those commodities that something ought to be done artificially to sustain the sagging prices. In some of the Southern states last fall the less intelligent element in the community took to threatening farmers and gin owners who were selling cotton, and even to burning the barns and gins of those who did not obey the command to hold the cotton crop from the market until the price rose again to forty cents a pound.

Of course such a method of sustaining high prices is futile as well as criminal. No man of sense and good principles believes that holding commodities out of a falling market can do more than check the decline, or that burning the crop of a man who must sell because he needs the money can accomplish anything except the ruin of that particular man.

But influential farmers and public men from the South and West in the United States have made a serious and sober attempt to get the government to help them to hold up prices. Now prices fall because people cut their buying in two, and, so far as domestic sales are concerned, there is little change to be hoped for at present. But the farmers thought the foreign demand could be stimulated if the government would grant free credits to the nations of Central Europe such as it granted during the war and if the Federal Reserve banks would increase credits to farmers so that they might store their crops against a possible upswing of the market.

The Secretary of the Treasury was not disposed to take those steps. He did not want to saddle the country with another large foreign loan that might never be repaid, and he did not want to use the power of the government in an open attempt to maintain the high cost of living when natural causes are beginning here and there to bring it down.

Although we have accustomed ourselves to think that the state can successfully set the laws of demand and supply at defiance, it cannot do so except at the cost of much injustice and confusion. It is as certain as anything can be that under present conditions the world cannot take the quantity of materials it used to take before the war if they are to be held at double or treble the pre-war prices. The farmer must adjust his future crops to the inevitable cost of production and the probable demand at prices so determined; keeping up prices without regard to the buying power of the world will only diminish the demand still further. Such a policy could not long be successful, and its most probable effect would be to strain severely the credit resources of a nation.

The United States tariff bill conceived with the object of giving some relief to the farmers of that country, has passed the House of Representatives and has a good chance of getting through the senate. President Wilson is expected to veto it, but it will be passed over his head and become law. During the reciprocity campaign of 1911 the farmers of Canada were told by certain fervent loyalists that if the pact was ratified this country would be overrun with American agricultural products and our farmers would become hewers of wood and drawers of water for those on the other side of the line. There has been a free exchange of farm products for several years and strange to say the only squeal one hears emanates from the farmers across the line. Apparently they are unable to withstand Canadian competition, and Congress has come to their rescue with a tariff bill which promises to be prohibitive.

An Ottawa despatch to the Montreal Star says that the Federal Government does not propose to lie down under the tariff bill now being enacted

by the United States Congress. It is good to know that some members of the Ottawa government are alive to what is going on at Washington, although the telegram sent by Hon. Mr. Wigmore to Mr. McCain of Florenceville would seem to indicate that the contrary was the case. Probably if our government were to drop a hint to the effect that if the Fordney bill becomes law Canada will retaliate by imposing a stiff export duty on pulpwood and newsprint, there would be wigs on the green at Washington in the very near future.

Should the tariff bill now before Congress become law in the United States, it is sure to bring about a large increase in the cost of living and will therefore not be popular with the consuming classes of the country. It will be recalled that the McKinley bill was passed by a Republican administration in 1890 and had such a bad effect on the cost of living that soon afterwards, in the congressional elections, the Democrats won a victory almost as decisive as that achieved by the Republicans during the present year. As Mr. Harrison was president, however, the Democrats were unable to repeal the measure and it remained law for some years.

The farmers certainly had their innings on the sale of Christmas poultry with the result that record prices were obtained. The people made up their minds that they would have poultry for their Christmas dinner and high prices did not deter them from buying. Poultry seems to be becoming scarcer each year and if though the cost of feed has greatly declined the farmers seem to have no difficulty in getting whatever price they see fit to ask. Greater production seems to be the only remedy for this condition of affairs.

The business men of the city report that the holiday trade was quite up to expectations, although they say that it hardly measured up to that of last year. The abolition of the luxury tax at the eleventh hour no doubt provided quite a stimulus to Christmas shopping.

The woman who can cook three meals a day, and seven days a week, and vary them sufficiently to void monotony, is entitled to a diploma as a master of Domestic Arts, even if her whole academic course has been pursued in the kitchen. She's one luxury not subject to taxation.

THROUGH OUR SIEVE

Salvation is free but not compulsory.

A lot of mistakes are made in the name of psychology.

Lima Beane says the man who carries out the ashes earns the coal he burns.

There's one peculiarity about women—the more a man knows about them the more he has to learn.

Present styles are such that men don't have to be barred from attending young women's "kid" parties.

A housewife is able to find a place for a new floor lamp, but her husband's footstool is always in the way.

Girls are so used to short skirts a mere windstorm doesn't embarrass them now. Nothing short of a hurricane can make them nervous.

An Omaha doctor says people should live to be a thousand years old. That would be a long time to keep the heirs waiting.

Scientists say Niagara Falls will be dry in a hundred years. Similar predictions have been made before. They don't see into worry anybody.

OLD AND QUAIN.

We halted at a quaint old inn
 To rest our legs,
 And there we got some quaint old ham
 And quaint old eggs.

Rooster Ate Glass

Chatham Commercial: While Wm. Merritt of Chatham was plucking and cleaning a cockerel one day last week his fingers came in contact with a hard substance which proved to be a piece of glass with several sharp points, measuring one inch across embedded between the crop and the rizzard. Upon examination it was found that the glass was a piece of an electric light bulb which had been thrown into the stove, and eventually given to the hens in the ashes. It was noticed that there was something wrong with the cockerel, which would probably have died. Moral—people should be careful what they throw into their hens.

TURKEY PRICES IN HALIFAX

(Halifax Chronicle.)

The price of turkeys in the topic of the hour for the housewife who is planning her Christmas dinner. The turkey is regarded as an indispensable item of the Christmas fare if it can be purchased at a price within the reach of the average purse. Following the publication of the paragraph yesterday telling how the price was "boosted" in Halifax it was announced that a carload of turkeys was brought to the City yesterday and sold for 45 cents a pound. This carload lot was brought to Halifax and sold to the City trade by a well known Musquodoboit trader. Householders naturally are expecting that they will get the benefit of this importation when they purchase their Christmas bird. One of them called up The Morning Chronicle last night and wanted to know why people should be asked to pay 75 cents a pound for turkeys when they could be bought yesterday for 45 cents? The query remained unanswered.

OPPOSING THE TARIFF BILL

Washington, Dec. 26—An open clash in the senate on the emergency tariff bill, which passed the house last week, is expected tomorrow. Blocked by the Democrats last week, the Republicans plan for tomorrow another effort to refer the measure to the finance committee. Senator Harrison of Mississippi, and other Democrats opposing the bill plan to use every parliamentary tactic in their power in a play for time.

Prospects are that there will be a much more solid Democratic line-up against tariff legislation in the senate than in the house and Republican leaders accordingly plan to forego formal hearings before the committee and hasten action in other ways. The majority leaders concede privately that interminable debate in the senate is in prospect and see slight possibility of obtaining two-thirds vote to invoke closure.

WILL HAVE MERMAID COPS

Atlantic City, Dec. 27—Two attractive mermaid sleuths next season will lure surf mashers from the hollow waves to the city jail. The plans of Dr. Charles Bossert, chief beach surgeon materialize.

Dr. Bossert said today the official "vamps" would both be "clothed with authority to make arrests" and attired in "nifty" beach costumes. Four male assistants will be at their disposal if mashers object to arrest, he said.

DOUGLAS FIR FOR EUROPE

Washington, Dec. 27—A Christmas gift of twelve million tree seed, to be used in reforesting the war devastated areas of France and Belgium and also certain sections of Great Britain was shipped to those countries today through their Embassies here by the American Forestry Association.

The seed were of the Douglas fir collected from the west coast, a species which grows rapidly, it was said, and in much demand by foresters.

DEATH AT MARYSVILLE.

Joseph L. Allen, Former Police Magistrate of That Town Passed Away Christmas Eve.

Joseph L. Allen an aged and well known resident of Marysville, died Christmas Eve after a lengthy illness. He was aged eighty-four years. The deceased was police magistrate of Marysville for some years being succeeded in office by C. D. Clayton the present magistrate.

The deceased is survived by a widow, one son, two daughters and two adopted daughters. Coun. Elwood H. Allen of Marysville is a son and Mrs. Janet Pike and Mrs. J. Walter Walker are daughters.

The funeral took place Sunday with interment at Penniac. The service was conducted by Rev. J. B. Daggett and Rev. C. J. Pincombe.

St. John the Evangelist Day
 Today December 27th, is the day of St. John the Evangelist. Among members of the Masonic Order the day is special significance being celebrated by Masonic bodies as is that of St. John the Baptist with extraordinary observations. Services were held this morning in the Anglican churches.

PERSONAL.

V. M. Lipsett of New York city was in the city yesterday a guest at Windsor Hall.

W. D. Brown of St. John is registered at the Barker House.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nesbit of Calgary arrived here last week to spend a few days with Mrs. Nesbit's parents Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O'Leary of eaver Dam. They were heartily greeted by many old friends.

John J. Weddall & Son

are offering the balance of their
McClintock's Down Puffs at 1-3
 off their Regular Price.

John J. Weddall & Son

Agent for Pictorial Fashions.

December Review on Sale.

Here's A Big Bargain A 5 Gallon Galvanized Side Rest Oil Can

Filled With Best Kerosene Oil. All For
\$3.17 Cash

REGULAR PRICE \$4.25

Call Early and Get One, They will Not Last Long.

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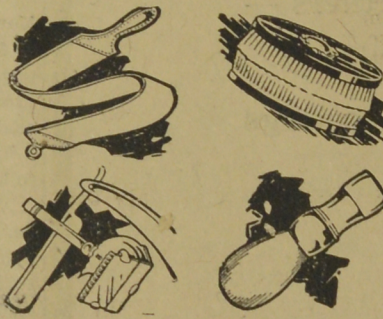
"CHESTNUT'S HARDWARE SERVICE."

Beginning Dec. 1st, our store will open at 8.30 a. m. and close

6 p. m. daily except Saturday, open until 9 p. m.



OH, GIRLS, we have a Gift that never went wrong with men.
 Put these articles on your Gift List now.



STAPLES' PHARMACY

ALONZO STAPLES, Prop.

At the Opera House
 The Monday play is "The Darkest Hour" with Harry Morey, the featured play. A good comedy completes a fine program.

Hon. P. J. Veniot, Minister of Public Works is expected in the city tonight.

AT THE GAIETY

MONDAY and TUESDAY

BILLIE BURKE

The "Charm Girl of the Screen," in

'Away Goes Prudence'

ALSO "BRIDE 13" EPISODE FIVE

4 Shows Daily—at 2.30, 3.45, 7.15 and 8.40.

Wednesday-Thursday

Drury Lane Hit - - - - - "The Hope"
 Larry Semon in - - - - - "The Sportsman"

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

For your kind and valued patronage of 1920, we thank you, and in the future may it be our privilege to serve you as in the past.

THE REXALL STORE

DIBBLEE'S DRUG STORE
 Opp. City Hall.