

PRICES

L.T. P.& G. Monday, Feb. 9, 1948.

Pork and beef went down sharply today. But the rosy prospects foreshadowed last week took on another color when the price of grain went up again; wheat as much as eight cents a bushel.

An expert for the Department of Agriculture insists that today's drop in prices was psychological. Farmers nervous over the drop in grain last week, rushing their livestock to market.

Economists are muttering in their beards. Like the man in the limerick by Edward Lear, who said: "It was just as he feared, two owls and a hen, two larks and a wren, had all made their nests in his beard."

Congressman Andresen of Minnesota, Chairman of the Special Committee on Commodity speculation, charges the the prices of grains went up in the first place because the Department of Agriculture temporarily

stopped its purchases. The Truman government, said Andresen, is mainly responsible for inflation and the high cost of living. He also made the charge today that the decision of the Department of Agriculture to stop its grain buying for the time being leaked out and that a lot of insiders were able to sell short and make a big profit over last week's tumbling prices. The Secretary of Agriculture denies this. He says there was no secret, because the Department issued a report ~~the~~ last Thursday announcing that it was suspending further grain buying for export, and that the report was well known to commodity traders everywhere.

TAFT

in Omaha? Senator Taft starts west tonight, on a tour of six states.

Ten speeches in five days. Possibly his only chance to stump the country before the critical hour, the Republican Convention in June, at Philadelphia.

Mrs. Taft, as usual, will be with him. She speaks to the women voters while the Senator talks to the men. And she is rated a highly effective speaker. It was she who coined that wise saying that "the torch of liberty is like furnaces and huabands; if you don't do something about them they will go out."

The Taft tour will include Illinois, which means much to any candidate since the Illinois delegation to the convention will include fifty-nine votes. Also, Indiana; and then Minnesota, home state of Harold Stassen. Although relations between Taft and Stassen are still outwardly friendly, the Ohio Senator is said to be plenty peeved at Stassen for filing in the Ohio primaries.

Senator Taft is also is slated to speak

RUSSIA

(To replace previous story).

In Moscow the Soviet Government makes a reply to the Secret Russian-German diplomatic documents which our state department recently made public. These documents, you may remember, revealed the conversations between former German foreign minister Von Ribbentrop and the Kremlin in nineteen thirty-nine when Hitler and Joe Stalin were getting to know each other as a preliminary to the notorious Hitler-Stalin pact, The pact that Hitler broke when the German army invaded Russia.

The conversations between the Nazis and the Reds published by our State Department last January twenty-two were in the nature of a sensational revelation of the two "isms" - - communism and nazism planning to carve up the world between them, with flowery words of friendship.

Today the Soviet information bureau in Moscow charges that the documents were published "in collaboration" with Great Britain, saying in so many words that it is all a plot to be unkind to the Soviet government - - a plot subscribed to by the French as well.

The Russians ^{are} incensed because ^{they say} the state department publication of

the documents does not tell the whole story.

"Materials relating to the preceding year - - nineteen thirty eight - - and in particular to the munich period, have not been included by the American department of state," says the Soviet Statement telephoned to New York by the U P Moscow correspondent, "and thus have been concealed from world public opinion. The action certainly not accidental," ^{adds the Kremlin,} "but pursuing aims which have nothing to do with the objective and honest treatment of historical truth."

That's the Russians' major charge against us. This charge followed by a statement that the German archives are false, the Russians claiming to have refused to agree to unilateral publication of the collection of documents, ~~terming them unverified and arbitrarily picked out by Hitlerite officials" and as a background for Soviet consumption of the protest and cure if we like to digest it,~~ ~~the Russians assert that Uncle Sam was responsible for the~~ ^{TP} ~~second world war~~ Says the Russian statement: "the historical truth, as can be seen from all this," the publication of the records, one presumes - - "consists in that Hitlerite aggression became possible, firstly because the United States helped Germany

to establish within a short period of time, a war-economic base for aggression, and secondly because the traducing of collective security disorganized the ranks of the peace loving countries, disrupting the United Front of these countries against aggression. Paving the road for German aggression and helping Hitler to unleash the second world war." ~~A mouthful of Red slander spewed out in hot anger by the Muscovites, which must have repercussions in our cold war against the Soviet and its bewildered satellites.~~

No comment yet from our State Department which however read the United Press telephoned dispatch the moment it arrived.

No official word from our embassy in Moscow yet. ~~The state department is expected to be certain have something to say on the matter. When the report of these nineteen thirty-nine conversations were published, U S officials must well have realized that the revelation of this "inside" history could touch off a bitter propaganda war, and probably lead to the Russians producing some documents damaging to some of the allied countries.~~

PALESTINE

The problem of enforcing the United Nations partition of the Holy Land is in the top headlines tonight. With a story from Lake Success that the United Nations commission itself is sharply divided over how to do the job.

Three of the five members want the Security Council to provide an international Army to defend Palestine against the Arabs. The two other members, however, point out that there is no such animal as a United Nations Army, so, they want to ask the Council what means can be had for enforcing partition; let the Security Council decide what those means shall be.

Each day a fresh rumor arises that our army is secretly preparing an expeditionary force to maintain order in the Holy Land. But the General Staff today states that this is not so, that they are making no such plans and have not been asked to consider making such plans. What's more, say our Army people, Uncle Sam would be hard put to it to round up a force to handle the Palestine problem. There are only half a million troops in our army now, and these are spread

all over the world on one duty or another.

Zionist partisans, including many christians, are demanding that the United States take action.

~~Uncle Sam is on the spot over Palestine. The secretary General of the Arab League in Cairo today declared that the United Nations would never have voted for the partition of Palestine but for American pressure. And many U.N. delegates say that partition was voted by against the real judgment of a majority of the U.N. delegates. That if the United Nations were to use force to implement its decisions, that would jeopardize the oil situation.~~

~~King Ibn Saud of course controls a vast ocean of petroleum; and if he is a member of the Arab League. By cancelling the American concession over there in Arabia he could hamstring Uncle Sam's defense program.~~

On the one hand, there's the influence of the Zionists who control a large vote in this country, particularly in New York State. On the

other hand, Middle East oil is vital to us.

All of which leaves Uncle Sam holding his head.

The Secretary General of the Arab League said today that armed intervention in Palestine, whether by United Nations or by any individual nation, would ~~be a calamity, and would~~ mean the end of the United Nations as a force for peace in the world.

Meanwhile the seven member nations of the Arab League have decided not to start any invasion of Palestine until the British evacuate; although we have been hearing for days now how Arabs in small groups of a hundred or so at a time, have been filtering into the Holy Land.

ARMED FORCES

(To follow Palestine) (The United Nations Palestine committee
at Lake Success) has just made an important decision. The
commission ^{has} agreed to ask the U N Security Council for "armed
forces" to enforce the peaceful partition of Palestine - -
a United Nations army for the Holy Land to keep order during
the anxious days when the British pull out.) No suggestion
as to where the troops will be obtained, or how. Just recognition
by the Palestine committee that "armed forces" will be necessary.
A peace army to keep the peace.

ENGLAND

(The Labor Government in Great Britain is to have the fight of its life when it attempts to ~~reform~~ enforce its program for socialized medicine. So we hear. Against the idea will be marshalled the full force of the British Medical Association. Today's news is that right now the Doctors and Surgeons of the United Kingdom are taking a strike vote.

The Attlee Government's plan amounts to state medicine; doctors and surgeons to be in the pay of the State.) In Britain by the way, there is a sharp distinction between a physician and a surgeon, as symbolized in the fact that an English surgeon insists upon being called Mister, not Doctor.

The bill, which became law last year, provides that all men, women and children in the Kingdom are to have free medical, dental and hospital service. Doctors who take part in the program to receive a retaining salary of twenty-hundred dollars a year, with something like three dollars extra for each patient on their books.

Medical men in Britain don't like this basic salary idea at all. They want to be paid solely in accordance with the number of their patients.

There are fifty-six thousand physicians and surgeons in the British Medical Association, and among those who are fighting the plan are the top notchers of the profession, including King George's family physician.

The issue came up today because the government went to the length of asking the House of Commons to give it a vote of confidence-- despite the fact that the measure is already ^{on} the statute books. Minister of Health Aneurin Bevan, broke out in a tirade of abuse against the doctors, charging that the Association had not told the truth, had misrepresented both the attitude of the Government and the interests of the medical men.

Against Aneurin Bevan was the spokesman for the opposition, who said the Health Minister was misleading the country for the reason that he has not

been able to make any plans to enforce the measure, which cannot be enforced without the cooperation of the medical profession.

All of which is interesting to us because for ten years now ^{attempts} ~~the Democrats~~ ^{been made} have ~~tried~~ to put over a similar sort of ~~measure~~ measure in this country.

SPAIN

~~and great~~ ~~some~~ Excitement in the South of France,
~~tonight.~~ For two years the border between the French Republic and Franco Spain, has been sealed -- closed by the French to indicate their contempt for Franco and all his works. Since the end of the war, no trains have crossed the international bridge, no busses -- neither freight nor passenger traffic -- no letters, no telegrams! So serious has been this blockade, so energetically enforced, that the French even tore up the rails on their side of the France-Spain frontier to make sure no trains would run through.

~~passing~~ Now at last, that international border has been re-opened-- traffic on the move once more.

~~been~~ It is fair to assume that the closed border never interfered/^{too much}with the ancient traffic of the ~~num~~ smugglers. They've plied their much romanticized trade across the high passes of the Pyrenees for too many centuries to allow a little thing like an idealological embargo to stop them. Furthermore they have ~~an~~ an intimate knowledge of mountains, trails

and goat paths, that are unknown to customs officials on either side. When it comes to that kind of big league smuggling, the forces of the law have never been able to do much. But, smuggling done on foot or by pack mule, across towering mountain ranges, only concerns a trickle of trade over the frontier.

The rush to take advantage of this reopening of the border is on from the French side. Frenchmen anxious to do their shopping in Spain. ~~Rich Spaniards are reported to be happy about it because they now can resume their annual visits to Biarritz, famous resort of the rich international set. All the resorts on the French side of the Bay of Biscay have been languishing these past few years. Now they'll come to life again.~~

TRUMAN FOLLOW TAFT

Later in the month, President Truman will ~~be off on a vacation; or, a partial vacation. He will~~ spend a week visiting Uncle Sam's possessions in the Caribbean, accompanied by some members of his cabinet.

Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and our Naval Base at Guantanamo, Cuba are on the itinerary. Then he will settle down for a ten day complete vacation at Key West.

As he announced these plans, Mr. Truman learned that Congress takes a dim view of at ~~least~~ one of his recent proposals, the reforming of the executive ~~the~~ branch of the Government. The House Committee on Executive Expenditures today turned thumbs down on the Truman request that Uncle Sam's Employment Service and the Unemployment Compensation Service be returned to the control of the Labor Department. The Secretary of Labor now has all this under his direction; but, if Congress continues to fight Mr. Truman on this, both those services will be returned to the War man Power Commission -- and there's no war!

WEATHER

More weather news. The biggest change reported from the Northwest. A terrific weekend storm out West, with at least ten killed in Washington and Oregon. ~~Thereupon~~ Thereupon, say Uncle Sam's observers, a mass of warm air started eastward across the Rockies, ~~which~~ bringing warmer temperatures to Minnesota, upper Wisconsin and upper Michigan.

In the matter of oil, the story is much the same as last week -- only moreso. Gas companies urging customers to conserve and the authorities restricting the use of oil. In Cleveland, gas shut off completely from factories.

~~Governor Dewey of New York has asked the Office of Defense Transportation to release three hundred tank cars to move oil upstate. Heavy ice jams ~~are~~ have blocked New York's barge canals and storage points along the Hudson.~~

The most serious consequence of the weather today was in evidence at Cincinnati. An ice jam in the Ohio River broke just above that city, whereupon

WEATHER - 2

the River rose three and a half feet in almost no time, carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of ice down stream, causing much damage in the harbor at Cincinnati.

Towns all along the Ohio have been warned of the grinding force of that ice pack headed their way.

one, to be called the Try Again Club -- for members of her own sex only. The idea is that if at first you don't succeed in getting another husband, do like Robert the Bruce King of Scotland, try, try and try again.

For the benefit of her club members, Mrs. Still has defined two methods of getting a man. One, hook him by the nose, which she says is not so good. The other, by the time honored route -- through his stomach. There, says she, is where the girls who are older have the edge on those who are younger, for the latter she says are pretty good around the cook stove.

WOMEN

In the daily record of events we don't often come across an epigram. In the pleasant town of Elyria, Ohio, lives Nellie Stull, who is known to be quite an organizer.

Once she founded a group called The Widow and Widowers' Club of America, Inc. Now she's organizing a new one, to be called the Try Again Club -- for members of her own sex only. The idea is that if at first you don't succeed in getting another husband, do like Robert the Bruce King of Scotland, try, try and try again.

For the benefit of her club members, Mrs. Stull has defined two methods of get'ing a man. One, hook him by the nose, which she says is not so good. The other, by the time honored route -- through his stomach. There, says she, is where the girls who are older have the edge on those who are younger, for the latter she says are pretty poor around the cook stove.

Nellie Stull says men should be educated.

They should be reminded and re-reminded that: A young woman can make a fool out of a man, but it takes a wise and experienced woman to make a man out of a fool!

And that epigram leaves little more to be said, unless you have a word or two, Nelson.