

LIVING COST ALSO ISSUE IN ENGLAND

London Board of Trade, Conducts an Investigation in This Country.

BY SIDNEY ESPEY

Washington, May 27.—The cost of living is an issue not only in the United States but in Great Britain as well. In order to make a comparison between rents paid by working classes, housing, retail prices, and rates of wages paid in certain occupations in the two countries, the Board of Trade of London has caused an extensive inquiry to be made into conditions which prevail in the principal cities of the United States.

The investigation, which was concluded not long ago, is quite as thorough and far-reaching as any which has been made by this government, and throws much light upon living conditions in this country.

The English inquiry was conducted in 28 American towns, practically all of them lying east of the Mississippi, representative of the industrial centers of the United States, and having an estimated population in that region of three-fourths of the entire population of the country.

Concerning the basis upon which the investigation was made, the report which has been submitted to the London board of trade, and which has just appeared in this country, says:

East Like Europe.

"It is in the states lying east of the Mississippi that American conditions most nearly approximate to those of the Old World, and as such therefore, as can be most usefully compared. Even in the restricted areas of investigation, however, various circumstances have made the inquiry one into conditions that are in some respects international and continental, rather than national in character, especially in regard to the great area covered, to differences in climate and physical environment which it embraced, to the federal constitution of the United States, to the absence of a common body of labor legislation, and to the cosmopolitan character of the population.

The English investigators found that the weekly hours of labor in the building trades in the United States were 11 per cent shorter than in England and Wales, 7 per cent shorter in the printing trades, but 6 per cent longer in the engineering trades.

Speaking of the character of labor, the report says, "Accompanying the influx of foreign labor, mainly unskilled, and an extensive demand for labor of this description largely used in a comparatively new country a rapid expansion of manufacturing industries has been taking place, accompanied, with or without the introduction of labor saving appliances, by a very extensive subdivision of labor. These two influences combined—the large external demand for unskilled labor and the opportunities for its absorption not only in unskilled but in semi-skilled employment—have resulted in an abnormally large proportion of unskilled and semi-skilled to skilled workers in the community as a whole, a fact which would effect appreciably any general 'weighted' comparison between the level of wages in the two countries."

Regarding rents, the commissioners found that the American workman pays on the whole a little more than twice as much as the English workman for the same amount of house accommodations. The minimum of the range of rents for the United States towns as a whole exceeds by from fifty to seventy-seven percent the maximum of the range for towns in England and Wales for dwellings containing the same number of rooms.

It also found that the retail prices of food, obtained by weighing the prices according to the consumption shown by the British budgets, show, when allowance is made for the increase which has taken place, a ratio of 128 for the United States as against 100 in England and Wales. In other words the prices which the American workman pay for his food stuff, are a little more than one-third greater than are those paid by the English and Welsh workman.

One peculiarity is the comparatively small amount of baker's bread consumed by the American workman and his family. The average being eight and one quarter pounds a week, as compared with 22 pounds consumed by the Englishman. This explained, however, that the American workman uses rolls, cakes, and biscuit in place of bread, on which the expenditure is three times as great as in England.

On the other hand the consumption of meat is much larger in the United States among workmen than it is in the British Isles, and also the consumption of vegetables is larger. All of which proves to the mind of the English investigators that the dietary of the family of the American workman is more liberal and more varied than is that of corresponding English families.

Under the conditions based upon the comparison of wages and prices, the report says that the wages of the American workman would be considerably higher in the United Kingdom by 130 per cent, with slightly shorter hours, while on the other hand his expenditure on food and rent would be about 52 per cent higher.

The commission reached this conclusion: "The money earnings of the workmen of the United States are rather more than 2½ times as great as in England and Wales, and since there is no proof that employment is more intermittent in the United States than in the United Kingdom, a much greater margin is available even when allowance has been made for the increased expenditure on food and rent.

"The margin is clearly large, making possible a command of the necessities, conveniences, and minor luxuries of life that is both nominal and really greater than that enjoyed by the corresponding class in the United Kingdom, although the effective margin is in itself, in practice, curtailed by a scale of expenditure to some extent necessary, and to some extent voluntarily adopted, in accordance with a different and higher standard of material comfort.

Dancing Tuesday night at Jackson Park. Music by Smith and Jelly. 28-2t

DECLINE TO INSURE RACE AGAINST RAIN

Indianapolis, May 27.—"Can I talk a little insurance to you today, Mr. Fisher?" It was the representative of Lloyd's, London, who spoke.

"Certainly," said Carl Fisher. "I want a \$100,000 policy for one day. I will pay you \$10,000 for it."

"That's fine," said the agent, pulling a blank policy from his pocket. "What is it for?"

"To insure the speedway against rain for the 500-mile race Tuesday," said Fisher.

"That's rotten," said the agent, showing the policy back in his pocket. "I can't do it."

And thus did Lloyd's turn down a \$100,000 one-day policy at \$10,000 a day.

Five Hundred Mile Speedway Marathon Will Be Spectacle

(Palladium Special)

Indianapolis, Ind., May 24.—The forty-sixth driver for the 500-mile international sweepstakes race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 30, has been named. Out of the entire field of nearly half a hundred cars, one pilot, that of the Benz car entered by E. A. Moross, along with the car to be driven by "King Bob" Burman, was left unnamed. Billy Knipper, a doughty little fellow who won a reputation at the wheel of a Chalmers "Blue Bird" and later captured the Tiedemann Trophy race at Savannah in November, 1910, will guide the other German motor creation throughout the long race.

This was the announcement just made by Moross after he had cast about for a fitting team mate for the "Speed King." Knipper has been long at the speed game, and although he has been the victim of several thrilling spills, he still retains the nerve that made such a wonderful showing for him at Crown Point in the Cobe race and at Savannah in the light car event.

Burman and Knipper are on their way to the speedway and will have several days for workout before the long race is held. The car which Burman will drive has 520 cubic inches piston displacement while that to be piloted by Billy Knipper has but 444 cubic inches. Both of the Teuton cars are fast, and the team is played as one of the favorites of the event. Neither expects to have a relief driver, but believes he will be able to pull through the seven-hour drive without a rest.

Burman comes fresh from his recent

world's record making adventures in Florida, while Knipper has been on the farm getting in shape. The two veterans have often driven against each other, but this is the first time they have ever been team mates though they are great friends.

Most of the forty-six cars named for the long race are at the two-and-half-mile brick oval now putting up their best performances for their masters. Faster and faster they are growing and when the eligibility trials are started on May 26, all of them will be at their best. It is well they should for every car must show a speed of at least seventy-five miles per hour.

All of the details for the long event have been planned and carried to completion. The race will start at 10 o'clock and the gates will be thrown open to the public at 6:30 o'clock. The start of the race is to be the most spectacular in the history of racing.

The half hundred cars will be brought up to the tape in about four lines. Carl G. Fisher, president of the speedway, will lead the big field the first time around the track in his roadster. A pace of forty miles an hour will be set, while the contestants shift into their positions for starting. When the pacemaker reaches the tape on the first time around, he leaves the field to its own speed desire and the race is on. When the first car crosses the timing instrument will start to work. Starter Wagner will drop the flag, a huge bomb will explode 300 feet in the air and the race will be on. Bombs will be exploded at minute intervals five minutes before the start of the race, and the starting bomb will be a monster American flag unfurled to the breeze as the daylight pyrotechnic piece explodes.

It is believed in this way the trail of smoke left by so large a field in its getaway will be vanished before the start of the race is made and the danger of collisions in the start done away with.

The most complete scoring and announcing system ever devised is ready for the race, and more than 100 men will be employed to keep accurate accounting of the cars in their flights around the brick course.

Present indications are that fully 100,000 visitors will witness the long race. The Speedway management has built additional stands and provided room for more than that many, while a room bureau has been established in connection with the Speedway offices to accommodate visitors who come from all parts of the nation. This bureau is obtaining rooms for many thousands and has a list of fully 4,000 rooms ready in the best private homes in Indianapolis. The citizens have responded to the call for a place to entertain the guests of the Speedway, and nearly every home in the city is ready to house a half dozen.

Motorists have begun to gather already for the 500-mile classic, and the atmosphere of the Hoosier capital is surcharged with rumors and conjecture about the race. Many odd bets are being posted and many favorites are being strongly backed. Five teams rank in the favorite end of the betting, the Benz, Fiat, National, and Marmon. The Simplex has many followers as well. Most of the wise ones know full well that the field is too big for safe betting, of any kind, and the winner of the race is far from being picked to a certainty. The rail birds have clocked car after car and sagely shook their heads as some of the dark horses in the race showed sudden bursts of unexpected speed.

One of the eleventh hour developments was the change of the mount

of Eddie Hearne of Chicago. The Windy City lad at first elected to drive a Benz, but later changed to a Fiat and became a team mate of Caleb Bragg and Dave Bruce-Brown. With in a few more days another world's champion will be declared, and this one will be the fellow who has beaten the classiest field that ever took the word in any race in the annals of Motordom.

HINDU RITES BLAMED FOR THEIR INSANITY

Alfred Me., May 27.—Terrifying stories of mental torture suffered by women believers who lay all night at the Yogi shrine, pleading that the powers of evil be banished from them, were read at the contest of Mrs. Ole Bull's stricken with nervous prostration, others lost their reason and were removed to hospitals for the insane.

Sharp, 82 years old and his ostensible Nicolò Roberto, the barber psychic, testified that these and other amazing rites of the Hindu priests drove Mrs. Bull insane. Another woman, Mrs. Sarah Jane Farmer, was finally sent to an asylum.

The allegation is made that Mrs. Bull was in such a mental state that she was incompetent when she made her will, and that the document was dictated by Miss Noble, who is now in Calcutta, who she has journeyed since the will was contested.

Mrs. Stevens, a prominent member, became possessed of the idea, according to letters read in court, that Mary Wright Sewell, who is prominent in educational circles, was a veritable demon. So great was her power, as believed by Mrs. Stevens, that when she looked at a figure in a picture the eyes in the picture moved.

Palladium Want Ads Pay.

STRAIN KILLS GIRL

Witness, Carried to Court on Stretcher, Dies.

Baltimore, Md., May 27.—The death last night of Miss Ida Brewer, who was carried in to the court of common pleas on a stretcher to testify in her suit for \$20,000 damages against the United Railways, caused great indignation today among the public; also in legal circles.

Nearly all who talked of the collapse of the young woman in the court room after she had cried out that she was dying were strong in denunciation of those who were responsible for her presence there. They felt that she should not have been taken into the court room in her critical condition, and were unanimous in the belief that this hastened her death.

Although the case did not go to trial it said Dr. J. H. Mitnick, one of Miss Brewer's physicians, informed Judge Bond that she was able to testify. When Dr. A. C. Harrison, chief physician for the United Railways, informed the judge Miss Brewer was dying, a postponement was ordered at once.

The judge at the time denounced the action of bringing Miss Brewer into court to testify as "outrageous." A juror expressed the opinion that it was a crime to bring a woman into court in her condition.

Judge Bond has given serious consideration to the advisability of laying the matter before the bar association. He would not make a public statement saying anything that came from the bench would appear to many in the light of a judgment. The only thing that deterred Judge Bond from taking action is his belief that the physicians are the ones mainly at fault.

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Ladies' Fine Brown and Blue Worsted Suits, all very latest, at \$9.98. We have no big stock, so would advise you to come soon, for your size may be gone soon. We have several hundred sample Skirts bought at almost one-half their regular values. There are only two, three and four of a kind. See them.

LADIES' PERCALE WRAPPERS, all sizes, in blue, grey, red and black at75c, 98c and \$1.25

LADIES' DRESSING JACKETS, all colors, at48c

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A BIG LOT of Ladies' Assorted Oxford Ties and Slippers at a price of98c to \$1.48

MEN'S ELK HIDE OUTFIT Shoes, black, olive or tan, for this hot season, selling at\$1.98

LITTLE GENTS' and Boys' Calf Shoes going at98c

A BIG LOT OF MEN'S WORK SHOES at\$1.39

Men's fine Dress Shirts at 50c, 75c and 95c. White pleated shirts at 50c and 95c.

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