

MARKETS' PURPOSE TO REDUCE LIVING COST SAYS MAYOR

Robbins Discusses Problems of Efficient Service Before Sessions of Municipal League at Columbus.

It was a peculiar thing that with all the trouble Richmond has had in recent years attempting to solve the city market question the mayor of Richmond should be called upon to read a paper on "Municipal Markets" at the annual convention of the Indiana Municipal League, but such was the case. Mayor Robbins protested, but his objections were overruled, so he collaborated with Mr. Davis of the board in the preparation of a paper on this subject, frankly admitting at the start that the Richmond markets have been a failure. This paper, which Mayor Robbins read at the Columbus, Ind., meeting this morning, follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Municipal League:

When Mr. Cunningham wrote asking me to prepare a paper on Municipal Markets, to be read on this occasion, I at once replied that we in Richmond were the least qualified to perform such a task as our market, if noted for any one thing, it would be for its conspicuously as a failure. This explanation, however, was not satisfactory to Mr. Cunningham and with that tenacity which has characterized his actions on all matters of which he thinks he is right, insisted such a paper should be prepared, and such as it is I give, asking in its behalf as limited a criticism as possible, combined with more than a full measure of charity.

The success of a municipal market is not to be measured by the standard of dollars and cents to the municipality; it may be a losing proposition financially and yet be eminently successful in meeting the demands of the consuming public and living up to the ideals and purposes for which it was created.

The vital purpose of a market is to put producer and consumer in the closest relation possible. The financial result to the Municipal treasury is a minor consideration.

Three Market Ideas.

What should be the ideals of a municipal market? If it served its real purpose it would:

1. Bring producer and consumer together and eliminate middlemen's profits.

2. It would make available to the consumer vegetables in all their freshness.

3. It should to a very material extent reduce the cost of living, as the producer is put to very little expense for rent, fixtures, or help. The maintenance of delivery wagons, telephones, light, taxes, interest on investment and such other fixed charges as the local dealer have to meet are entirely eliminated.

The seller has no real waste; because he can always dispose of any surplus he may have over, to the grocers and other dealers, besides the home bargain hunters.

Now the question that arises is: Why under these conditions are prices uniform? Supply and demand seems to have no bearing on prices, and it is in this particular that the market at Richmond is a conspicuous failure.

Criticism of Master.

There has been considerable agitation in our city of late because of the seeming over officiousness of the market master, who also is the inspector of weights and measures, and as a means of protecting the public from the ravages of dishonest dealers, has found it necessary to confiscate certain weights, scales and measures.

In my judgment, on principle as to the market success, if it is to be a success, has not been sufficiently clear to the buying and tax paying public, and that is this: "The value of the market to the city and to the consumer depends entirely on the efficiency and thoroughness of the market master." Market failure can most often be traced to the sudden interest or the narrow vision of the market master. Markets need to be governed by a strictly enforced set of rules for when left to themselves they tend to become but groups of grasping retailers with no interest in public standards and no vision as to results accruing from enforced quality for goods and decency in sales practices.

A Profitable Market.

In this connection, I am in strict accord with Consul General Henry W. Dierich in speaking of the results of the market at Antwerp, who says, "The value and effectiveness of the market as an agency for distributing goods at lowered prices depend primarily upon the virility with which its affairs are administered. The official in charge must, therefore, be of high character, steadfast in standards, with power to bring all stall renters to high business standards, and ability to attract to the market, both producers and consumers. A market so administered will be a vital and uplifting factor in feeding a city."

Price regulation by the municipality is a perplexing problem. The right of interference by the city on the question of price fixing is seriously questioned and it is charged against the city that we are interfering with man's inalienable right to charge as much as he can get for what he has to sell.

Food is as essential to life as is water, air and light and every member of the human family should be supplied with as much of it as is desired as cheaply as possible.

City Regulates Utilities.

The city has ample power to regulate the supply and price and quality of water, gas, electric current, etc., supplied by the franchise privileges granted, yet remain powerless when dealing with all the important "necessary of life" food.

Market manipulating, price fixing and all such forms as tend to increase the cost of living is a form of dishonesty tolerated on the plea that it is man's natural right to secure as much as he can for what he has to sell.

In private business that theory may hold good, in this instance, however, we are dealing with those who occupy a public market place, furnished at a nominal cost to them, maintained at public expense and in return for these privileges we are advised to "mind our own business" and not to interfere with their rights to secure as much as possible regardless of what constitutes a fair profit.

To Protect Consumers.

What I deem to be essential to the success of a market is the right to give protection to the consuming public. Every patron of the market

should be given the assurance, or consciousness rather, that the market is his or her place that can be depended on for a square deal.

I am told these conditions are utopian, and cannot be reached, impracticable and therefore impossible. This is one of the features I should be glad to have this league discuss.

The goal to be reached before it can be said we possess a successful market, is, when it can be truthfully said, that things are sold at the lowest possible price consistent with a fair and reasonable profit.

But minimum prices, it must be remembered, may in reality, be unreasonably high prices unless accompanied by honest weight and honest goods.

Chance of Enforcement.

The one great advantage of a municipal market, both for the stall renter and the buyer, is the opportunity afforded by the very nature of the market to enforce the laws and ordinances aimed at adulteration, misbranding and false weight and measures.

By protecting its citizens through enforcement of such laws and ordinances, the city will also ultimately further the best interest of the stall renters themselves.

The officers of the health department should make frequent visits to the market; its sanitary condition should be made immediately adulterated, decapitated, misbranded or otherwise denatured foods being sold at the market. Food must be protected even to be cheap; yet the method of protection should not of itself be an undue burden to the vendor and consumer.

In my humble judgment only through some regulation, strictly enforced, the municipal market can be made to serve the purpose for which it was created.

Asks Market Questions.

The high cost of living is an economic problem and I do not say that even a substantial relief can be given by the aid of successful municipal markets. I do say this, however, that where the purpose of such a market is reached a very material reduction in the high cost of many things that are classified as "necessaries" may be obtained.

The questions I would like this League to discuss are:

Should the privileges of stalls at the market be restricted solely to those who raise their own produce?

Would better competition prevail if the stalls were sold day by day and no one given a lease, the choice of stalls subjected to "first come first served"?

Should forfeiture of market privileges be the penalty for any violation of the market rules?

Should not the city reserve to itself the right to protect its citizens from dishonest vendors at the market, to the same extent that it protects its citizens from marauders by maintaining a police force?

This is practically all I have to say excepting perhaps, if brevity is a virtue and this paper is considered worthy of official recognition, I am afraid its brevity will be its dominant feature.

RELEASE COLORED MAN SUSPECTED

A negro, name not known to the police, was arrested on suspicion last night of being wanted at Oxford, O., for attempting to shoot a man.

The police were notified by the Oxford authorities this afternoon, however, that the man was not wanted there. He came to police headquarters to seek the arrest of a man he said had stolen clothes from him. This man asserted the negro's clothes were being held as security for a \$3 loan, and that the man had told him that he had shot twice at an Oxford man but the cartridges had failed to explode.

MOTHER OF FOUR TAKES HER LIFE

NEW CASTLE, Ind., July 8.—Mrs. Emma Paul, a widow and mother of four children, committed suicide here today by shooting. Despondency was claimed to have been the cause.

NAMES VIEWERS

F. M. Jones, of Milton, and Minor Fox, of Hagerstown, were today appointed viewers to act with the county engineer on the petition for the permanent improvement of South Twenty-third street.

London consumes \$4,980,000 worth of kerosene yearly.

ERUPTION ON ANKLE GREAT SUFFERING

Many Nights Did Not Sleep. Burned All the Time. Wore Bandage Night and Day. Used Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Now Well.

Kingville, Mo.—"My trouble began eighteen years ago. Nearly half of the time were running sores around my ankle; sometimes it would be two years at a time before they were healed. There were many nights I did not sleep because of the great suffering. The sores were deep running ones and so sore that I could not bear for anything to touch them. They would burn all the time and sting like a lot of bees were confined around my ankle. I could not bear to scratch it, it was always so sensitive to the touch. I could not let my clothes touch it. The skin was very red. I made what I called a cap out of white felt, blotting paper and soft white cloth to hold it in shape. This I had night and day.

I made many remedies for most of the eighteen years with no effect. Last summer when my ankle had been open for over a year and much worse than ever before I went for some Cuticura Soap and Ointment. It would itch and burn, besides a great hurting that I think tongue could never explain. The very first time I used Cuticura Soap and Ointment I gained relief; they relieved the pain right then. It was three months from the time I commenced using Cuticura Soap and Ointment until the sores were entirely healed. I have not been troubled since." (Signed) Mrs. Charles E. Brooke, Oct. 22, 1912.

Cuticura Soap 25c. and Cuticura Ointment 50c. are sold everywhere. Liberal sample of each mailed free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card: "Cuticura, Dept. T. Boston."

"Men who shave and shampoo with Cuticura Soap will find it best for skin and scalp."

LATE MARKET NEWS

CHICAGO GRAIN

Furnished by Correll and Thompson, I. O. O. F. Bldg. Phone 1446.

WHEAT

July Open. Close. white, 75 1/2; Oats, cash No. 2 white, 38 1/2.

CORN

July Open. Close. 80 79 1/2; September 79 1/2 78 1/2; December 82 1/2 81 1/2.

OATS

July Open. Close. 68 1/2 68 1/2; September 64 1/2 65 1/2; December 55 54 1/2.

TOLEDO GRAIN

TOLEDO, July 8.—Cash Grain: Wheat 82 1/2; Corn, 71 1/2; Oats, 40%; Cloverseed, cash, \$8.40.

RICHMOND MARKET

(Corrected daily by Anton Stolle, Phone 1316.)

LIVE STOCK

(Corrected daily by Anton Stolle, Phone 1316.)

HOGS

Primes (average 200 lbs.) per 100 lbs. \$8.15, heavy mixed, per 100 lbs. \$7.00@7.25; roughs, per 100 lbs., \$5.50@6.00; light \$5.15@8.20.

CATTLE

Choice steers, per lb., 7 1/2 to 8 1/2c; butcher steers, per lb., 7 1/2 to 8 1/2c; cows, per lb., 3 1/2 to 4 1/2c; bulls, per lb., 5 1/2 to 6 1/2c; choice veal calves, per lb., 8 1/2c.

PRODUCE

(Corrected daily by Ed Cooper, Phone 2577.)

FEED QUOTATIONS

Timothy hay, paying \$16.

Straw, paying \$5.

Oats, paying 40c.

Corn, paying 72c.

Red clover seed, paying \$6 bushel.

Timothy seed, paying \$2.30 bushel.

Cracked corn, selling \$1.75 bushel.

Bran, selling \$28 ton.

Middlings, selling \$29 ton.

Chop feed, selling \$1.60 cwt.

Corn meal, selling \$1.60 cwt.

Salt, \$1.40 barrel.

GRAIN MARKET

(Corrected daily by Richmond Roller Mills, Phone 2919.)

Wheat, paying 73c, oats paying 35c; corn, paying 75c; rye, paying 57c; bran, selling \$28 cwt.; middlings, selling \$30 cwt.

FISH AND SEA FOOD

(Corrected by Richmond Fish Market, Phone 1535.)

Fresh fish—Whitefish 20c lb.; pike 20c lb.; boneless herring 15c lb.; Spanish mackerel 25c lb.; lake trout 18c lb.; large pickerel 18c lb.; small pickerel 15c lb.; perch 15c lb.; white bass 15c lb.; catfish 18 to 20c lb.;

INDIANAPOLIS LIVESTOCK

INDIANAPOLIS, July 8.—Cattle, receipts

24,000, market 10c higher, top price

\$8.75, bulk of sales \$8.45@8.70. Cattle,

receipts 11,000, market 10c higher,

beefs \$7.75@9.70, calves \$9.00@10.25.

Sheep, receipts 14,000, natives and

westerns \$3.75@6.10, lambs \$6.70@9.50.

INDIANAPOLIS GRAIN

INDIANAPOLIS, July 8.—Wheat,

cash No. 2 red 81 1/2; Corn, cash No. 3

white, 75 1/2; Oats, cash No. 2 white, 38 1/2.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK

CHICAGO, July 8.—Hogs, receipts

24,000, market 10c higher, top price

\$8.75, bulk of sales \$8.45@8.70. Cattle,

receipts 11,000, market 10c higher,

beefs \$7.75@9.70, calves \$9.00@10.25.

Sheep, receipts 14,000, natives and

westerns \$3.75@6.10, lambs \$6.70@9.50.

PITTSBURG LIVESTOCK

PITTSBURG, July 8.—Cattle, receipts

24,000, market 10c higher, top price

\$8.75, bulk of sales \$8.45@8.70. Cattle,