

WILSON FIXES 1918 WHEAT PRICE AT \$2.20 A BUSHEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—A price of \$2.20 a bushel—the same as for last year's crop—was fixed by President Wilson for the coming season's wheat yield. The price is for No. 1 Northern spring wheat at Chicago, with a scale of differentials for other markets.

The differentials differ to a slight extent from those now operative and range from a minimum of \$2 to a maximum of \$2.28.

In fixing a price now for the new crop, which will not be harvested until June, the president was believed to have had two objects in view. The first was to halt legislation pending in Congress to fix prices at from \$2.25 to \$3 and the other was to stimulate spring planting.

The introduction of the price-raising bills had begun to check the flow of wheat to market and food administration officials feared that mills soon would have to close down. Hoping the legislation would pass, farmers, it is declared, have been refusing to sell at the present price of \$2.20.

Crop Guaranteed at \$2

In enacting the food control law Congress put a guaranteed price of \$2 on next season's crop, and this has been construed as a minimum price. To draw wheat to market the president fixed a price of \$2.20 on last season's yield and it had this effect until the price raising bills were introduced. Then the flow began to stop.

Food administration officials have declared that if the bills passed the government would be forced to raise present prices to the new levels and that to do so, would upset the food administration's flour and bread program.

On the basis of No. 1, northern spring wheat, and its equivalents, the president fixed the prices as follows:

Chicago, \$2.20; Omaha, \$2.15; Kansas City, \$2.15; St. Louis, \$2.15; Minneapolis, \$2.17; Duluth, \$2.17; New York, \$2.28; Philadelphia, \$2.27; Baltimore, \$2.27; Newport, N. Y., \$2.27; Charleston, S. C., \$2.27; Savannah, \$2.27; Portland, Ore., \$2.05; Seattle, \$2.05; San Francisco, \$2.10; Los Angeles, \$2.10; Galveston, \$2.20; New Orleans, \$2.20; Salt Lake City, \$2; Great Falls, Mont., \$2; Spokane, Wash., \$2; Pocatello, Idaho, \$2; Fort Worth, Tex., \$2.05; Oklahoma City, Okla., \$2.05; Wichita, Kans., \$2.05.

The equivalents of No. 1 Northern, to which the same price applies, are No. 1 hard winter, No. 1 red winter, No. 1 durum and No. 1 hard white. The wheat must be harvested in the United States during 1918 and sold in the market before June 1, 1919. The president's proclamation states that the action is to meet an emergency requiring the stimulation of wheat planting.

Duty to Fix Price.

In a statement accompanying his proclamation the President said: "Under the food control act of Aug. 10, 1917, it is my duty to announce a guaranteed price for wheat of the 1918 harvest. I am, therefore, issuing a proclamation setting the price at the principal primary markets. It makes no essential alteration in the present guarantee. It is a continuation of the present prices of wheat, with some adjustments arising from the designation of additional terminal marketing points."

This guaranteed price assures the farmer of a reasonable profit even if the war should end within the year and the large stores of grain in those sections of the world that are now cut off from transportation should again come into competition with his products. To increase the price of wheat above the present figure, or to agitate any increase in price, would have the effect of very seriously hampering the large operations of the nation and of the allies by causing the wheat of last year's crop to be withheld from the market. It would moreover dislocate all the present wage levels that have been established after much anxious discussion and would therefore create an industrial unrest which would be harmful to every industry in the country.

"I know the spirit of our farmers and have not the least doubt as to the loyalty with which they will accept loyalty with which they will accept planting which furnishes two-thirds of our wheat production took place with no other assurance than this and the farmers' confidence was demonstrated by the fact that they planted an acreage larger than the record of any preceding year, larger by 2,000,000 acres than the second largest record year and 7,000,000 acres more than the average for the final years before the outbreak of the European war.

Why Wheat is Standard.

"It seems not to be generally understood why wheat is picked out for price determination, and only wheat, among the cereals. The answer is that while normal distribution of all our farm products has been subject to great disturbances during the last three years because of war conditions only two commodities, namely, wheat and sugar, have been so seriously affected as to require government intervention.

"The disturbances which affect these products (and others in less degree) arise from the fact that all of the overseas shipping in the world is now under government control and that the government is obliged to assign tonnage to each commodity that enters into commercial overseas traffic. It has, consequently, been necessary to establish single agencies for the purchase of the food supplies which must go abroad. The purchase of wheat in the United States for foreign use is of so great volume in comparison with the available domestic supply that the price of wheat has been materially disturbed and it became necessary in order to protect both the producer and the consumer, to prevent speculation. It was necessary, therefore, for the government to exercise a measure of direct supervision as far as possible to control purchases of wheat and the processes of its exportation. This supervision necessarily amounted to price fixing and I, therefore, thought it fair and wise that there should be a price stated that should be at once liberal and equitable.

"These peculiar circumstances governing the handling and consumption of wheat put the farmer at the very center of war service. Next to the soldier himself, he is serving the country and the world and serving it in a

way which is absolutely fundamental to his own future safety and prosperity. He sees this and can be relied upon as the soldier can.

Draft Calls on Farmer.

"The farmer is also contributing men to the army and I am keenly alive to the sacrifices involved. Out of 13,800,000 men engaged in farm industries, 205,000 have been drafted, or about 1.48 per cent of the whole number. In addition to these, there have been volunteers, and the farmers have lost a considerable number of laborers because the wages paid in industrial pursuits drew them away. In order to relieve the farming industry as far as possible from further drains of labor, the new draft regulations have been drawn with a view to taking from the farms an even smaller proportion of men, and it is my hope that the local exemption boards will make the new classifications with a view of lightening the load upon the farmers to the utmost extent. The secretary of war has asked for authority to furlough soldiers of the national army if conditions permit it, so that they may return to their farms when assistance is necessary in the planting and harvesting of the crops.

"National and local agencies are actively at work besides in organizing community help for the more efficient distribution of available labor and the drawing upon new sources of labor. While there will be difficulties and very serious ones, they will be difficulties which are among the stern necessities of war.

"The Federal railway administration is co-operating in the most active, intelligent and efficient way with the food administration to remove the difficulties of transportation and of the active movement of the troops. Their marketing is to be facilitated and the farmers given the opportunity to realize promptly upon their stocks.

"The Department of Agriculture and the food administration will continue to co-operate as heretofore to assist the farmers in every way possible. All questions of production, of the marketing of farm products, of conservation in the course of production and of agricultural labor and farm problems generally will be handled by the Department of Agriculture; while all questions of distribution of food supplies to the allies will be handled by the food administration; but the chief reliance is upon the farmer himself, and I am sure that that reliance will be justified by the results. The chief thing to be kept clearly in mind is that regulations of this sort are only a part of the great general plan of mobilization into which every element in the nation enters in this war as in no other. The business of war touches everybody. It is a stern business, a co-operative business, a business of energy and sacrifice, a business of service in the largest and best and most stirring sense of that great word."

FASHION HINT



This unusual Russian blouse in black velvet combined with the white jersey skirt, makes a decided impression. The white collar, the strips of white on the belt and the cuffs and edging the blouse set it off most strikingly. There is not a tight fitting spot in the blouse or skirt. This blouse has two panels, the back one a little longer than the front. For spring? Yes.

NEW PARIS, O.

Mrs. Frank Purvis and daughter of Dayton spent Sunday with Mrs. Mary A. Benson. Peter M. Pence has not been feeling well for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ledbetter and baby have moved to the George Woods property from Richmond, while Mr. and Mrs. Woods and son Fred have taken a residence in Richmond. Mrs. George Kessler of Richmond visited relatives here Thursday and attended Rebekah lodge in the afternoon. James Mungavin of Richmond spent Friday with his mother, Mrs. Mary Mungavin. Miss Ida Warden left Monday for Columbus, and other points where she will attend the Spring millinery openings. Mrs. Andrew Baker and children returned Monday to their home in northern Ohio after a two weeks' visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Pierson. Mrs. Patrick Horrigan of Camden spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. Mary Mungavin, and both attended the funeral of their aunt, Mrs. B. Banning at Richmond, Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. John O'Dea also attended the funeral, Mrs. O'Dea being a grand-daughter of the deceased. Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bailey returned today to their home in Cleveland, O., after several days' stay here, having been called here by the death of Mr. Bailey's grandfather, Mrs. Caroline McGraw. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Smith of

SAFE FARMING

OBSERVE FARM IMPLEMENT REPAIR WEEK

By P. G. HOLDEN.

THE Government has appealed to the farmers of America to increase their acreage of practically all grain crops from 5 to 51 per cent over what it was in 1917. This appeal is based upon the food requirements for the coming year.

To cultivate this increased acreage will necessitate an equal increase in the man-power on the farms. But our boys have gone to war. We are short of labor. The situation presents an emergency to which there is but one solution—labor saving machines and preparedness.

Upon the farmers of this country rests the responsibility of food production, but the implement manufacturer and the implement dealer must provide the farmer with the means of growing more food with less labor.

This can be accomplished only through preparedness; by furnishing machines and repairs and having them shipped on time.

With the hearty approval of the National Food Administration, the week of March 4 to 9 has been designated as "Farm Implement Repair Week" throughout the United States. Every farmer is urged to thoroughly and carefully inspect all his farm machinery and tools during that week, ascertain what repairs and new parts he will need, and place his orders for them.

If each farmer and implement dealer will do his duty during that week, every farm machine will be in good condition when it is needed for plowing, planting, cultivating or harvesting the crops.

Of the 29,300,000 people engaged in money-making pursuits in the United States, 40 per cent, or 13,600,000, are engaged in agricultural work. These do



Contrast the Crude Method of Plowing Shown Above With Labor Saving Machine Shown Below by Which Over an Acre on Hour Is Plowed.

not include farmers' wives, who, like all housewives, are classed in the U. S. Census report as having "no occupation."

Of all classes of business men, the agricultural implement dealer is in a position to render the most service, the best service, to the greatest industrial class of men in the world—the farmer. He is servant to the man behind the crop.

Feeding a World Big Task.

Even in times of peace and normal food conditions, it would be impossible for the farmers to produce enough to feed the world, if they planted, cultivated and harvested their crops entirely by human labor.

This is strikingly proven in the case of wheat, America's most important food crop. The total annual production of wheat in the United States between 1840, when there were no modern farm implements, and 1914, increased 496 per cent. During that period, the total acreage planted to wheat increased 102 per cent, while the total population of the country increased but 178 per cent and the percentage of those engaged in agriculture decreased between 5 and 10 per cent. This great increase in production was made possible by the use of farm machinery.

The great war has created a marked shortage of labor. It demands increased production of foodstuffs on American farms. In this crisis the use of every possible labor-saving farm machine is imperative.

No machine that can be repaired and put in shape for use should be allowed to stand idle in the fields. No farmer should wait until he needs to use his machine before he finds out whether it needs repairs. Dealers should ascertain at the earliest possible moment the conditions of the machines on the farms in their community. They should know what new machines will be needed, what repairs will be required. They should order these machines and machine parts in time to avoid any possible delay in planting, cultivating or harvesting. They should keep in mind that the heavy burden imposed upon the railroads in the transportation of war necessities makes shipments uncertain.

Nothing responds more readily to fair treatment than the soil, but there is no reward for shiftlessness and inefficiency.

We must think of the soil, care for it, keep it fertile: think of the crops produced from it, and their relation to the soil. Such are the demands upon the farmers of America, if we are to answer the country's call.

Bradford, O., are guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Bragg. . . . Miss Edith Keel of Liberty, Ind., is spending several days with her sister, Mrs. George Mann. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Weber are the proud parents of a baby son, Stanley Eugene, born Thursday. . . . John Carl Cook of the Medical Department of the army is spending a ten days' furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cook, his work in the X-ray department at Camp Pike, Ark., having been so strenuous as to demand a change of scene and occupation. . . . The Yankee club, an organization of the younger men of the town has opened up a cozy club room in the second story of the postoffice building. . . . Harry Kilbourne and wife are the parents of a fine baby daughter, Martha Jane, who was born the 13th inst., while Mr. and Mrs. John Stuart are entertaining a young fœtus to the Germans who arrived to 12th inst. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bennett and little Mary Mildred Cunningham of Richmond were Sunday guests of M. J. Cunningham and son, Simon. . . . Will Campbell of Indianapolis visited his sister, Mrs. W. A. Fudge Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Browne and son and Misses Pauline and Katherine Smith of Richmond spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Marrinan.

Mrs. Timothy Glenn was called to Richmond Tuesday by the critical condition of her brother, Mr. Sullivan, who received injuries in a railroad wreck and is being cared for at Reid hospital. No hope for his recovery is entertained. . . . W. H. Wisman has received the appointment as postmas-

ter of the regular services of the day.

Mrs. C. E. Samuels was taken to the Presbyterian hospital, Chicago, Wednesday night for a surgical operation, this being the second operation with in two years. . . . W. C. Cross and family moved Wednesday to the Francis Via property. . . . Miss Francis Means came Wednesday for a few days' visit with friends.

George Smith has sold his home on Walnut street to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Horrigan, who will move at once from their country home, which has been rented to Oliver Hodgkin.

Mrs. Martha Souers moves to the place vacated by Hodgkin and which she purchased. Smith has taken rooms in the Kolbe building over the Kilbourne barber shop. . . . Roy W. Commons, New Paris soldier, is getting the hope of his life, to judge from a message received Wednesday by Frank S. Richey, which is to the effect that he is on his way "over there." There were but a few words in the letter, hastily scribbled upon a Y. M. C. A. letter head. . . . Mrs. Carrie Dardar, Dayton, Miss Sarah McGrew, Gratz, Mrs. Hannah Sawyer and daughter, Miss Helen, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jones were entertained at dinner Tuesday by Mrs. Jessie A. Melody. . . . Mrs. Hannah A. Sawyer entertained Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bailey of Cleveland, Sunday night and Monday. . . . Marshall Morrison, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Bennett, who has just closed four years service in the Navy for Uncle Sam, is visiting local relatives this week before his re-enlistment. Known by his friends here as a "slip of a boy" when he left for the service, his husky appearance and growth was a surprise to them all. He attended school here several years ago. . . . Mrs. Albert Haller spent from Saturday to Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Martin Vise at New Madison. . . . Mrs. J. M. Zea and children went Friday to Greenville and were joined on Sunday by Mr. Zea, all returning Sunday night. . . . Mrs. H. T. Aker of Richmond spent Wednesday and Thursday with her parents and attended the B. G. I. C. meeting. . . . Misses Wanda King and Mary Hawley were hostesses Wednesday evening for the February meeting of the B. G. I. C., held at the home of Miss King. The meeting was in the nature of a Poverty party, the invitations being flag-decked. The guests were bidden to come attired in the "most worn-out clothes they could find," so a motley array of rag-bag contents formed the costumes. The business session opened the meeting at which time three new members, Misses Gertrude Bice, Evelyn Aker and Maude Watts, were initiated into the club. A contest which caused much merriment was the dressing of a poverty-stricken lady doll in a certain time, from scraps of various kinds of goods furnished, the best dressmaker receiving a prize of fancy candies in a flag-decorated box. In keeping with the poverty idea, none of the rooms were decorated except the reception room which, with its rag carpet, flags and red lights, presented a patriotic look, doing reverence to the birthday of the Father of his Country, which occurs Friday. A Hoovered menu of brown bread, sandwiches, baked beans, coffee and pickles was served on pasteboard plates, the coffee in tin cups, upon a table covered with a brilliant red table cloth, and each member joined "the bread line" and awaited her turn to be served. A most enjoyable evening was spent by the young ladies who knitted on Red Cross work, following the games and contests.

Officers Play Baseball in Blinding Snowstorm

NEWPORT, R. I., Feb. 25.—In a blinding snowstorm, and with the temperature near the zero point, officers from the first naval district defeated officers from Ft. Adams in a full nine-inning baseball game, 12 to 5, yesterday. The outfit was blotted from view of the home plate by the snow, but the infielders served as observation posts for the outer defense and occasionally directed a successful putout.

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A. L. LEE

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