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(Reprint from "The Financier", New York, February 17, 1917.)

OUR YELLOW PERIL.

Written for "The Financier" by Prof. Irving Fisher, Department of Political Economy, Yale University.

Never, since the Civil War, has the price level in this country shot up with such prodigious speed as in the last few months. The excitement of the present war at first made us forget our anxiety about the "high cost of living". But recently the war itself has reintroduced the problem and re-aroused our interest in it. In Europe the prize levels of various countries have shot up even faster than our own. Professor Cassel of Sweden found that by April last, prices in Russia had risen since the war began by 165 per cent., in Germany, 111 per cent., in France, 87 per cent., in England 66 per cent., and even in neutral Sweden, 46 per cent. The price level in the United States had at that time risen, according to Dun's Index Number, only 19 per cent. Since then prices in the United States have continued to rise until they are now 40 per cent. more than before the war. Undoubtedly European prices have continued their much steeper ascent.

The price level depends on certain fundamental factors: the quantity of money, the superstructure of credit built on this money foundation, the velocities of circulation of the money and the credit, and the quantity of goods brought to market.

These are the only proximate causes. Myriads of other causes — war, tariffs, anti-tariff laws, trusts, trade unions, gold discoveries, rapid transportation, shortened hours, advertising, waste of natural resources, etc., may affect the high cost of living, either upward or downward, but as I have shown elsewhere, these causes are anterior to and act only through, money, credit, velocities, or goods.

To the question, which of these fundamental factors is, or are, responsible for the sudden uprising of prices in the last few months, I would reply that the few months chief causes both abroad and at home are (1) growing scarcity of goods and (2) growing abundance of money. Apparently the more important of these two is, even in Europe, the growing abundance of money. To put it in a nutshell, the whole world is now suffering acutely from war inflation. In belligerent countries, this inflation has been chiefly in the form of paper money issues, while in neutral countries it has been chiefly in the form of gold imports. The gold flowing to neutral countries, like Sweden and the United States, is gold displaced by paper money in belligerent countries and attracted to neutrals because the belligerents could not export other goods than gold.

Professor Cassel has shown that, in Russia, the money in circulation and an index number of prices worked out by him have fluctuated together, month by month, in close parallelism. Within two or three months after gold enters the country, the price level and the cost of living in the United States will rise as a consequence. On this basis we may roughly forecast a probable further rise of prices in the immediate future for our money in circulation is still increasing.

It is significant that Sweden has already taken a radical and epoch-mak-

INSURANCE STATEMENTS.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Michigan Fire and Marine Insurance Company, of Detroit, Michigan.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1871 and 1873 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, (as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.)

Capital paid up \$ 400,000.00

Assets 1,063,029.25

Liabilities, less capital and surplus 729,152.87

Surplus received in Louisiana 392,176.38

Premiums received in Louisiana 391,966.

Fire \$11,990.83

Marine

Total \$ 11,990.83

Losses paid in Louisiana, 1916 \$ 3,185.60

Fire \$ 3,185.60

Marine

Total \$ 3,185.60

M. J. HARTSON, 822 Union Street.

Feb 22 to March 25

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Detroit Fire and Marine Insurance Company of Detroit, Michigan.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1871 and 1873 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, (as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.)

Capital paid up \$ 500,000.00

Assets 2,099,751.53

Liabilities, less capital and surplus 871,191.08

Surplus received in Louisiana 1,125,572.47

Fire \$10,155.29

Marine

Total \$ 10,155.29

Losses paid in Louisiana, 1916 \$ 6,822.66

Fire \$ 6,822.66

Marine

Total \$ 6,822.66

JAMES A. BOSS, 631 Gravier St.

Feb 22 to March 25

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

American Central Insurance Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1871 and 1873 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, (as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.)

Capital paid up \$ 1,000,000.00

Assets 3,142,833.93

Liabilities, less capital and surplus 2,110,098.35

Surplus 1,032,735.57

Premiums received in Louisiana 1916:

Fire \$26,340.30

Marine 819.31

Total \$ 27,168.61

Losses paid in Louisiana, 1916:

Fire \$11,200.96

Marine 227.26

Total \$ 11,428.22

ARTHUR MENDES & CO., 730 Gravier St.

Feb 22 to March 25

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company of St. Paul, Minnesota.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1871 and 1873 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, (as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.)

Capital paid up \$ 1,000,000.00

Assets 12,386,617.85

Liabilities, less capital and surplus 7,393,558.44

Surplus 3,895,050.41

Premiums received in Louisiana 1916:

Fire \$89,776.51

Marine 36,327.22

Total \$ 125,103.73

Losses paid in Louisiana, 1916:

Fire \$10,632.32

Marine 12,115.37

Total \$ 22,747.69

GODCHAUX & MAYER, LTD., 817 Union St.

Feb 22 to March 25

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Fidelity Phenix Fire Insurance Company, of New York, N. Y.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Section 1871 and 1873 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, (as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.)

Capital paid up \$ 2,500,000.00

Assets 19,210,575.65

Liabilities, less capital and surplus 9,703,732.65

Surplus 7,015,824.00

Premiums received in Louisiana 1916:

Fire \$83,803.54

Marine

Total \$ 83,803.54

Losses paid in Louisiana, 1916:

Fire \$82,717.62

Marine

Total \$ 82,717.62

JAMES PREVONT, Manager.

LEON IRWIN & CO. Ins., Agents.

Feb 11-18

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL STATEMENT.

Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company of Philadelphia, Pa.

For the year ending December 31st, 1916, published in conformity with Sections 1871 and 1873 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Louisiana, (as amended and re-enacted by Act 126 of 1916.)

Capital paid up \$ 750,000.00

Assets 8,531,307.80

Liabilities, less capital and surplus . . .