

Paris and her environs, continued to rise in that city until the 29th, when they became stationary at a greater flood height than ever before recorded there, even surpassing the record flood of 1615. Subsidence began, but very slowly, so that by the 1st the fall was less than four feet, and the Seine was still over twenty-seven feet above normal level. Weakened sewers continued to burst, and but slight improvement in general conditions could be noted; but at least, the beloved city had not suffered a cataclysm. The situation in the provinces began to improve a little earlier than in Paris. The condition in which Paris is left by the receding waters, many of which have come through the sewers to submerge the streets and fill cellars and first stories, naturally brings fear of epidemics of disease, and the work of disinfection has been promptly undertaken in the streets and squares. Very strict orders, both in regard to the disinfection of houses, and to the restoration of weakened foundations, are being promulgated. The Assembly has extended the time of business notes for one month, in consideration of the demoralized condition of business. The suffering has been very great. The magnificent and usually perfectly equipped city has been almost without transportation and light, except for lamps and candles; largely without heat and food; and even without drinking water in great sections, especially in those inhabited by the very poor. All this in addition to the actual homelessness of thousands—Parisians as well as refugees.

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#### The Increased Cost of Living.

Results of the widely scattered boycotts on meats because of the prevailing high prices (p. 82), have been reported from both East and West, and curiously enough, not only meats, but butter, eggs, milk and even vegetables, have fallen in widely separated localities.

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At the recommendation of the President, both houses of Congress have been discussing the question of the increased cost of living. According to the Chicago Record-Herald in speeches on this subject on the 28th,—

—the exodus from the farms to the cities and the increased supply of gold were the two principal causes advanced for the high price of foods. The automobile and other developments of the last few years have lured the youth from the farms, according to Republican congressmen, and the boys are no longer content to remain at the old fireside, receiving for their labor \$20 a month, when by going to the cities and towns they may earn \$60. The speeches placed no responsibility upon the tariff. Violations of the anti-trust law, however, were suggested as contributing to the high prices of meat products.

A committee appointed by the Chicago Federation of Labor to investigate the high cost of living, began its work on the 25th. The committee is

composed of Professor R. F. Hoxie of the University of Chicago, Luke Grant of the Carpenters' Union, Miss Margaret Haley of the Teachers' Federation, Secretary John C. Harding of the Chicago Typographical Union, B. C. Dillon of the Musicians' Union, Edward N. Nockels, secretary of the Federation of Labor, and H. L. Bliss, the statistician. The committee will devote special attention to showing what relation, if any, the union wage scales have to the present high cost of food products and other commodities. Comparisons will be made between the wage scales of 1908 and 1909 and of the present in several of the principal crafts, and similar treatment will be given to the figures reported by workmen on the cost of living in the corresponding years.

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The Liberal Club of Los Angeles has petitioned the President and Congress to indefinitely suspend the operation of the clauses of the Payne-Aldrich tariff law which relate to meats and meat products, and that—

—the ports of the United States be thrown open to the free entry of the meats and meat products of the whole world, to the end that, in so far as the tariff protects the criminal and unlawful combinations of the trusts in food-products, this protection which acts as an associate helper in their crimes, may be removed.

John H. Hanan, president of the National Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association, says, according to the New York Journal of Commerce:

Rent is primarily responsible for whatever increase there has been in the cost of shoes and other commodities. This applies not only to the retail stores in cities and towns, but to land of every kind all over the country. For example, fewer cattle are raised now because of the mounting rent of land and the cost of cereals. This affects the price of beef, shoes and all commodities that are derived originally from cattle.

Byron W. Holt pithily epitomizes the situation in saying:

Prices go up the elevator; wages climb the stairway.

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#### The Ballinger Investigation.

On the 24th by special vote in the lower house the resignation of James T. Lloyd of Missouri from the joint Congressional committee for the investigation of the Interior Department and the Bureau of Forestry, which was originally refused (p. 83), was accepted, and James M. Graham of Illinois was elected in his place. The committee began its sessions on the 26th, with Louis R. Glavis (vol. xii, p. 1156) as its first witness. In response to an unexpected question as to the purport of the witness's charges, Mr. Glavis's lawyer, Louis D. Brandeis, was able to give a telling summary of what Mr. Glavis expected to be