

# RAG MAN RATED IN MILLIONAIRE CLASS

Price of Junk Is Now One Hundred Per Cent Higher Than Normal.

## SCRAP IRON VALUABLE

Old Metal Is Being Shipped to Russia and France by Way of China.

Any rags, any boxes, any bottles today, There's a big, black rag picker comin' this way.

Boy, dust off the phonograph.

We are going to play that old tune again because it contains valuable advice.

Listen, neighbor, if you've got any scrap-iron, old metals, old rubbers, woolen or cotton rags, put them in the safe, post an armed guard and call the nearest junk dealer.

For you're wealthy, that is, potentially speaking.

Junk has risen 100 per cent since the war broke out, principally, we suppose, because all the jacks who used to collect it in Europe are at the Russian front. Europe needs scrap for munitions, so the United States is exporting it in millions of tons. The price goes up, as all good prices do, and there you have it.

### Sad Side Pictured.

Adjourning to the next platform we'll paint the sad side of the picture.

There is so much scrap-iron and old metal awaiting transportation that railroad yards are being clogged and it was hinted yesterday that one road in Duluth may declare an embargo on junk transportation.

According to an official of the Duluth Iron & Metal company, a good share of that firm's export is going to Russia and France via China. The remainder is melted at the Duluth steel plant.

Pig iron, when converted from the ore, must be tempered or diluted or something or other with scrap. So with pig iron on the increase, old metal takes a sympathetic rise. Thus there are two agencies contributing to force an increase in the value of old metals.

Two years ago rags were 50 cents per 100 pounds. Today they are \$2.50 a hundred. It follows then that if a policeman wore cloth-top shoes he could sell them as cast-offs for about \$2, on the basis of weight.

### Market Declines?

Despite the value of old metals and rags, the market yesterday was reported declining from its strong stand, mainly because of transportation problems and because every junk dealer has grasped the opportunity to sell at top price, overloading the domestic market.

A peculiar condition is that affecting manufacture of bottles. Ingredients used in glass-blowing are essential in munitions making, so there is a dearth of new bottles. Despite this there is no market at all for old bottles, unless of standard size, like whiskey and beer containers.

The time is not far distant, some believe, when many commodities marketed now in bottles will be put up in paper or other containers.