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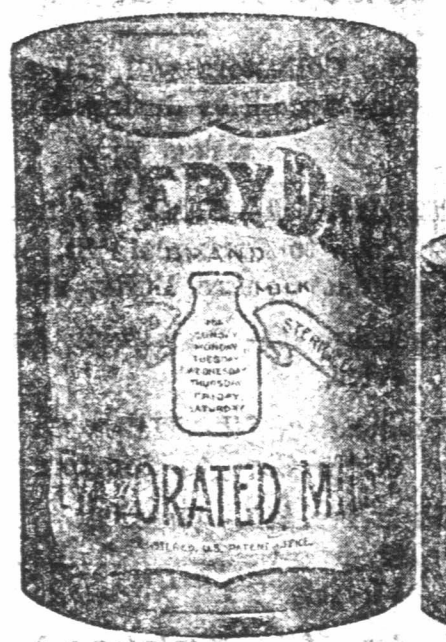
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St. John's, Newfoundland.

Germans Force Belgians To Break Hague Rules

Compel Railroad Employees to Aid Movement of Troops—Threaten Famine for Refusal to Work—Many Imprisoned for Failure to Respond—Intimidation Fails.

Must Aid Germans or Starve
The persecution extends over the whole of Belgium. Herr Hulzebusch, the "Secretary-General for Imperial German Railways" at Brussels, has openly said that he will achieve his purpose by means of famine; he will drive back the railwaymen to their lines by preventing the relief committees from helping them.

Detailed information concerning certain recent incidents at Luttre and at Malines has come to hand. At Luttre the German authorities assembled about 30 mechanics belonging to the central railway workshops, and requested them to resume their vocations, promising a rise in their wages. Ordinary workmen were offered 5 and 7 marks a day, skilled machine-men up to 20. The mechanics returned a decided negative. They were thereupon shut up in railway carriages and told that they would only be let out when they consented to work. The threat was useless. After several days they were told that they would be sent off to Germany, and there set to forced and unpaid labor. At the same time their families were warned of the threat, in the hope that they would induce them to yield. Nothing of the kind happened and on the following day, as the train steamed off, the imprisoned mechanics and the people who crowded down to the approaches to the station joined in hearty cheers of "Vive La Belgique!" The train went no farther than Namur, where the workmen were turned loose!

Could Not Believe in German Promises
In consequence of these incidents M. Kesseler, the manager of the Central Railway Works at Luttre, was arrested at Brussels on May 10. He was moved to the goal at Charleroi, where he had to sleep on straw, and on Wednesday, May 12, was taken under escort to the Luttre works, where a great number of his mechanics had been already assembled. A written notice had been given to each of them threatening deportation to Germany if work was not resumed. Mr. Kesseler was told to induce the men to yield; he replied that he had sworn fidelity to his king, and that he never would perjure himself. He added that all his foremen were bound by the same oath. He was then invited to request them to work, on condition that they would only be employed on civil goods traffic. M. Kesseler made no reply to that he would state the offer to the men, and leave them each to act as his conscience directed. Not a man consented to resume work. It may be added that no one believed in the faith of the German promise, for the class of engines standing by for repairs were not intended for goods traffic.

After this M. Kesseler was remanded to the goal at Charleroi, where the cashier, M. Gishlain, and a clerk, M. Menin, are also imprisoned. A hundred and ninety workmen were sent off to Germany, and sixty more were arrested on June 5.

Forced to Work Under Armed Guard
At Malines the German authorities directed the Communal officers to give them the list of the staff of the Central Works. The officials replied that they had no such list, having nothing to do with the railway administration. The Germans persisted in their demand and threatened to fine the town 10,000 marks (\$25,000) unless a list was sent to them within twenty-four hours. The burgomaster thereupon posted up a notice stating that the German authorities required all railway servants to present themselves at the offices of the German engineer in charge of the works. This appeal had no effect. The Communal officers were then forced by the Germans to draw up a list of railway men extracted from the register of householders, and these persons, numbering some 500, were arrested at their homes and taken under armed guard to the workshops. To make them work they were locked up and not allowed to return to their houses. Their wives or children brought them their food. The manager, M. Dograux, was also detained for ten days.

Reign of Terror in Malines
Since the workmen refused to yield to the Germans they have themselves on the whole population of Malines. They should submit, it was ordered that one should quit his dwelling after six o'clock in the afternoon. Moreover, by an edict issued by General Von Bissing on May 30, the town was to be isolated, no one was to enter or leave Malines. For some days

a reign of terror prevailed. There was a violent scene at the gates on the day when Cardinal Mercier proposed to visit Brussels and attempted to quit the town. But all these measures of intimidation were vain. No single mechanic of the Central Railway Works has resumed his vocation. At Sweveghem, near Courtrai, incidents resembling those at Malines occurred about the same time. Here M. Bekaert has a large factory for the manufacture of wire. On June 8 the Germans ordered that barbed wire for their trenches should be put in hand. The 300 workmen refused to enter the works. M. Clays, the Secretary of the Commune, and Senator Von de Venne were arrested and sent to Courtrai. The burgomaster, however, was released in the evening. On June 10 notice was given that severe punishment would be inflicted unless work was resumed within twenty-four hours. When they refused once more to get to work, in spite of much brutal compulsion, harsher measures still were taken. Sixty-one of them were sent off to the goal of Courtrai. On June 16 their wives were also despatched thither; on their way they were odiously maltreated.

Systematic Cruelty of German Staff
As may be gathered from Governor General von Bissing's proclamation these three incidents did not result from local errors of subordinate authorities. The whole formed part of a system, in which there were concerned the governor general and the highest German military personages, who were perfectly well aware of the stipulations of The Hague Convention and did not hesitate to violate them. This cynical attitude is sufficiently displayed in a proclamation posted up at Ghent on June 10, of which a copy has come to hand:

NOTICE
By order of His Excellency the Inspector of the Etappe, I make the following communication to the Communes:
The attitude of certain factories, which refuse to work for the German Army, under pretence of patriotism and of a reliance on The Hague Convention, proves that there is a movement on foot to raise difficulties for the administration of the German Army.
I therefore give notice that I shall repress, by all means in my power, any such intrigues, and they can only result in a breach of the good relations hitherto existing between the administration of the German Army and the population.
If such tendencies continue to develop, I shall first make the communal authorities responsible, and I must declare that the people will only have themselves to thank if the ample liberties hitherto accorded to them have to be suspended, and replaced by measures of restriction made necessary by their own fault.

(Signed)
Lieutenant General
Count Von Westcarp,
Etappenkommandant.
The Belgian Government begs to bring before the notice of the British Government the new German violation of the Rules of War, of the universal principles of international law, and of The Hague Convention.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

HOW WATER IS MADE IN THE TRENCHES

Empty Flare Cartridge With Layers of Cotton and Coke; Water Boiled

Coburg, Aug. 27.—Lieut. E. Curry, of the 2nd Battalion, in writing from the battle line says of his little home in the trench: "My dugout is quite a classy one. I have a shelf affair for a bed, a small shelf for necessaries; pegs for clothing, and it is papered with sandbags that have come unsewn. Some mansion. We took the trench over from some English territorialists. They say the people over the way are Bavarians. They certainly don't bother us much; about twice a day. Daybreak and night fall, both sides start a row, and of course there is sniping at each other. They had not even shelled us till our artillery started in on them; then they put a few small shell over."

Lieut. Curry describes how they make filter for their water bottles out of empty flare cartridges, which just fit over the neck of the bottle. He says, "You punch a hole through the primer and load the empty shell with alternate layers of cotton wool and coke; half fill up the bottle with water, put on cartridges and insert over your mess tin and there you are." "Often," he says, "our drinking water is drawn from a pit near the trench. It is always yellow and muddy, but this clears it splendidly. Of course, it always has to be boiled as well. It took me half a day to make up the first, as it was necessary to think up materials. Cotton comes in detonators, in which the high explosives are packed, coke and charcoal are issued once in a while for fire, and the flare cartridges are fired every night."

FOUGHT IN TRENCHES FIFTY YARDS APART

Huns Called to Canadians That They Would Not Attack if Others Did Not

Sergt. Dan MacLeod of the Eleventh Battery, writing to a friend in Hamilton, speaks of evidence of a lack of zeal among the Germans from which he argues that the people at large are not anxious for the war. In the course of his letter he says: "Things have been very quiet here for the last week or so. The Germans have been shelling a town on our left rather hard for a week. The farmer, where we are, said they have shelled it since last February, but have never done any harm. Well, yesterday they sent over lots of them and set the church on fire. That seems their one idea; to spoil everything they can, now that they know that they cannot win the war. I surely do not think it is the people of Germany that want this war, for last week up in the trenches, where they are only about fifty yards apart, when the Canadians took someone in their trench, called out, 'Who is over there, Canadians?' and our boys told who it was and they said, 'If you don't attack we will not,' so you can see for yourself they are tired of it, but I guess if they don't do as they are told, they are taken out and shot, so they take their chance."
"We have not had any of the second Canadians here yet; but there is some talk of them taking over our guns before long. I only hope it is true, for we sure have hit it very hard for this last seven months, and over one-third of our men have had to pay the cost with their lives and those that are left have God to thank for coming through safely."

ADVERTISE IN THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

ALSACE FIGHT PICTURESQUE

French Alpine Troops and Artillery Are Making a Steady Progress

New York, Aug. 30.—A London cable to the Herald says: The French, by sharp actions in the Vosges in which they have overcome innumerable obstacles, have straightened out their front north of Sondernach and are believed to be about ready for their final operations against Munster and the lower Fecht valley.

Picturesque Campaign.
Outside the official communique little attention has been paid recently to this offensive in Alsace. The field of action is relatively far removed from the centre of the western theatre, and the picturesqueness of the campaign, which in many respects resembles the struggle between the Austrians and Italians in Tyrol and in Carnia, has been lost. For more than two months, however, the French Alpine troops, together with large bodies of line infantry, have been engaged in a consistent advance of which never once has been stopped.

Steady Advance.
The progress has been slow, necessarily, since every hill crest, every mountain summit is a strongly fortified and strongly held position, which is occupied only after long artillery bombardment has paved the way for assault. Sondernach is on a south fork of the Fecht river,

Shade

The kindest thing God ever made,
His hand of very healing laid
Upon a fevered world, is shade.

His glorious company of trees
Throw out their mantles, and on these
The dust-stained wanderer finds ease.

Green temples, closed against the heat
On noontime's blinding glare and heat
Open to any pilgrim's feet.

The white road blisters to the sun;
Now, half the weary journey done,
Enter and rest, O weary one!

And feel the dew of dawn still wet
Beneath their feet, and so forget
The burning highway's ache and fret.

This is God's hospitality,
And who rests beneath a tree
Hath cause to thank Him gratefully.

less than two miles from Metzeral, which the French occupied in July. The front in this sector now extends in a shallow half-circle from Munster from Reichackerkopf to Sondernach, with Munster under the fire of the French guns.

Heavy Armies Engaged.
There is no estimate possible of the number of French engaged in this portion of Alsace, but reports from Berlin indicate they are opposed by more than a full army corps of Germans. There is reason to believe the vigor of the French offensive has caused big reinforcements to be sent into the region to prevent further progress toward Colmar.

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For 2.00 and **\$1.50** 2.50 Values

WE are displaying in the Eastern Window of Our New Store—nearly opposite the General Post Office—special lines of Men's Soft Felt Hats that were purchased at a clearing price—a third and more off the manufacturer's price, and we are offering them now at a Bargain—amongst them you'll find many excellent samples.

These Hats are made of Extra Fine Fur-Felt, of a superior quality, and are finished with high-class silk ribbon bands and a deep leather sweat-band.

Your choice of side or back bow, in Grey, Brown and Black. We have some special values in Men's Black Stiff Hats too.

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