

state food monopoly, by which the grain supply of the nation was entirely controlled by the government, was set up and a writer in the Berlin *Der Tag* describes its working as follows: "For the control of the grain supply there is a central distribution plan of the states and the municipalities. The provisions remain in the possession of the owners, but can only be disposed of as the authorities see fit. According to the plan adopted by the government, the municipalities, as independent organizations, are entrusted with the practical solution of the whole economic question. The most important part of the programme is committed to them, which is not only a recognition of special relationship to the people, but is also the best technical solution. They must husband the quantities allotted by themselves. Scarcity will be out of the question, and the intention of the enemy to starve Germany has now already been thwarted. Only criminal resistance will evoke disturbance in the circulation of the food supply. Severe punishment will be meted out, and the disposition to trifle with the law will be nipped in the bud. . . . Whoever feels himself restricted in personal liberties will subordinate these sentiments to his patriotic duty. Moreover, the gambler is the only one who will suffer, having been shorn in the hope of price speculations. Maximum prices are set down, which will secure any trader in grain and flour a handsome profit. It will thus be seen that nobody is enjoined to sacrifice anything needlessly to the common welfare."

The above, written in February, 1915, would seem to forecast a perfect working of the industrial machine; there is no opportunity for a mistake and the gladly acquiescent people will be fed with clockwork regularity and despatch. Have the following months borne this out? Has the Machine worked as perfectly as it should in theory?

On November 8, 1915, the *Vorwaerts* spoke as follows: "The rise in the prices of food-stuffs has become unbearable. The prices of all important provisions and other articles of daily necessity, such as fuel, clothing and footwear, have reached an exorbitant height. With anxious fears, the people of the labouring classes up to the circles of the middle classes look forward to approaching winter. Already bitter need rules in many families. Must there be so much selfish lust for gain, and capitalistic greed of profits rage unrestrainedly in the unreined free play of forces? Must millions be in want so that those shameless producers and dealers, who coolly take advantage of war conditions, can enrich themselves at the nation's cost?"

The *Vorwaerts* concludes its article by an appeal, or rather a demand, that the Government shall take over the