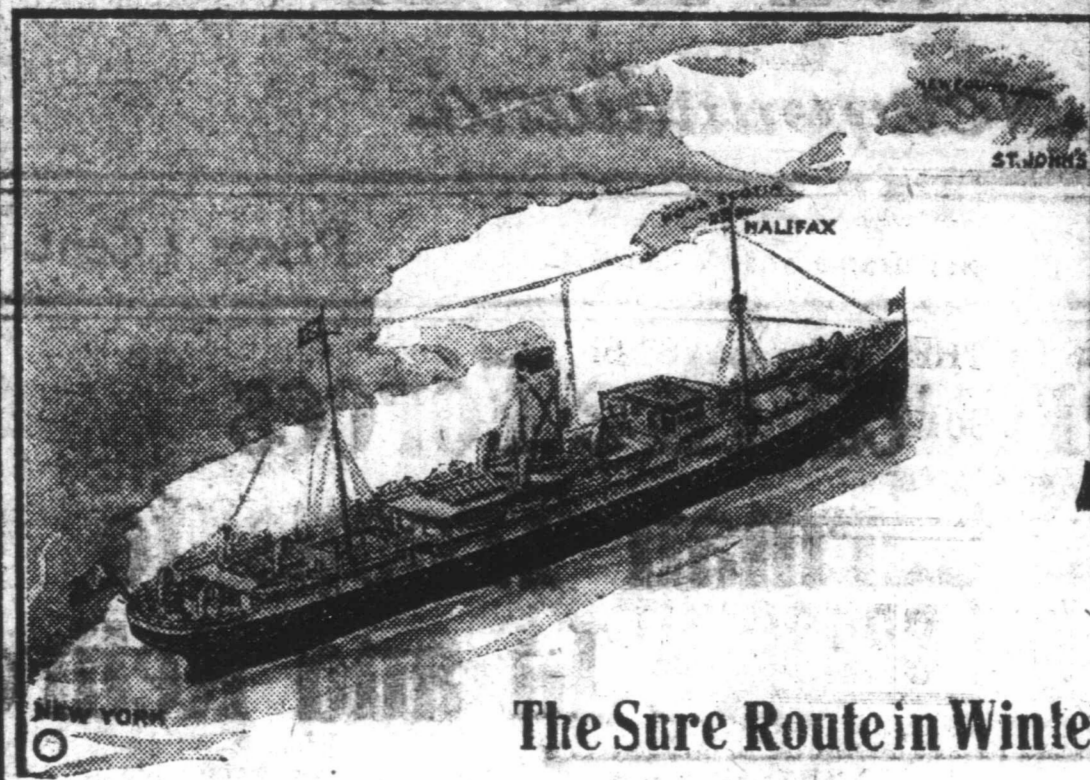


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WHOLESALE STARVATION WOULD CONFRONT THE BELGIAN PEOPLE

Were Importation of Food Into That Country to be Stopped

CLOTHING PROBLEM IS ALSO SERIOUS Must be Provided at Regular Rate To Avoid Suffering

LONDON, March 3.—"There would be wholesale starvation within three or four weeks if the importation of food into Belgium were stopped.

"In northern France the percentage of indigent people is even greater than that in Belgium, because there are virtually no native supplies.

"The clothing situation in Belgium and northern France demands very serious consideration. Unless the work of providing clothing is kept up at a regular rate, there will be very serious suffering in the fall."

The foregoing conclusions are those of Frederick C. Wolcott, who spent three weeks in Belgium and northern France investigating for the Rockefeller Foundation the work of the relief commission of which Herbert Hoover is the head.

Mr. Wolcott, in his report, says he is greatly impressed by the efficiency of the relief work and he recommends that money intended for Belgium or France be entrusted to the commission. Mr. Wolcott said to those present: "If any who cavil at the sending of relief supplies into Belgium could only visit Belgium and see personally the plight of the suffering people they would come back as eager for the continuance of the work as I am."

One Meal Daily. Of the 7,000,000 inhabitants in Belgium, Mr. Wolcott said, 3,000,000 are virtually destitute, and drawing daily one meal consisting of the

equivalent of three thick slices of bread and a pint of soup. He added: "Depots for the distribution are only large enough to accommodate between thirty and fifty people, so a long queue of hungry extends into the street for a block or more. Most of those who wait are so poor that they have no protection in the shape of umbrella or a thick coat against the discomfort of stormy days. I have seen thousands of people lined up in snow or rain, soaked and chilled, waiting for bread and soup. I have returned to the distributing station at the end of the day and have found men, women and children sometimes still standing in line, but later compelled to go back to their pitiful homes cold, wet and miserable. It was not until eighteen weary hours afterwards that they got the meal they missed."

Mr. Wolcott said the percentage of indigent was greater in northern France than in Belgium, because of the lack of native supplies. The most destitute in France and Belgium, he said, were reduced to one suit of clothes. The commission in accordance with its policy is anticipating the wants of the population and purchasing clothing by the bolt and having it made up by the natives for fall wear. The children of northern France have suffered badly for the want of clothing and particularly of shoes. The report concludes:

"I have reported to the Rockefeller Foundation that I am much impressed by the efficiency of the commission for relief; that whatever was given for relief in Belgium should be given to this organization without any restrictions. If relief on a large scale is undertaken for other destitute countries, like Poland and Serbia that relief should be undertaken by or through this commission."

Roumania Conserves Her Wheat Supply

Dealers Fail to Offer Sufficient to Fill Contract With British

HUNS ARE CONTENTERS

Offer as Good Terms and Attach no Conditions to Purchases

BUCHAREST, Feb. 19 (by courier to Berlin, Feb. 26, via London, Feb. 28).—Grain dealers and producers having failed to offer wheat in sufficient quantities to fill the contract of 80,000 cars made between the British purchase bureau and the Roumanian export commission, the contract under which the sales were made has been radically modified.

Grain sellers under the old contract received 32 let (approximately \$6.40) per hundred kilograms, the same price paid by the Germans and quoted to store and insure the British purchases at their own expense until six months after the war.

The sellers figured their expenses would be six let per hundred kilograms, while the German and Austrian purchases were to be delivered immediately without expense.

Are Able to Ship. Grain experts here say that while these conditions may resuscitate interest in the British wheat purchases it is not likely that the full 80,000 carloads will be obtained, because the Germans and Austrians offer as good terms and furthermore attach no conditions, being able to ship all purchases within a few days.

It was announced yesterday that a bill had been laid before the Chamber of Deputies and admitted under the urgency clause whereby the Government pledges an export ban on all wheat shipments outside of 100,000 carloads sold to Germans and Austrians and 80,000 carloads sold to the British.

From Financial Sources. Further opposition to the British buyers comes from financial sources. Three million pounds sterling of the total purchase price of about 10,000,000 pounds sterling, secured only by the 3,000,000 pounds in London.

Critics of the contract say the transaction is unsound because Great Britain, if it desired to, put pressure on Roumania, could withhold the gold deposited in London, thus leaving the Roumanian paper without basis which would seriously affect the country's financial standing.

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Robert Templeton,
St. John's.

Wanted to Fight All Slackers

Belligerent Londoners Broke up a Meeting of Peace Advocates

NEW YORK, Mar. 2.—A news agency despatch from London yesterday says: A Quakers' peace meeting in Bishop's Gate was broken up to-day by the invasion of several belligerent Londoners, one of whom had lost two sons at the front. "I'll fight any Quaker or slacker in the hall," volunteered one stalwart, mounting the platform. The offer was not accepted, and the peace advocates fled out.

Buys War Materials From U. S.

Spanish Transport Almirante Lobo Will Convey Them to Their Destination

MADRID, via Paris, Mar. 3.—A Spanish commission which has been appointed for the purpose of accepting delivery from United States manufacturers of the war material purchased by Spain will leave Feb. 29 for New York on board the steamship Manuel Calvo. The Spanish transport Almirante Lobo will convey the water material from the United States to Spain.

TWELVE PERSONS KILLED IN AIR RAID SUNDAY

LONDON, Mar. 6.—Twelve persons were killed in the air raid over England last night, and three Zeppelins took part in the attack. This information was given out officially to-day.

The statement follows: "The number of Zeppelins which took part in last night's raid is now believed to have been three. After crossing the coast the airships took various courses, and from the devious nature of their flight apparently were uncertain as to their bearings. The area visited included Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Essex and Kent.

As far as is known about 40 bombs were dropped altogether. The casualties, so far as ascertained, amount to killed, 3 men, 4 women and 5 children, and injured 33.

The material damage was two terrace houses practically destroyed, one office, one public house, cafe and several shops partly destroyed, and a block of almshouses badly damaged.

HANDS-OFF REFEREE.

Harry James Anderson was fined \$5 and costs in default this morning by Recorder McMahon of Westmount for causing a disturbance and interfering with the referee at last Saturday night's hockey game at the Arena.—Montreal Paper.

Of course the Montreal referee gives unbiased decisions and it is right that he should be protected. Judging from recent actions of referees in St. John's, either a disinterested umpire must be imported, or the game abandoned.

THE ZEPPELIN "KNIGHTS"

New York Times.

The student of military history, the lover of heroic empires, will dwell with fondness on these characteristic Zeppelinites. There is a touching rivalry between the submarines and the Zeppelins as to whether from under water or from the air women and children can be killed in the greater number and with the most neatness and dispatch. Where, even in the chronicles of the Knights of the Table Round, can there be found a nobler picture of knightly deeds than the tale of the Zeppelins? And remember that this warfare is effectual. By killing women, girls and baby boys the Germans reduce the future French population and French army.

MONTENEGRIN KING UNDER SURVEILLANCE

BERLIN, Feb. 27.—According to the "Russian newspaper" Birsheviya Wyedomosti, says the Overseas News Agency, "the diplomatists of the Entente powers have concluded an investigation into the request for peace made by King Nicholas, of Montenegro, to Austria-Hungary.

"The Entente has decided that King Nicholas must reside at a place far removed from Montenegro until the end of the war; also that he must abstain from all political activity and expression of political opinion and give up all attempts to communicate with Prince Mirko, or other Montenegrin personalities."

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