

BRITISH COAL MINERS ARE STILL DEMANDING A NATIONAL POOL

Parleys Between Owners and Workers Fail to Find Basis for Settlement—Acute Distress Prevails in Coal Areas and Suffering is Widespread.

A despatch from London says:—A conference between representatives of the mine-owners and of the Miners' Federation was held in London on Thursday night at which an attempt was made to get a clearer understanding as to the questions that divide them. It cannot be said that any definite advance was made. The new offer of the owners was declared not to be sufficiently clear to enable the federation to place it before the districts.

The Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation met on Thursday and decided to make no recommendation to the full delegates' meeting. This is generally interpreted as meaning that there is little hope of the miners accepting any compromise that the employers are likely to offer.

The leaders have been spending the past few days in the country among the miners themselves, and it is evident that they have not found any marked change of attitude. The men are still demanding a national pool and national regulation of wages, and discussions about various other methods of correcting inequalities of earnings have had no effect on the miners' position.

There can be no doubt that the failure of the railroad and transport workers to come to their aid has had a good deal to do with the hardening of feeling found in mining localities. Meanwhile, each day numbers of industries are feeling the bite of the coal shortage grows.

German coal was on offer on Thursday at the Swansea dock for half the price of the best Welsh coal, but a

movement developed among the transport workers to refuse to handle American, Belgian or German coal shipments.

In many districts there is no coal left for domestic consumption, and no coal is being delivered to any house where a gas cooker is installed. In some districts only 28 pounds of coal is being distributed to each household per week.

Distress in the mining areas is becoming acute. Hundreds of miners and their wives in the Durham district are waiting daily for the relief granted by the local municipal authorities in necessitous cases. Queues of unmarried miners at Caerphilly, near Cardiff, who sought parish relief, were refused. Funds have been started in many towns to save miners' children from hardship.

Preliminary suggestions for relief of distress, sent by a special committee of the Board of Trade to large towns include utilization of national kitchens and canteens with feeding centres for school children. It is also suggested that families should combine in the cooking of their meals.

In many instances the strike pay of miners is exhausted, and to provide for bare necessities of life loans and paper credit are being increasingly resorted to.

Great distress is reported from South Wales, where women are pawn wedding rings for food. In some houses the bed is the only piece of furniture left. In some districts many thousands of children would starve if they were not fed in the schools.

No Haste to Declare State of Peace

A despatch from Washington says:—President Harding's attitude as reflected at the White House is that there is no haste about the adoption of the resolution declaring a state of peace with Germany and Austria.

Chairman Porter, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who discussed it with the President, said he had not decided when it would be introduced or in what way, if any, it would differ from the Knox resolution.

Mr. Porter made it clear he did not believe there is any rush about the resolution.

LARGE WESTERN AREAS IN SEED

Spring Work is Proceeding Rapidly—Some Oats Are Planted.

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—During the past week weather over the whole of the three Western provinces has been generally fine, clear skies and high temperatures ruling through the day. During the latter part of the period very little frost has been experienced, and farmers in the districts where seeding has commenced have encountered little delay.

Reports of farmers busy on the land have become increasingly more numerous from all three provinces, and already quite a large acreage of wheat is reported seeded.

It is in Southern Alberta where the most progress has been made. Reports from Grande Prairie, in the Peace River country, are also to the effect that work is proceeding rapidly, and the first report of oat seeding comes from this point.

No reports of decreased acreage have come from any part of the West, but several in Alberta expect an increase on account of the excellent state of the soil and lowered costs of production.

Collection of Levy Blocks Rhineland Traffic

A despatch from Berlin says:—Widespread congestion in freight and passenger traffic is reported from points in the occupied Rhineland zone as a result of the inauguration of the customs control in connection with the newly-imposed penalties on Germany.

GERMANY'S VERSION OF ADVANCES MADE

Alleges Having Handed Over to Allies Over Five Billion Marks in Material.

Berlin, April 24.—Germany claims to have delivered to the Allies since the armistice \$5,520,000,000 in most diversified materials, beginning with railroad material immediately after the armistice and since, including everything from ammoniac to chickens.

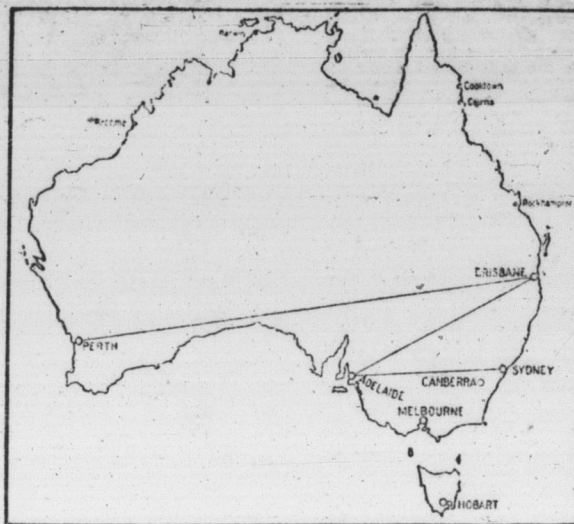
As the treaty demands \$4,800,000,000 in deliveries of materials, the German claim that they have already overpaid. The correspondent has obtained the following presentation of the German case from the officials of the German Reparations Commission, who have not assembled all the figures, but have the general totals.

Details are available only on \$3,720,000,000. This amount the Germans claim was delivered through the following principal headings:

- (1) The German commercial fleet, \$1,754,400,000.
- (2) Cables, telegraphs, wireless, railroads, bridges, tunnels, realty, forests, etc., in Alsace-Lorraine, Holstein, Danzig, Poland, Bohemia, etc., \$980,000,000.
- (3) The Saar coal mines, \$240,000,000.
- (4) Deliveries of coal, \$157,200,000—the delivery of coal, the Germans claim, has been doubled since.
- (5) Railroad rolling stock and equipment, \$480,000,000.
- (6) Agricultural machinery and live stock, \$72,000,000.
- (7) Chemical dyes, etc., \$55,206,000.

This makes a total of \$3,738,000,000. The Germans say that, with the consent of the Armistice Commission, they left behind them enough material to make up in value \$4,440,000,000. They say that the chief items in their deliveries in the last \$980,000,000 have been dry docks, ships, coal, coke and chemicals. The Germans claim they have never been able to get detailed figures from the allied experts about items to compare with their own figures.

The Germans say they are willing to prove the figures from their records and to concede a difference of opinion as to the present value of delivered materials, as exchange has changed and the value of the mark has fallen, but they say there is no ground for such a wide divergence of opinion. They say it is ridiculous for the allies to figure the deliveries at \$1,920,000,000.



This great country has six State capitals, and a proposed Federal capital. All seven are south of the top line. Six are south of the middle line. Five, including the proposed Federal capital, are south of the bottom line. This is Australia's way of telling the world that the north and centre are quite unfit for a white man to live in, and are only suitable for brown or black settlement. And the black-brown world doesn't miss the point.

GERMAN CUSTOMS OFFICERS STRIKE

Refuse to Work for the Allies in Collecting Tax.

A despatch from Mayence, Germany, says:—The International Rhine-Ruhr Commission is meeting difficulties in the application of the new customs regime on the eastern frontier of the occupied territories, which became effective Wednesday, as a large percentage of the German customs officers have refused to work, while others are opposing passing resistance.

Refusals to work for the allies have been particularly in the region of Ludwigshafen and Düsseldorf. The Commission is prepared to take energetic measures to put the Germans to work, the nature of which, however, has not been disclosed. In the region of Düsseldorf, allied officials say, the first day of the regime came into effect the frontier customs posts actually were swamped with parcels which, the officials declare, had evidently been saved for many days in order to embarrass the allies.

It is learned that traffic between the occupied territories and Germany proper is ten times more in volume than that on the western frontier of the German Republic, between Belgium, France and the occupied territories. In the region of Mayence and Worms freight trains have suffered considerable delay owing to the defection of the German customs officers.

An official note issued in Berlin by the Ministry of the Interior reaches the occupational zone on Friday. In the note the German Government says it cannot bring pressure to bear on the functionaries to force them to work under the new regime, but that if any choose to do so it will not be held against them.

COMPEL THE CLOSING OF BURTONPORT RY.

Fresh Irish Atrocities in County Cork and Elsewhere.

A despatch from Dublin says:—A former soldier, John Reilly, was taken from his home by Sinn Feiners on Thursday night and shot dead on the road at Ballycar.

One civilian was killed and another wounded when the party of which they were members was discovered by a military patrol in the act of destroying a bridge on the Charleville Road, County Cork, on Thursday. The military suffered no casualties.

The Burtonport Railway has been closed because of repeated train hold-ups along the line. During the course of Wednesday night every station of the road was raided and all goods found were carried away or burned.

An attempt was made Wednesday night to burn the residence of the Most Rev. M. Fogarty, Lord Bishop of Killaloe, Ennis. The front of the house was well ablaze when the fire was discovered and extinguished. A petrol-soaked cloth lay near the front door. Five men were seen fleeing. Two of them were arrested. A neighboring residence was burned to the ground shortly before the Bishop's house was set on fire.

IMMIGRATION PLAN OF THE DOMINION

Canada is Ahead of Other Countries Regarding Medical Examination.

A despatch from London says:—Canada has taken a step in advance of other countries by the institution of a system of preventive medical examination of immigrants at continental ports. Dr. Jeffs, of the Dominion Department of Public Health, has arrived here and is working in conjunction with the Immigration Department at Havre, Rotterdam, Antwerp and other European ports from which new citizens sail for the Dominion.

Prospective immigrants are looked over and the steamship companies are advised if they are unlikely to pass the examination at the port of arrival in Canada. The Dominion has no legal right of rejection of immigrants in any European port, but if the steamship companies disregard the Department official's advice, they are liable to a fine in case an unfit immigrant is carried to the Dominion. In addition to having to provide transportation back to the port of embarkation. In instituting this new system, the Dominion Government is in advance of the United States, the only action taken by that country along this line being the establishing of de-lousing stations at European ports for immigrants embarking for the Republic.

Berlin, April 23.—After having been formulated and remodelled several times, in Cabinet sessions lasting till midnight yesterday and long after noon to-day, the new German proposals were finally sent off at 4 p.m. to Washington. The main facts and proposals were communicated late last night to the chief party leaders, who, however, were pledged to strict secrecy. There is good reason to believe Feilerbach and Simons succeeded in eliminating the influence of the Sinnseists during the late hours last night, and compensation offered will likely be the sum of 50,000,000 marks, with accrued interest over a period of forty-two years, a total of 200,000,000,000 gold marks; no deductions to be made from the reparations total for amounts already paid over by Germany; also a percentage of Germany's industrial production.

200 Billion Marks New German Offer

Ottawa, April 24.—After following the winter trail to the Fort Norman oil fields and back again to civilization, and incidentally snow-shoeing 2,114 miles, A. F. S. Rankin, Calgary, Yukon pioneer of '98, and Nevada horse rancher, has reached Ottawa with a glowing report of the richness and practicability of the northern oil areas. Mr. Rankin made the trip in mid-winter, leaving Calgary on Nov. 23 last and reaching the railway again on March 26.

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TWELVE-HOUR BATTLE WITH SINN FEIN AT MAAM CROSS, COUNTY GALWAY

Fourteen Police Engage Flying Column of Irish Revolutionaries—Rebels Fire on Priest—Raids on Postmen by Republicans Result in Capture of Letters.

Dublin, April 24.—Fighting which lasted for twelve hours is reported from the neighborhood of Maam Cross, County Galway. Fourteen policemen, under command of a district inspector, went at 4 o'clock this morning in search of a Republican flying column. The Republicans were found entrenched on high ground in the vicinity of the home of Patrick O'Malley, member of Parliament.

The police took to cover as best they could, and a prolonged engagement ensued, in which Constable Boyan was killed, and a sergeant wounded. At 3.30 o'clock this afternoon reinforcements for the police arrived, bringing with them machine guns. They enveloped the position of the rebels, who fled to the hills, taking their wounded with them.

According to an official statement issued from Dublin Castle, Father Cunningham Lennane, who motored out to the scene of the fighting to administer the rites of the Church to the wounded, was deliberately fired upon by the rebels, but escaped injury. In the vicinity of the fighting, the police say they found arms and ammunition; beds for forty persons and the stock and collar of a priest, which had been used by the leader of the rebels as a disguise. A search of two neighboring houses showed that they

had been used as ambulances. These were burned to the ground by the police.

Simultaneous raids by Republicans on 22 postboxes in Cork resulted in the capture of 47 registered and 7,322 ordinary letters.

Two constables were wounded Saturday night by bombs thrown from upper windows in a public house in Limerick. One civilian was hit by splinters of a bomb.

Last night a large number of bombs and a quantity of ammunition were found in stables near Wellington road, a high-class residential quarter of Dublin.

Four police barracks were attacked Saturday night—in Ardee, Camrath, Aramagh and Queenstown. At Ardee the barracks were successfully defended, but that in Queenstown, which recently was vacated, was completely destroyed.

District Inspector Potter of the Government forces mysteriously disappeared yesterday, but a clue to the circumstances was discovered when the automobile in which he had been riding was found on a country road with bullet marks upon the car. Apparently Inspector Potter ran into the same ambush, near Cloughan, county Tipperary, in which a military ration cart was caught Friday evening.

Sydney Miners Paid Lowest Rate in America

Sydney, N.S. April 24.—The miners of this district are being paid a lower wage rate than any other miners in America, with the exception of the negroes in Alabama, declared J. A. McAlpine, District Secretary of the United Workers, to-day, discussing the suggestion put forward in the Federal House coal inquiry as to the desirability of a cut in mine wages as a means of reducing the price of fuel. "The rate here is thirty per cent. lower than in Western Canada, while our last increase, the Montreal agreement, gives us just half what the American miners are receiving, and their contracts run until April, 1922. Under these circumstances how should we be expected to accept a wage cut?" he asked.

To Occupy Two-Thirds of Ruhr Valley

A despatch from Paris says:—One hundred thousand French troops, in addition to those now on the Rhine, are provided for in the plan elaborated by the mixed Military and Civil Commission, according to La Liberté.

There now are 80,000 French troops in the occupied territory, the average cost for the maintenance of which is 44,000,000 francs monthly.

La Liberté adds that the plan calls for the occupation of two-thirds of the Ruhr industrial valley, and also Elberfeld and Barmen, in Westphalia.

Weekly Market Report

Toronto.	gal., \$2.60; per 5 imp. gals., \$2.50.
Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$1.82 1/4; No. 2 Northern, \$1.79 1/4; No. 3 Northern, \$1.75 1/4; No. 4 wheat, \$1.59 1/4.	Maple sugar, lbs., 19 to 22c.
Manitoba oats—No. 2 CW, 45 1/4c; No. 3 CW, 40 1/4c; extra No. 1 feed, 40 1/4c; No. 1 feed, 38 1/4c; No. 2 feed, 36 1/4c.	Honey—50-30-lb. tins, 20 to 21c per lb.; 5-2 1/2-lb. tins, 22 to 24c per lb.; Ontario comb honey, at \$7.50 per 15-section case.
Manitoba barley—No. 3 CW, 78c; No. 4 CW, 67 1/2c; rejected 64 1/2c; feed, 54c.	Smoked meats—Hams, med., 37 to 38c; heavy, 31 to 32c; cooked, 50 to 55c; rolls, 31 to 32c; cottage rolls, 33 to 34c; breakfast bacon, 40 to 45c; fancy breakfast bacon, 47 to 50c; backs, plain, bone in, 47 to 50c; boneless, 49 to 53c.
All of the above C.I.F. bay ports, American corn—73c; nominal, C.I.F. bay ports.	Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 27 to 28c; clear bellies, 28 to 27c.
Ontario wheat—No. 2 white, 41 to 43c.	Lard—Pure tins, 16 to 16 1/2c; tubs, 16 1/2 to 17c; pails, 16 1/2 to 17 1/2c; prints, 18 to 18 1/2c. Shortening, tierces, 11 to 11 1/2c; tubs, 11 1/2 to 12c; pails, 12 to 12 1/2c; prints, 13 1/2 to 14c.
Barley—Malting, 62 to 67c, according to freights outside.	Choice heavy steers, \$9 to \$10.50; good heavy steers, \$8 to \$9; butchers' cattle, choice, \$8.50 to \$9.50; do, good, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, med., \$6.50 to \$7.50; do, comm., \$4 to \$5; butchers' bulls, choice, \$7 to \$7.50; do, good, \$6 to \$7; do, comm., \$4 to \$5; butchers' cows, choice, \$7.50 to \$8.50; do, good, \$6.50 to \$7.50; do, comm., \$4 to \$5; feeders, best, \$7.75 to \$8.75; do, 900 lbs., \$7.25 to \$8.75; do, 800 lbs., \$6.75 to \$8.75; do, comm., \$5 to \$6; canners and cutters, \$2 to \$4.50; milkers, good to choice, \$85 to \$140; do, comm. and med., \$50 to \$60; choice springers, \$90 to \$130; lambs, yearlings, \$10 to \$11; do, spring, \$12 to \$13.50; calves, good to choice, \$11 to \$12.50; sheep, \$6 to \$10.
Peas—No. 2, \$1.20 to \$1.25.	Montreal.
Barley—Malting, 62 to 67c, according to freights outside.	Oats, Can. West, No. 2, 61 to 62c; do, No. 3, 57 to 58c. Flour, Man. spring wheat, firsts, \$10. Bran, \$3.12 1/2. Shorts, \$3.25. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, \$24 to \$25.
Man. flour—First patent, \$10.00; second patent, \$9.50; bulk seaboard.	Cheese, finest Easterns, 29 1/2 to 30c; Butter, choicest creamery, 52 1/2 to 53c; Eggs, fresh, 37 to 38c.
Millfeed—Delivered, Montreal, freight, bags included: Bran, per ton, \$38; shorts, per ton, \$35; good feed flour, \$2.10 to \$2.40 per bag.	Calves, \$4.50 to \$6. Sheep, \$6 to \$9. Choice ewes, up to \$10. Yearling lambs, \$10 to \$13; spring lambs, \$7 to \$12. Hogs, select, \$14; mixed lots, heavy hogs, \$13 to \$13.50; feeders, \$1 or more above selects.
Hay—No. 1, per ton, \$23 to \$25.	
Straw—Car lots, per ton, \$12 to \$12.50.	
Cheese—New, large, 28 1/2 to 29 1/2c; twins, 29 to 30c; triplets, 30 to 30 1/2c; old, large, 33 to 34c; do, twins, 33 1/2 to 34 1/2c; triplets, 34 1/2 to 35c; new Stilton, 33c.	
Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 48 to 49c; creamery, No. 1, 56 to 59c; fresh, 60 to 61c.	
Margarine—28 to 30c.	
Eggs—New laid, 36c; new laid, in cartons, 38 to 39c.	
Beans—Canadian, hand-picked, bus., \$3.10 to \$3.25; primes, \$2.40 to \$2.90; Japan, 8c; Lima, Madagascar, 7 to 8c. California Lima, 10 to 12c.	
Maple products—Syrup, per imp.	

GERMANY'S PLAN TO REBUILD FRANCE

Berlin Sends Note to Britain Stating Willingness to Begin Reconstruction.

A despatch from London says:—Germany has sent a note to the British Government reiterating her complete willingness to undertake the reconstruction of devastated France.

The note, which came from the German Foreign Office, was delivered by the German Embassy to the British Foreign Office on Friday evening, as follows:

"Germany is absolutely persuaded that it is unavoidably necessary for the purpose of restoring economic peace throughout the world that the territories devastated through the war should be reconstructed and restored. Until this is done there will be danger that feelings of hate will continue to exist among the nations concerned.

"Germany therefore declares herself once more to be entirely willing to cooperate in this reconstruction with all the means and strength at her disposal and to take into account in regard thereto, in every individual case, each wish of the power concerned as far as is possible."

The note proceeds to enumerate in great detail the possibilities of reconstruction:

First, for Germany to take over specified localities, either as a State undertaking or by directing and work of a national colonizing and settlement association.

Second, to undertake the work of clearing, brickwork and building for the production of chalk, plaster, cement and other necessities and the delivery of the necessary machinery and the building materials from Germany.

Third, to arrange that all such machinery and materials shall emanate from Germany, and, fourth, to start immediately plans to build at least twenty-five thousand wooden houses in the devastated districts before the cold season begins.

Other clauses of the note specify the execution of deep and shallow excavations of all kinds, according to the plans and under the control of the French authorities or otherwise, according to the wishes of the allied Governments.

The German Government expresses willingness to help in any way possible to take over the cost in paper marks, the amount to be reckoned against the reparations account, and generally to co-operate in every possible manner.

The note is signed by Dr. Walter Simons, the German Foreign Minister. It requests the allied Governments to initiate at the earliest possible moment the necessary discussions of details.

SINN FEINERS SLAY DYING MAN

While Last Rites Were Being Administered by Priest.

A despatch from Dublin says:—For the first time in the history of the troubles in Ireland, Sinn Feiners have murdered a man in the presence of a priest who was summoned to administer the last rites. He was John Reilly, the former soldier who was taken from his home at Ballycar by armed men Wednesday night and shot to death.

The priest was called after Reilly had been severely wounded. With the arrival of the priest the raiders poured pistol shots into Reilly, killing him. A label was pinned on the body, reading: "Executed by the Irish Republican Army. 'Getting them at last, boys!'"

Thomas Phelan, of Ballyragget, was shot dead on Friday by a body of military and police. He was running away after having refused to halt upon being challenged.

Other persons killed on Friday were John Harrison, a farmer, who was shot dead at Drumreilly, and Substitute Constable Loughlin, who was shot at a Tralee public house.

An attempt was made Thursday night to blow up the railway bridge at Castletown. Much damage was done.

The weekly review of Irish conditions issued by the Government on Friday says there has been no change in the situation. It reports 29 attacks on Crown forces during the week, resulting in 30 casualties. Sinn Fein murders of civilians, it declares, were six in number, the victims including Sir Arthur Vickers, who was shot at his residence at Listowel, while the attempted murders are given as nine in number.

There were 50 raids on the mails and five raids on tax collectors, in which £16,000 was taken.

There were 60 arrests for outrages and political offences, adds the review, and 65 trials of civilians by court martial, resulting in 49 convictions. Persons to the number of 126 were interned, making the total under internment 2,679.

Many campers and hunters are greatly to the danger of forest fires by their carelessness. They are asked to curtail their enjoyment of the forest, but just to exercise that care which they always use when handling fire about their own premises.



REGLAR FELLERS—By Gene Byrnes