

### GERMAN FUNDS SHOW STRAIN

#### No Relief in Sight From High Fares and Restrictions, Newspaper Says — Great Military Burdens.

The many complaints against the service rendered by the German railroads after four years of war have brought an answer which appears in the semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung of Aug. 7. No relief from the heavy charges of passenger travel, or the restrictions that have been put into effect to release transportation equipment for war needs, is in sight, the article says. The heaviest burden on the railways, the article points out, is in the occupied territories to which new equipment had to be sent and where the care of the machinery of transportation is not what it requires. The only counsel to the people is to be patient and bear the shortcomings of the railroads as a necessary war burden. The article, which may be taken as the expression of the views of the German government, says:

Recently one has read in the newspapers many expiatory and reassuring statements about the failure of traffic on our railroads and therein many acknowledgements to the railway authorities. That had to come since for a year and a day it seemed to be a part of the iron stand of the press to speak of the breakdown of the railroads, the inadequacy of their work about capital and bureaucracy. Other authorities during the war have not been better treated. The people who groan under the weight of the time seek for the guilty upon whom they can unload the responsibility and find them easiest among the responsible authorities. It is well remembered how last year the attacks mounted up against the Central Purchasing society, how it was accused of profiteering, how the attempt was made to show how it made everything dear and that scarcity of food was due to its policy. Finally a methodical explanation was made and confidence returned.

It was not otherwise with the Imperial Clothing office when it began to draw upon the people for clothing for the munition workers, for other heavy laborers, and the returning soldiers. Opposition arose on all sides and one was obliged to conclude that the Imperial Clothing office had handled its problems in the most clumsy way. These complaints arose upon Parliament, where the rectification followed. The parties were satisfied with the explanations and then it came out that the attacks on the Imperial Clothing office had far overshot the mark.

#### High Prices, Restricted Use.

It is no different with the complaints about the railroads. They are equally directed against the high prices of travel and against the falling means of transportation. These complaints stand really in contradiction to each other. If one complains against the railroads on account of the high prices it must logically follow that they would transport as many people as possible in order to achieve the greatest benefit of the high prices. But difficulties of the business stand in the way. It is, therefore, not possible to make a connection between the high prices of travel and the restrictions on the traffic. The increases in prices moreover, do not stand alone, but belong to a series of measures, some of which have come from the empire and others from the State authorities. The increases which come from the states have different reasons. In part, they are due to the increases in expenses which come with the war, in part they are a means to bring traffic into a right relation with the possibilities of the business. The previous reforms of the imperial finance law could not have omitted the railroads. Thus the railroad ticket tax was introduced which affected the cost of travel, but, of course, did not help the state authorities. Then the increase of ten per cent. on travel prices on account of the increased expenses had to be put on. This is so obvious in view of the increases everywhere else that one must be content without further comment.

Here and there, perhaps, the complaint has been heard that the increase affected all classes equally, but the charge of anti-social management can have no standing since the workmen's tickets and the weekly tickets are left free of the increase and since under present war conditions many people are sitting in the second and third classes who can ill afford to bear the ten per cent. increase as those in Class 4.

#### Double Fares for Fast Trains.

In considering the high cost of travel, one must first take into account the increased outlay which has come about through the ticket tax and the increased expenses of administrations. There remains the special impost for the fast and express train which has existed since November of last year. This chapter is not without objection and only acceptable for those who understand the war needs of her railways. Originally this fast train excess was introduced as a zone impost. The zone increase worked so haphazard, unjustly, and unequal that dissatisfaction was soon general, and the authorities looked for another way out. So they came to the substitute of the double fare, which of course, for those who must use the railroads, has been found very painful. Then came this year the passenger tariff reform which still further raised the prices. It is not, however, superfluous to state that the doubling of the rates was not made on the basis of the price established by the tariff reform, but on the cost before the reform.

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## MOSCOW UNDER THE BOLSHEVIK PARTY

### Crime and Disorder Prevails in Oppressive Atmosphere of Ancient City—Majority of Citizens Opposed To Lenine and Trotsky's Cut-Throats.

(Special Cable to The N. Y. Tribune and The St. John Standard.)  
A vivid picture of Moscow under the Bolsheviki regime is given by Hans Vorst one of the foremost German authorities on Russian affairs whom the "Berliner Tageblatt" has sent to Moscow to describe the conditions in the Bolsheviki capital. The facts given in his article, which was written last month, agree in general with the recent accounts reported by Allied citizens fleeing from Russia. Especially striking is Vorst's admission that the masses of Russian people, even in Bolsheviki controlled Moscow, are not with the Bolsheviki, but are continuing to spread rumors of Bolsheviki defeats and of the approaching fall of the Soviet government. He says:

"A heavy, oppressive atmosphere is hanging over Moscow. The people are hungry. It is true that the bread which the Bolsheviki government distributes is not expensive but the quantity each person may receive is too small—only a eighth, or at the most a fourth, of a Russian pound—and recently it has not been possible to distribute even these small rations with any regularity. The Soviet authorities, it is true, have made efforts to open eating-houses at least for the workmen but even here everything is so expensive that the workmen cannot help spending on food, alone, all their earnings, which since the revolution have increased more than ten times. And furthermore, the food in the Bolsheviki eating-houses is not sufficient for all.

"And so the population is compelled to engage in contraband, which under the present circumstances cannot be successfully combated even by the draconic measures of the Bolsheviki. The public keeps immune from the growing dangers only thanks to the incessantly high profits which the smuggling trade brings in to those who engage in it. The peasant, for example, in the country demands, perhaps, from 30 to 40 rubles per peck of flour (\$15 to \$20 per thirty-five pounds).

"But the 'metchetchnik' (the bag carrier) so called because they are trying to smuggle in their bags from the village into the city—must cover the expenses of their journey, which often takes several days, and their risks, which are considerable, as very often the goods they had obtained after so much toil are taken away by the Red Guards, and so they must make all their profits on the few pounds which they can bring to the buyer. Because of this, a peck of flour (thirty-five pounds) costs in the Moscow smuggling market from 300 to 400 rubles (\$150 to \$200); sugar from 30 to 35 rubles per kilogramme (\$10 to \$15 per 22.70 pound).

"If one bears in mind these facts it is not strange, then, that in the very few good restaurants which still remain open in the city of Moscow one cannot obtain a meal consisting of soup, meat or fish and dessert for less than 70 to 80 rubles (\$35 to \$40) naturally without wine, of that there is no question. There is no wine in Russian commerce. There are a few places where one can obtain alcoholic drinks, but here one has to pay for a bottle of the poorest quality, sometimes about 300 rubles; a bottle of monopony brandy, 500 rubles.

"The other day I entered the 'Ermitage' cafe and ordered a cup of coffee. The waiter also brought me four macaroon cakes. The bill had to pay was 33 rubles (\$16.50). The cakes were 6 rubles apiece, the coffee 3 rubles. The rest were the interest rates in favor of the personnel, which were added directly to the bill. In the cheap restaurants the food is very little cheaper than in the high class ones. Recently many vegetarian kitchens

have been opened in Russia—a thing which is new in Russia, where large quantities of meat and fish are consumed. But even here a plate of beans costs 4 rubles and 50 kopecks, a vegetable soup 6 rubles, and a salad 3 rubles 50 kopecks.

"Because of these high prices money is losing its value completely. A ride on the Moscow streetcars costs 40 kopecks a single trip. And the cars are always so crowded that people hang together like grapes.

"An ordinary letter costs 25 kopecks (16.5 cents), a registered letter 1 ruble 50 kopecks. A newspaper costs from 50 to 60 kopecks.

"To realize fully the tremendous change which has taken place in Russia we must remember that formerly a ruble was worth very much in Russia. Today its value is little above zero. One feels a disgust for this money-chaos, this ugly imitation money, when one meets at every corner a new comer or match-vender with fistfuls of these papers notes the actual value of which is little greater than that of former copper coins.

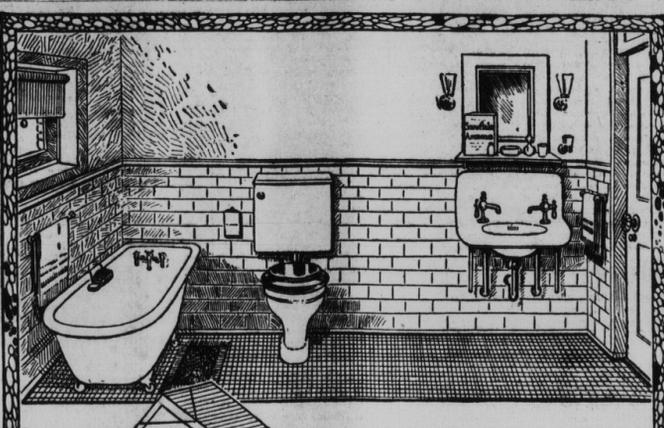
"On every step one finds proofs of the misery caused by the devaluation of money. On my first arrival in Moscow I was sitting in the Alexander station eating some food I had brought along with me. Near me was sitting a man who was watching me with hungry, staring eyes. He could not control himself and asked me to give him some food. Then he told me, partly in Russian, partly in French, which he spoke fluently, of his misery. He had lost his position when the Bolsheviki came to power. 'For the last six months,' he said in French, 'I'm dying of hunger.'

"In addition to the misery and starvation of the masses there is another factor which makes the picture of Moscow still more gloomy—an extremely alarming and oppressive mood which seems to seize everybody. Never before have so many fantastic rumors passed through the city as at present. Since last month all the Moscow newspapers which do not support the new platform as the Bolsheviki have been suppressed. This unprecedented measure is said to be intended to put an end to 'provocative rumors,' but in spite of that fact the rumors against

the Bolsheviki are continuing to be circulated among the population. 'The measures have obtained the contrary effect. Wide masses of the people have no confidence in the Bolsheviki press, and as there are no other sources from which they may obtain their information the road is thus opened to rumors and stories. Now one hears that the Czech-Slovaks are very near Moscow, soon again one hears that the Bolsheviki government is about to resign, then again the Bolsheviki government is no longer safe in Moscow and is going to move to Petrograd or some other place. Then again, the people are whispering to each other about great anti-Bolsheviki outbreaks in the provinces, about railways cut off and other reports.

"Even political circles are groping in the dark and are taking part in this spreading of rumors. Everybody is living in the expectation of serious events. In the bourgeois circles people wear an expression of great anxiety, as if they knew the day and the hour when the Bolsheviki government would be overthrown. At the most, the Bolsheviki government is given a period of not more than a few weeks.

"The Bolsheviki government is taking all possible measures to suppress all the hunger riots that are breaking out. Its mistrust is directed especially against the old officer corps, which would be the most competent to take over the leadership.



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To Mrs. R. D. BARRACK:  
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Dear Mother:—  
I am keeping well, have good food and well protected from the weather, but have some difficulty keeping uninvited guests from visiting me.  
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Mrs. Eta Dorion, of Ogdensburg, Wis., says:  
"I suffered from female troubles which caused piercing pains like a knife through my back and side. I finally lost all my strength so I had to go to bed. The doctor advised an operation but I would not listen to it. I thought of what I had read about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and tried it. The first bottle brought great relief and six bottles have entirely cured me. All women who have female trouble of any kind should try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound."

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Canton, Ohio.—"I suffered from a female trouble which caused me much suffering, and two doctors decided that I would have to go through an operation before I could get well.  
"My mother, who had been helped by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, advised me to try it before submitting to an operation. It relieved me from my troubles so I can do my house work without any difficulty. I advise any woman who is afflicted with female troubles to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial and it will do as much for them."  
—Mrs. MARY BOYD, 121 5th St., N. E., Canton, Ohio.

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### Died of Starvation

Many a Belgian mother could have these words engraved on her child's gravestone—"Died of Starvation."

Perhaps the child has wasted away with Consumption, or has been twisted into a mockery of happy childhood by Rickets, but starvation is at the root of the tragedy.

What else can be expected for a growing child whose daily ration is the bowl of soup and two pieces of bread provided by the United States loans to the Belgian Government?

The only hope for the destitute children of Belgium is that we who can afford three meals a day will be moved to pity and send help immediately. Even a small contribution will help to take some child, sinking under its load of trouble, over to Holland, where with good milk, nutritious food, medical care and loving treatment, he or she may regain health, strength and the wish to live.

**GIVE—give until you feel the pinch! Don't wait until someone asks you personally. THIS is personal!**

Make cheques payable and send contributions to  
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to your Local Committee, or to  
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