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GERMANY SEES STARVATION AHEAD

Food Rioting Reported From Various Places

MEAT DESTROYED BY FIRE
"Down With Crown Prince" Cried Gathering at Aix-la-Chapelle

Each succeeding day brings some fresh evidence of the growing efficiency of the Allies' blockade of Germany. Food riots have broken out in some German towns, there have been strikes and revolts in others, and Berlin's meat and potato rations have been reduced very considerably this week. At Aix-la-Chapelle the people have shouted, "Down with the Crown Prince!" and little children there sing a song which begins, "If the British only knew how we are starving!" The King of Bavaria, speaking at Kehlheim, urged the population to persist in the war in spite of the great difficulties and the seriousness of the present time. It was a lesson that in future Germany must feed its own population without assistance from abroad. And quite apart from all this, a great factory fire has destroyed two million pounds of meat intended for the consumption of the German Army.

Mob Charged by Police.
Travellers just arrived in Zurich state that grave rioting took place for two days in Munich. A large crowd of demonstrators assembled at the Marienplatz and marched through the streets, shouting: "Down with the war! Let us have peace!" There was much throwing of stones, and by the evening the mob had assumed such dimensions and so threatening an attitude that the police several times charged to make the people disperse. A number of soldiers were among the demonstrators, whose great grievance was the scarcity of food. Bread cards are to be issued at Munich. The scarcity of food, and particularly of potatoes, has also been responsible for serious disturbances at Kiel. An article in one of the local papers, headed "Cool-blood Citizens," explains the difficulties necessarily attending the food problems under present conditions, when each day's consumption means a steady decrease in the big stocks. The paper admits serious riots on the local market, owing to insufficient quantities and high prices of food of various kinds. Several tradesmen were badly injured and some shops demolished. Another report declares that potatoes are completely lacking at Leipzig at present. But of still greater importance is an interesting admission of the growing dissatisfaction in Germany as revealed in a telegram sent by the Dresden deputies, of the Reichstag to Herr von Batocki. This requests the Food Dictator to visit Dresden at once and settle the foodstuffs traffic question in Saxony, as the people are gradually growing desperate owing to the lack of organization in the matter of distribution.

"If help is not given at once," they declare, "great harm will be done to Germany. You must, and can, reform the present conditions." This telegram is the sequel to the recent food riots in many cities of Saxony, especially Chemnitz, Zwickau, and Leipzig, and over 60 villages. The Socialist women of Cologne have sent the following telegram to Herr von Batocki. It is signed by 12 of them in the name of 10,000 others: "Prices of vegetables in Cologne have increased five-fold. Visible under-nourishment of large part of population. Growing resentment among working and middle classes. Disquieting scenes of disorder at market places. Measures of relief urgently necessary."

Similar messages of discontent are pouring in to Herr von Batocki from all parts of Germany.

"Children's Murderer."
For some days past no potatoes have been obtainable in Aix-la-Chapelle, and great bands of children have been marching through the town begging for bread and potatoes in song, one of which begins, "If the British only knew how we are starving." A policeman who tried to stop the children was roughly handled by some women. Rioting has been general in the town, shop windows have been smashed, and a number of people shouted, "Down with the murderer of our children!" After several attempts the police succeeded in dispersing the crowds by charging the mob. Two men, who shouted "Long live Liebknecht!" and "Down with the Crown Prince!" were arrested.

Less Meat for Berlin.
Meat rations in Berlin are being reduced this week from 12½ ozs. to about 10½ ozs. for each member of the population. Scarcity of cattle is given as the reason. Potato rations are down from 9 lbs. to 5½ lbs., and the scarcity is very grave. New kitchens have been established in Berlin to provide each day for more than 500,000 people, and the distribution of food is to begin this week. Singularly sufficient meat to last the whole of Berlin for a fortnight was destroyed by fire at Heine's sausage and meat-curing factory in Halberstadt, one of the largest concerns of the kind in Germany, and one now principally engaged in carrying out Army contracts. Two million pounds of meat, packed in 10-lb. tins, in addition to enormous quantities of fresh and cured meat in the store-rooms were ruined. Cavalry and infantry tried to control the fire, but every thing, including the machinery and the bulk of the buildings, was destroyed. Incendiarism is suspected and a reward of £50 is offered.

War Transforms An English City

Old Men and Women in Sheffield Making Guns for England to Fight Her Battles

War found Sheffield, says a correspondent of the London Times, engaged in armor plate making. Then orders were given for guns, and still more guns. Messrs. Vickers rose to the occasion. They built a large new workshop in three weeks, and before the top end was completed the lower end was humming with machinery. The war has stimulated improvisation and rapidity of construction. As demands for more government work came in new shops arose, until the Sheffield Vickers' became the vast place it is to-day, employing 10,000 hands as against 6,000 the day war broke out.

They were helped, too, as the other firms were, by the spirit of loyalty of the men. There were no strikes; all disputes were settled by the Arbitration Board, and labor leaders showed a desire to meet the employers half way. At the call of duty a thousand young men threw up their lucrative work for the trenches, and a great proportion of the public who work in the factory in the summer and follow the university classes in the winter displayed a similar desire, until Messrs. Vickers began to fear for their production. Appeal was made to Lord Kitchener, who promised not to take any more indispensable men. But pensioners of the firm were re-engaged and girl artesans taught the duties of the lighter processes.

It speaks volumes for the spirit of the veterans that they tried to fill their old posts, but often unsuccessfully. They were obliged to admit that the old nerve, as well as the touch and sight, had gone. And so they were given less exacting work in quieter corners of the factory, where the changing and the banging of the overhead machinery are less insistent.

The girls have been a great success. Dressed in overalls they look trim and practical figures as their deft fingers follow the movements of the machine. Some enthusiastic employers declared they are better than the men, but a cautious over-looker was less emphatic. Yes, they were good generally, but there were good and bad. On the whole, however, he preferred men. Nevertheless, the girls have won golden opinions and the substantial acknowledgement of good wages. They are paid by the piece, on the same scale as the men, and their return varies with the degree of skill required in the work.

Though machinery does so much nowadays, and one had constant evidence of it in watching the fascinating processes that turn the steel ingot into the living, shining gun, yet there is still need of the youthful, vigorous arm; there must still be coal heaving, furnaces feeding and rollers—work requiring the strongest physique. Physical resistance, too, is necessary in withstanding the long hours worked. The weekly average is fifty-three hours, but a large proportion work continuously week days and Sundays and reach a total of eighty-three hours. Wages are commensurately high.

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BAGDAD As It Is.

Of Bagdad before the war a lot of nonsense has been written, says a writer in "The Boston Transcript." Most of it has come from the fervid pens of people brought up on "The Arabian Knights."

The plain truth is, that Bagdad is a dirty, common, uninspiring Eastern city. A friend of mine once described it admirably in a single sentence: "It took me four weeks to get there, and one day to get out." A Bagdad house in the summer is a fiery furnace, and no one, unless his name be Shadrach or Meshach or Abednego, could live within its four walls with comfort, and yet the natives have made a brave attempt to overcome the difficulties of their situation. Deep in the ground they have built cellars, or serdabs, and these serve as cooling chambers. The cellars are kept pretty dark. "The light enters," says one who has lived there, "through small windows, or openings, where, instead of glass, is placed a lattice of palm filled with a prickly cactus's thorn. Several times a day the occupants sprinkle water on these thorns, and the moisture cools the hot wind as it passes through the rooms and gives a comparatively refreshing breeze. But towards night these cellars become unbearably close, and then the entire city mounts to the flat roofs where it dines and sleeps."

Any man or woman who has stayed for any length of time in Bagdad brings away something else besides surprising antiques and unpleasant memories, namely, a good, old-fashioned, torturing boil, or what remains of it in the form of a scar. I remember once asking a man who had just come back from Bagdad what he thought of the place. For answer he pointed to a pit in his cheek. "That's all I remember of Bagdad," he said, "and I don't recall that with any joy."

The "Bagdad boil" attacks men and women alike—men usually on their legs and arms, and women, unfortunately, more often on their faces—and it lasts long enough to make life a misery. The disease is common elsewhere in the Orient, and is known also as the Aleppo button and the Biskra boil.

The Game is Not Worth the Candle

One of the most hopeful signs, as far as the obsession of Germany is concerned, is the fact that in one or two directions plain speaking is commencing to be heard, without cruel suppression.

Dr. Karl Liebknecht, member of the Reichstag, who has from the first had the courage to openly characterize the war as started by Prussian manipulators for purposes of aggression, has at last been landed in gaol, but it is significant that the Kaiser's dare not do anything more than this with regard to him. He is the leader of a daily growing mass of people, becoming more and more impatient under the strain of hostilities.

In the Prussian Upper Chamber recently, one of the members, a learned professor, gave notice that he would move that the study of English and French be dropped in a number of Universities and that Oriental languages in particular take their place. Some other professors—those birds of ill omen for the Fatherland—are backing up the fool idea, but the Vossische Zeitung, talks out very plainly in meeting.

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