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USED BARBED WIRE TO MAKE FARM TOOLS

But Refugee Peasants Were Unable to Loosen the Earth Tramped by Soldiers.

Lack of even the crudest agricultural implements was one of the serious problems which confronted the refugee peasant of Ukraine when he crept back to his war-devastated lands. How he solved the problem was interestingly explained by Jacob Bashein, who has just returned from abroad following months of activity in the stricken region as head of Relief Unit No. 14 of the Joint Distribution Committee. The committee is the sole agency handling the funds collected by the Canadian Jewish War Relief Committee and other Jewish organizations for war sufferers. Not only was the country swept clean of its grain fields, herds of cattle and farming implements, said Mr. Bashein, but there were no materials available for manufacturing any sort of implements. In the heaps of coiled and rusted barbed wire scattered over the country when wire entanglements were abandoned, the farmer saw the raw products from which to make himself a tool for farming. With stones he laboriously battered the barbs from the wire and, notwithstanding the fact that even his soil-hardened hands were often painfully bruised and bleeding, he managed to weave a sort of spade-like implement with which he hoped to loosen the bare, brown earth. "This incident," said Mr. Bashein, "is especially significant as indicating the deplorable need of farming tools when it is remembered that the Ukraine once was considered the granary of Russia. "But with all the weary toil of weaving and hammering with bleeding hands the tough wire into an implement that might serve, the peasant's effort to cultivate the land was futile. The ground, trampled hard and bare by the feet of countless troops proved too unyielding for the poor instrument fashioned at such cost by the refugee."

ALL EASTERN EUROPE DEATH PROCESSION

Jewish Children Dying by Thousands of Starvation, Says Max Pine.

All Eastern Europe is one great funeral procession at present, with Jewish children as mourners, and Jewish children as the chief victims of disease and starvation, according to Max Pine of New York, who recently returned from Central and Eastern Europe, where he was sent as a commissioner of the Joint Distribution Committee of Canadian Funds for Jewish War Sufferers. In all the stricken countries there, little children without homes or family may be found in great numbers, living upon the streets, or wandering from one town to another, mourning their parents who died in the typhus epidemic, or of starvation. The youngsters themselves, their strength depleted by malnutrition, are dying on every hand. It is scarcely possible to go out upon the streets without meeting a funeral procession on its way to the graveyard with some small victim of hunger, Mr. Pine reported. Naked children, whose rags, after the five years of war, will no longer hold together enough to stay on their gaunt little bodies, hide themselves in cellars, from fear and shame, and weakness, and remain hidden until they die of starvation, he said.

LEFT UNBURIED ALONG ROADSIDE

Penniless and Without Food Jews Are Dying by Hundreds in Bessarabia.

The little town of Ungheul, in Bessarabia, through which hundreds of Jewish and Gentile refugees pass weekly on their way back to the homes from which war drove them, is to-day a centre of starvation and misery, according to reports received by the Canadian Jewish War Relief Committee from relief commissioners abroad. Bernard Zuckerman, of New York, a relief worker sent to Eastern Europe by the Joint Distribution Committee of American Funds for Jewish Sufferers from the War, reports that the town is on the cross-roads from Beltz to Jassy and from Jassy to Kishineff and Bender, so that a constant stream of travel goes through it. Most of these wayfarers journey by foot, entirely penniless and without food, and members of the family who die on the way are left unburied by the roadside. A great number of them are returning to devastated homes. In spite of the fact that the 300 Jewish families and the 100 Gentile families who live in Ungheul are themselves at the point of starvation they have not been able to see the misery of these refugees without making some effort to relieve it. "They have provided 15,608 meals for the Jews and 2,379 meals for the Christians who have passed through recently," Mr. Zuckerman reports. "Of these refugees, 1,302 were Jews and 154 Christians; the local Jewish organization treated them all alike in the matter of food. Some neighboring towns come to their assistance in the matter of clothing for the refugees. Yet all are themselves cold and hungry."

The farmers' executive in East Wellington decided to accept Albert Heglyer's resignation to open the riding for Hon. W. E. Rancy.

THE COWBOY OF ECUADOR.

He Loves to Ride Fully Dressed and Equipped.

It is a custom to celebrate the popular festival of San Pedro and San Pablo in the Sabana Grande with an equestrian frenzy, says Jose A. Canales in Inter-American, a equestrian frenzy, for it is now well known that this is the hippic festival par excellence; everyone who wishes to celebrate it and to contribute to the honor and glory of the holy apostles must go on horseback, or, lacking a horse, he must mount the first ass he chances upon and set out at a gallop like the Cossacks of the plains. The only ones who came off whole are our montuvios, who, to tell the truth, are not outdone by the Venezuelan llaneros or the Argentine gauchos. These montuvios are the heroes of the festival of San Pedro and San Pablo, the only ones who survive all the numbers on the program. Give a montuvio a half-broken mule; he is in his element and you will see him transfigured. He puts on him one of the great, broad-pomelled saddles of national manufacture, with long leathers from which hang enormous metal stirrups and brutal bits in his mouth and tightens the martingale until the neck of the animal is given a curve of 60 degrees; attaches the indispensable cotton saddlebags of the coast of vivid tint and finished with tassels and a fringe; coils at the head of the saddle 20 or 25 fathoms of rope; and then mounts, displaying wide expanses of cloth, girded at the waist with a long belt, from which hangs a murderous machete, a starched shirt without a collar, a poncho as ample as a choir cloak, a wide-brimmed manabita hat, called "singing oven" by the common people, and finally the inevitable "snoring" spurs, bound tight, "as hard as a knot," to the bare feet. There you have the type. Add, to complete the figure, a bejuc de montana, two yards long, by way of a hunting crop in his right hand; a Doublet cigar between his teeth and a bottle of aguardiente in his stomach. These are the equipment of the man and his beast that from the moment they set out together form a single creature. The mule may caper and cut up to his heart's content; run away, kick, roll over on the ground. One of our countrymen hardly notices these details. "What you see is that he always stays on top. The only time he becomes disturbed is when his hat falls off. The montuvio has an infinite affection for his hat, however old or worthless it may be. He would expose his life a thousand times rather than run the risk of losing his hat. If it falls in the water he plunges into the most dangerous current to recover it; if he is pursued by justice and, during the flight his hat escapes him, he turns squarely around, seizes back, secures it and lets himself be captured. Finally, when he is drunk and goes to sleep outdoors a relation or a friend who thinks something of him takes charge of his hat and keeps it for him lest he lose it. If he drops his cigar or his machete he picks it up of the ground without dismounting—performing prodigies of horsemanship, to all appearance with the greatest ease—as if they were at his side on a table. Can't Fake Black Opals. There has been a great rush in New South Wales on account of the finding of black opals, and already several hundred "claims" have been pegged out by excited prospectors. They have reason to be excited, too, for if the discovery of a black opal field turns out to be as big as has been stated, many of them will become millionaires. The real black opal is not only one of the rarest of all stones, but, curiously enough, it is found hardly anywhere except in New South Wales. Most ordinary opals, which are usually semi-transparent, are of a bluish or yellowish white in color, and found in Hungary. In fact, the most famous opal ever discovered was found there, and forms part of the crown jewels of Austria-Hungary. This magnificent opal measures five inches by two and a half inches, and if it were sold in the open market would fetch several hundred thousand pounds. There is a kind of black opal which is fairly common and cheap, but it is not a real black opal. It is the ordinary opal that has become spoiled by earth and other things. Opals, by the way, are one of the few precious stones which cannot be artificially imitated like rubies and diamonds.—Pearson's Weekly.

Entrance to Venice.

The main entry to Venice from the railway station is by the celebrated Grand Canal by means of gondolas or omnibus steamers. The latter maintain a regular service along the Grand Canal and across the lagoon to the Island of the Lido. There are also tram-steamers connections between Venice and the more important lagoon islands.

Tourists in Japan.

The Japanese tourist bureau states that 15,341 travellers, representing twenty-five nationalities, visited the shores of Japan during the first half of 1919. Chinese subjects head the list with 6,889, while the Russians, Britons and Americans arriving during the six months numbered 2,745, 2,434 and 1,603 respectively.

Using "Y" Huts.

Y.M.C.A. huts formerly used in Germany with the Army of Occupation have been floated down the Rhine to Belgium, where they are helping to solve the housing problem of the devastated districts by being used as lodgings and assembly halls.

More Coal in Belgium.

The production of coal in the Belgian mines during the month of October was 95.6 per cent of the normal production before the war.

Sunderland beat Burnly in a replayed English soccer cup second-round game.

SIX MILLION JEWS ARE FACING DEATH

Starvation and Disease Cause Indescribable Suffering in Eastern Europe.

The hardships of this winter will mean death to thousands of Jews in Poland unless outside aid intervenes at once according to Lieutenant Shelton Wright of the American Red Cross Commission to Poland, recently returned to the United States after months of relief work in eastern Europe. He painted a vivid picture of this half-starved people, clad in rags, who are now creeping back toward their devastated homes after months of refugee wandering, and dying of starvation and typhus along the roads, as they go. "Outside starvation, numerous diseases, attributed to malnutrition and typhus have killed men and women and children like flies," he said. "I remember a family trying to live under a tree a few yards away—she had been dead for days. The father was stretched upon the ground dying of typhus. He died that day. Under the wagon were two little children, both under five, sick with typhus. An older child sat stumpy on the ground—a girl driven out of her mind. Many of the people are driven to making "bread" out of leaves and bark, and "soup" out of grass and water. Lieutenant Wright reported: There was unspasmodic joy among them when the American ships, loaded with relief supplies purchased with the funds raised by the American Jewish Relief Committee and other American Jewish agencies, and American and Canadian Red Cross supplies were unloaded at Danzig and other ports. "The Red Cross is doing its work on the vast scale, hundreds of thousands of Jews and Poles will die during the winter unless more aid comes. "Every box-car full of refugees returning to their homes has in those who die along the way, and those who have contracted typhus," Lieutenant Wright said. "The people try to avoid contact by keeping clean, but it is impossible to do so, under existing conditions. Even our nurses and doctors fall ill of typhus, a disease caused by filth and lice. "The Red Cross and the American Jewish Relief agencies are doing their utmost to keep both the Jews and the Gentiles in these stricken lands alive. Six million Jews in eastern Europe face death unless immediate shipments of food, clothing, and bedding from Canada and the United States reach them before the cold weather sets in. "An appeal for funds is to be made in Ontario and a generous response from this district is confidently expected.

MOBS OF CHILDREN CRAVING FOR BREAD

Gaze Into Bakeshop Windows for Hours at a Time, Hoping for Something to Eat.

"The saddest thing in all Eastern Europe at the present moment—worse than all the other instances of starvation and even of death and disease on every hand—are the child-mobs on sees outside of the few bakeries that are able to keep going in Warsaw," Shelton Wright, the American Red Cross and the American Jewish Relief Committee upon his return from Eastern Europe, where he went as a commissioner of the Joint Distribution Committee of American Funds for Jewish Sufferers from the War. In the bakery windows are a few loaves of bread, sometimes cakes, that are sold at a simply prohibitive price," he explained, "and even if these were as cheap as in Canada and the United States, their taste would still be unpalatable to the hungry Jewish children, who live on the cup of soup a day they get from American Jewish relief agencies. But the youngsters' favorite game with the sight of food, when they cannot get the taste of it. "They press up to the window, and at first merely stare respectfully at the gaunt small folk with old faces and suffering unchildlike eyes. Perhaps it is raining, or the wind is blowing drifts out to the little ragamuffins, wearing that little barefoot army, but they huddle together for warmth, and do not stir. The sight of the bread has fascinated them, it is so rarely seen. "A customer comes out, leaving the door ajar for a moment, and the warm fragrance of the bake-shop drifts out to the little ragamuffins, maddening them. They press closer to the window, their thin little faces against the glass. Those in front put out their tongues and lick the glass, as if by so doing, they could taste the bread behind it. No poet could ever write into words the wistfulness of their faces as they do it. "One of the men from the bakery comes out and drives them away every few minutes, else they would break the glass. They are afraid of him, and for a few minutes they stand at a distance, their eyes still upon the bread. Then hunger overcomes their fear, and they press up to the bakery window again. Soon they are eagerly licking the glass once more. And this goes on all day every day in front of the bakery window."

Woodstock Intermediates beat Ingersoll 4 to 1, but failed to overcome Ingersoll's lead eight-goal lead for their group title.

1870 Our Golden Jubilee 1920 The Mutual Life ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA Fiftieth Annual Report CONDENSED STATEMENT Table with columns for 1918, 1919, and Increase. Includes sections for Fifty Years of Progress, Remarkable Expansion of Business, The Surplus Earnings, and Invested Funds. Signed by C. E. HANSELL - District Manager ST. CATHARINES, ONT.

STARR Gennett RECORDS Here They Are Now for All Lovers of Good Music New Starr Gennett Records for February FROM the great cathedrals and halls of old England, the studios of great artists, and the Broadway theatres, where talent and melody are wedded, comes the all-embracing range of Starr Gennett Records, bringing joy and entertainment to thousands of homes. List of records including 'Let the Rest of the World Go By', 'I'm Like a Ship Without a Sail', etc. Weaver's Music Store 163 1/2 St. Paul Street