

formerly conditional contraband, i.e. the importation of them was legitimate when it was intended for the civil population, illegitimate when it was intended for the immediate services of the army. But now we have shown this distinction to be no longer valid. Those who remain at home are deliberately working under an organized scheme for the service of the army and the conduct of the war just as much as those away in the field. All food-stuff imported into Germany directly and immediately adds to the combatant power of Germany.

It is well that we should remember this. The extent of territory over which the Central Powers now hold sway is, for the purpose of food-supply, practically self-sufficing; they can produce sufficient to maintain the population in health, if not in luxury. If Central Europe were completely shut out from the rest of the world in time of peace there would doubtless be a considerable reduction in the standard of living, which, as we know, has risen in Germany greatly in the last thirty or forty years, but there would not be anything in the nature of serious want or distress; the amount of food available would probably be, on the average, not less than would be requisite to provide for the standard of comfort equal to that which prevailed in Germany fifty or sixty years ago; i.e. supposing Germany were at peace. But Germany is not at peace; millions of the able-bodied men of the country are occupied in fighting on the frontier, millions more are occupied in ministering to the material requirements of the army. What is wanted is not so much the land and the resources sufficient for feeding the population, but the labour which is required for this purpose. If Germany is starving, it is not the blockade of the Allies that is the sole cause of the starvation; it is the drain on the country by the necessity of maintaining the armies in the field.

I remember some months ago reading an article in the *Continental Times* by Carl von Wiegand, the Berlin correspondent of the *New York World*, in which he says:

"If the war should continue very long, and the point of real suffering be reached within the Central