

ly, the complete mobilization of the industrial and agricultural forces of the land. The answer is given in very striking form by Professor Ashley: "As to the people—the operation of the ordinary motives of personal self-interest has been just as evident as it could possibly have been in any other country. The measures of the Government have been constantly met by evasion and subterfuge of every description. Against its will it has been driven, time after time, from a policy of maximum prices to a policy of state monopoly, merely because the peasants would not bring their stuff to market. The quite unnecessary scare about potatoes in the early spring, with its unfortunate consequences,<sup>13</sup> was brought about simply by the cunning of the peasants in concealing their stocks. Even the regulations about bread have been far from meeting with ungrudging obedience. So numerous have been the cases of infringement of regulations by the bakers, that in a great city like Frankfurt the municipal court had to give up the whole of every Wednesday to such cases, until the Government conferred summary jurisdiction on the Public Prosecutor. Not only has there been what a Conservative paper characterizes as 'unbridled economic egoism' in all sorts of petty ways; the country has been torn by the sharp division of interests between the agricultural and industrial halves of the nation, represented by the Agricultural Council and the Municipal Congress; and the asperity of their mutual recriminations matches anything in the way of sectional antagonism that other countries have to be ashamed of. Pervading the industrial classes and represented by all the popular newspapers, there is the bitterest feeling of animosity and suspicion towards all kinds of producers and dealers in food. To them entirely is attributed the obstinate refusal of prices to fall to a comfortable level.

All of which goes to show that the legends which have grown up about the innate docility of the German people, and of their wholly admirable singleness of purpose and power of national concentration, may be rudely shattered at no very far date. But indeed it shows far more than that; it shows that there is a limit to the docility of any people, and that appeals to the patriotism of the population are responded to

<sup>13</sup>The reference is to a case, cited by Prof. Ashley, where the storage of food by the Government actually led to the loss of a considerable quantity of it. Fourteen per cent. of the potatoes stored by one large urban municipality went bad, and this was only typical of what happened elsewhere; and the smell of rotting potatoes under the arches of one of the big Berlin railway stations compelled the residents to appeal to the sanitary authorities.