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VIENNA DEATH RATE BECOMES APPALLING

Condition of Children Even More Harrowing, Declares Authority on City's Desperate Plight.

Five years of famine have resulted in greatly increased mortality and morbidity in Vienna which before the war was counted as one of the healthiest cities in Europe. Figures prepared by Dr. Gustave Bohn, head of the Vienna Health Department, show that in 1913 the death rate was 15.3 per thousand. In 1918 the rate was 22.5 per thousand, an increase of more than 47 per cent.

Professor Hans Spei of the University of Vienna, says that "even more terrible than the mortality statistics are those referring to the condition of children and their mothers. Owing to under-nourishment few mothers can nurse their babies, and the milk shortage affects not only infants, but all children in spite of all that has been done to help. At Professor Clemens Pirquet's clinic in the university some 54,849 children were examined in 1918. Only 4,637 of these or about one-thirteenth were passed as skin good, fat good, 23,600 were pale and thin, or very pale and very thin.

"The health of these children shows most disgusting features. Skin disease, rachitis and Bawlow's disease are rife. "The chief medical officer of Vienna asks, 'What is going to happen to these under-fed children, in whose bodies the germ of tuberculosis is latent, when they reach the twenties, at which time it becomes active?'"

To combat these conditions the American Relief Administration of which Herbert Hoover is chairman fed last winter in the city of Vienna some 200,000 of the destitute and under-nourished children, supplying them with a substantial meal of American food served in a number of large kitchens opened for that purpose.

The conditions in Vienna are more or less typical of those in Poland and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Last year the Relief Administration was able to reach some 3,500, 000 under-nourished children and this winter the program calls for the feeding of a like number, but eight of the great charitable organizations of America have united under the name of the European Relief Council, of which Mr. Hoover is the chairman. The child feeding task will be carried on not only by the American Relief Administration but by the American Red Cross, the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the Knights of Columbus, the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. An appeal for \$35,000,000 has been made and the organizations named have joined in raising the sum.

LAUGHTER OF CHILD SCARCE IN POLAND

"In all the time I was in Poland, I scarcely once saw a child laugh," declared Dr. Harry Plotz, discoverer of the typhus bacillus, in a report to the European Relief Council on medical conditions among the Jewish population of Poland, based on his recent investigations there for the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

"The most deplorable sight of all the miseries in Poland is the condition of the children," Dr. Plotz said. "Infant mortality is exceedingly high because of under-nourishment and the high percentage of contagious diseases. In large part mothers must resort to artificial feeding as they are unable to nurse their children. In many cities I saw underfed children, suffering with diseases, wandering about the streets with no place to go, begging for bread."

Tuberculosis has become prevalent among the Jewish children, largely due to the overcrowded conditions in which they are forced to live, their lack of nourishing food and warm clothing, according to Dr. Plotz. Typhus, which killed thousands of Jews last winter in the worst epidemic Poland has ever seen will recur again, he said, as conditions are much worse among the Jews than ever before.

"Favus, a contagious skin disease, is now rapidly spreading from child to child," he continued. "In Vilna there are 11,000 cases among the Jewish children alone. Smallpox, too, is prevalent throughout Poland and the Ukraine and children, with widespread eruptions and temperature, have been seen running about the streets. There are thousands of cases every year, which vaccination would prevent, but there is no vaccine."

Dr. Plotz told how in Lithuanian villages he found children, six and seven years old, unable to walk or talk, the result of malnutrition. In regions where whole towns had been destroyed during the war, he found families crowded in miserable dug-outs.

The Greatest Gift.

Your Christmas gift to the European child relief collection may help in saving a child's life and is earnestly solicited. Send checks to the local committee of the joint organizations or direct to European Relief Council, 42 Broadway, New York City.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

La Grande's budget for city expenses for the coming year is \$106,460.

The church of the Latter Day Saints held a three-day leadership institution at La Grande.

Dallas physicians report that several cases of influenza have made their appearance in Polk county.

From two and one-half acres on Hale creek, near Weston, Oscar Wain harvested 500 sacks of potatoes.

A total of \$20,500 will be required to defray the expenses of the board of control during the next two years.

Jasper Turner is under arrest at Klamath Falls, charged with the murder of his wife near Beatty last May.

A census just completed in Clatsop county shows 6586 children of school age, an increase of 99 over last year.

The 33d annual meeting of the Oregon State Horticultural society will be held in Eugene December 2, 3 and 4.

Ministers from all sections of Marion county gathered in Salem last week and formed a county organization.

Sunflowers are making a remarkably good showing in Harney county. At one place 54 tons per acre was the yield.

There are 26 cases of contagious disease under quarantine at La Grande, ranging from smallpox to diphtheria.

A division of Polk county is proposed, cutting off the south part and creating a new county to be called Willamette.

The new prune packing plant erected at Scotts Mills by the Oregon Growers' association is complete and packing has begun.

Every school in Umatilla county which has made application to the school superintendent for a teacher now is supplied.

Farmers and orchard men around Dayton, Yamhill county, are becoming interested in the planting of filbert orchards.

During a recent high wind in Coos Bay, the McDonald & Vaughan log-boom broke, releasing logs estimated at 1,000,000 feet.

An experienced miller has arrived at Burns and the flour mill at that place will soon be turning home grown wheat into flour.

Approximately only one-fourth of the Marion county potato crop has been taken care of as a result of the bad weather conditions.

Production of lumber in Oregon and Washington for the week ending November 13 was 69,265,533 feet, or 22 per cent below normal.

District interest bonds in the amount of \$116,275 will be sold by State Treasurer Hoff on December 1, according to announcement.

Two carloads of hops raised in the country adjacent to Grants Pass were shipped to London last week. The shipment weighed 74,800 pounds.

Isaac Higgins, an early settler of Eastern Oregon and a veteran of the Civil war, died in a Heppner hospital last week at the age of 79.

The Hood River-White Salmon Ferry company is building a large sidewheel ferry boat which will have a capacity of 10 automobiles. It will cost about \$10,000.

Colonel J. W. Lathrop, for many years a well known character in that part of the state, dropped dead in a livery stable in Klamath Falls a few days ago.

A company has been organized at Eugene with the plan of building houses and selling them to people on easy terms. The first residence is just being completed.

By cutting one half mile of new road through the lodgepole pines, the forest service is decreasing the length of the Crane Prairie road from Bend to Elk lake nearly two miles.

Mail boxes in Prineville have been assailed by vandals in the last week or so, and have been tampered with to such an extent that the federal authorities have been notified.

Thomas Everett May, of Corvallis, has been appointed a captain in infantry, regular army, and Fremont Byron Hodson, North Bend, has been appointed a second lieutenant.

The tax budget of Clatsop county recommends a levy of \$427,315.80, or just \$100.20 less than that for last year. Among the appropriations are \$160,750 for road work and \$48,250 for bridges.

It will require \$77,620 to maintain the capitol buildings and grounds at Salem during the next biennium, according to the budget of estimated expenditures filed with the secretary of state.

The Thomas Kay woolen mills, the largest plant of its kind in Oregon outside of Portland, will close down early this month and will remain closed until some time in January, according to announcement. More than 250 men and women will be thrown out of employment.

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