

TEUTON MASSES IN DESPERATE PLIGHT

Slow Starvation Is Sapping Strength of People in Central Empires.

MORTALITY RATE IS RISING

Grave Conditions Directly Traceable to War Are Shown in Report Soon to Be Issued by U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—(Special.)—

A report soon to be issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics will deal with the food situation in 1917 in the countries of the allied central powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey). This report, data for which have been obtained from leading newspapers in these countries, gives a general review of the food situation in each of them, what measures the Government has adopted in the attempt to control the food supply and to secure as far as possible its equitable distribution among all classes of the population, and in what spirit these regulations have been received by the people.

Germany is shown to be confronted with a difficult problem, that of maintaining the proper balance of food supply among the needs of the army, of agriculture, of industry, and of the civilian population. Interesting in this connection, and significant at once of the gravity of the general shortage of foodstuffs, is an announcement in the Berlin Lokales Anzeiger for October 2, 1917, that the collecting offices are paying cash or soup cubes for fruit kernels and melon seeds, from which to extract oil for margarine. This payment in soup cubes—which are valued at the cash price of 2 1/2 pfennigs (0.6 cent) per cube—is a special favor.

In regard to livestock and meat situation, Herr von Waldow, the new Secretary of State for the war food bureau, said in a statement to press representatives:

Food Supply Inadequate.
"It is obvious that, besides meeting the needs of the army, we must have regard to the maintenance of agricultural production. Hence, before all, agricultural production must be adequately fed. If, as is unfortunately probable, this is incompatible with the provision of sufficient fodder for the fattening of stock, we must proceed to a systematic reduction of our stock of pigs and cattle. Naturally that will have effect on the supply of meat, milk and fat. In the case of meat, a temporary increase in the ration would be followed by a decrease. It will be particularly difficult this winter to keep up the supply of milk and butter."

During the past Spring and Summer many complaints have been made because of the increasing occurrence of the so-called "food excursions." By this is meant the practice among urban dwellers of going out to the rural districts to secure directly, or take it forcibly; they have the effrontery to help themselves to standing field and garden crops, often long before these are ripe. The injury to the farmer and to our future supply is obvious. Robbing the fields and damaging the crops is in wartime a crime, and the strongest measures must be taken against it.

The government regulations controlling each of the principal foodstuffs—meat, potatoes, fish and oils, eggs, milk, butter, vegetables, fruit, sugar, etc.—are not always successful from all points of view. This Fall the government granted a special allowance for the speedy delivery of potatoes. The object of hastening the delivery was attained. The potatoes poured into the towns at a quite embarrassing rate. In some places railroads were double-tracked; in others two or three weeks' rations were issued in a single week. The potatoes were arriving in such quantities that the communes could not handle them.

Potatoes Spoil in Cars.
Nevertheless the imperial potato office ordered that they be accepted. The consequence was that, for want of cartage facilities, the railroad cars could not be unloaded and stood in the freight yards impeding traffic. The potatoes deteriorated and had to be sorted. Potatoes of the first lot variety do not keep well, so people could not store them for winter use, and large quantities were therefore lost to the food supply.

The granting of the bonuses also aroused considerable criticism on the score of the resultant high prices to the consumer. According to the Leipziger Volkszeitung of September 3, 1917, the consumer's price must cover the basic price of production, agent's commission, speed bonus, loading bonus, and possibly a dispatch bonus—altogether about 7.50 or 8 marks (\$1.75 or \$1.75) per centner (113.25 pounds). There will still remain for the consumer carriage and storage, so that the final price may amount to 10 marks (\$2.25) or more per centner.

How the food orders are received in some instances is shown by an article in the above-named newspaper on the occasion of the increase in the bread ration which took effect August 13, 1917:

"Those entitled to the supply will quickly discover what this new regulation means to them. Instead of the usual 500 grams (1 1/2 pounds) of bread will be supplied till October 1. That this is not sufficient compensation need not be pointed out. After October 1 the 500 grams of bread will be omitted and potatoes will be supplied instead. It is impossible to go on substituting one food for another in the hope of making the consumers believe they are being thus compensated."

All Food Prices Rise.

Figures taken from the same paper showing the price of certain weekly food rations in 24 representative towns of Germany for the four weeks ending August 26, 1917. Although food rations are generally fixed by the imperial war food bureau for the whole empire, in practice the rations apportioned to the civilian population vary greatly from locality to locality and

are dependent on the actual supply on hand.
As a step toward making the available food suffice to feed the whole population, war kitchens have been established in all but 56 of the 636 communes which have a population of 18,000 or more each. A person fed at a war kitchen is required to surrender to the kitchen a number of food tickets representing the kinds and amounts of foods furnished him by the kitchen. These food tickets are issued by the authorities, and entitle the holder to purchase the articles of food named in the amounts specified. For meat and potatoes, tickets are required in nearly every town, but fat, pulse, farinaceous foods and flour are more often supplied irrespective of tickets.

The war kitchens in most towns provide only midday meals, but where evening meals are served allowances are made from a fund provided by the King of Bavaria. This fund applies to all Germany.

Food Kitchens Popular.
The comparative popularity of war kitchens is a good index to the actual condition of the food supply. It is interesting, therefore, to find a statement in the Munchener Neueste Nachrichten of September 19, 1917, that in spite of the better harvest there will, according to an official intimation, probably be an increase in the number of people who use the kitchens this year—especially if the fat shortage should increase.

The question of grading food prices according to income has recently been much discussed in the German press. Twenty-one of the larger cities, however, have, after investigation, given up the idea because of the technical difficulties of drawing a just limit. The fixation of income within the year, the taxation according to the previous year's income, the number and age of the children, social obligations—all add to the difficulties. In Altona 85 per cent of the population would belong to the poorer classes, who would have to be privileged. In Berlin the number of cases must be considered as a result of war conditions—indigestible or deleterious foodstuffs, or fruit obtained in a less fresh condition than formerly. In Saxony the general opinion is that the bread, badly milled and badly baked, is the cause.

Dysentery Very Common.
The Berlin Voessische Zeitung of September 2, 1917, states: "According to current reports last month, one had the impression that every third person was suffering from dysentery. But such was, in reality, not the case. The infectious cases were limited to a small number, and the general opinion was that the article ends, however, with the statement: 'The total number of cases of dysentery for Prussia during the period August 5 to 11 was 2598, with 233 deaths.'"

The Vorwaerts for September 5, 1917, states that: "The Spring months of 1917, following the bad Winter months, show a great increase in the number of deaths from phthisis in Berlin. The monthly tables published by the Berlin statistical bureau for the time up to May record for the Spring months March, April and May, 560, 542 and 564 (in all 1666) deaths from phthisis (including tubercular phthisis), against 375, 421 and 428 in all 1224 persons in the same months of last year. The deaths from pneumonia also greatly increased. In the three months 366, 382 and 231 deaths (in all 979) were reported, as against 260, 192 and 170 (in all 622) last year. From other diseases of the lungs (including pleurisy) there died 305, 125 and 103 persons, as against 306, 57 and 47 (in all 466) last year. The death toll from the three above-named diseases amounting to 1666 in 1917 as against 1224 in 1916 in the Spring of 1916. This increase can only partly be explained by the inclemency of the weather."

Serious Condition Shows.
The above figures, taken from the official report, show starting conditions of affairs. Comparing the mortality figures for lung diseases for the three Spring months of 1917 and 1916, we find that deaths from phthisis increased 56 per cent, from pneumonia 82 per cent, and from other lung diseases 77 per cent, and from all lung diseases 77 per cent. The observation that the increase can only partly be explained by the inclemency of the weather is not conservative. A more plausible explanation is underlying and insidious. Much has been made in this country of the difference between death from actual "starvation" and death from disease which proves fatal because of underfeeding and improper feeding. The distinction so laboriously made is without a difference. Deaths have increased because food is insufficient. Consumption and other diseases have merely accelerated death from "slow starvation."

The infant mortality rate has also increased. The Vorwaerts states that "infant mortality is unusually high this year in Berlin. It is true that the actual number of deaths in infant mortality in recent years, but this is explained by the extraordinary decline in the birth rate. The proportion of the number of infant deaths to the number of births is considerably more unfavorable this year than last." This organ says that there may be several causes for this lamentable increase in infant mortality, but it should be investigated how far the deterioration in the quality of milk is responsible.

PATENT SUIT TO BE HEARD

Appealed Case of Butte Mining Company to Be Retried February 20.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 4.—Arguments in a mining suit involving more than \$50,000,000 on alleged infringement of patent rights for extracting minerals by the Butte & Superior Mining Company will be heard February 20 by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The suit was brought by the Minerals Separation Company in the United States District Court at Butte, which awarded the concern a verdict of \$10,000,000. The decision was appealed by the Butte & Superior Company.

Praised By All

"All of my customers praise Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," writes Albert Beard, Fowler, Ill. Try it when you have a cough or cold.



Leopold Godowsky

In His Concert Last Night at

The AUDITORIUM

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EXCLUSIVE DEALERS

The Musical Floor **Sipman Wolfe & Co.** The Seventh

"Merchandise of Merit Only"

MATURING TOTAL BIG

\$741,631,653 Securities to Fall Due in Current Year.

LOREE ISSUES ESTIMATE

Amounts for Canada, Cuba and Mexico Combined With Figure for United States Bring Value Close Up to Billion Dollars.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—The total value of securities of incorporations operating in the United States maturing during the year 1918 amounts to \$741,631,653, according to a statement by L. F. Loree, president of the Delaware and Hudson Company, who has created an organization for compiling statistics of this kind.

Including the securities of corporations in Canada, Cuba and Mexico, the grand total aggregates \$799,847,351. Utilities led, maturing obligations of that class totaling \$224,126,583, against \$214,191,435 for railroads, \$182,527,769 for industrials and \$129,573,271 for municipal issues.

All the railroad securities \$45,552,654, represents equipment trust bonds, the greater part of which, Mr. Loree believes, will be taken care of through sinking funds.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Virtually providing for control of private financing during the war, the Administration introduced similar legislation today in the Senate and the House. Financing of war industries hampered by present conditions is the principal object.

Pasco Pupils Patriotic

PASCO, Wash., Feb. 4.—(Special.)—The patriotic spirit of the pupils of the Pasco schools is shown by the sales of thrift stamps to the children dur-

GREAT REDUCTIONS ON AFTERNOON AND DANCING

SLIPPERS

SATIN AND PATENT PUMPS, \$1.80

—One hundred pairs of odds and ends of neat, timely made pumps, in patent leather and satin—worth more than double the sale price—go on sale today at \$1.80. Mostly small sizes.

FANCY BEADED KID PUMPS, \$3.80

—Women's one-strap slippers and pumps, with beaded vamps, very special at \$3.80.

DANCING PUMPS, \$4.80

—Of silver cloth and dull and bracing kid, plain and with beaded vamps; reduced for this sale to \$4.80.

SHOE PRICES REDUCED ALSO No Exchanges or Approvals

Second Floor.

Sipman Wolfe & Co.

"Merchandise of Merit Only"

Sipman Wolfe & Co.

"Merchandise of Merit Only"



With Spring Just Around the Corner, Here's

An Interesting Sale of New Spring House Apparel

98c—\$1.19—\$1.48—\$1.98—\$2.95—\$3.49

Apron Dresses, 98c
—New gingham apron dresses, in slipper style, with pointed yokes and front lacing; in pink, lavender, blue and gray checks.

Percale Aprons \$1.19
—Plain pink, blue or lavender and awning striped aprons, made in slipper style, with pointed yokes, square or round necks; also envelope style.

Dresses and Aprons, \$1.48
—A new dress apron of heavy percale, in light colors and the popular Billy Burke dresses of light-colored percales.

Mary Elizabeth Dresses \$1.98
—New Mary Elizabeth dresses, in plaid ginghams or striped galatea with white collars; also a new gingham envelope dress and new chambray dresses.

Combination Dresses, \$2.95
—Lovely new house dresses of plaid gingham and plain colored chambray combined. They're just as neat and smart as can be!

"Miss Sammy" At \$3.49
—More of those clever plaid gingham dresses, with large fancy pockets, full belts and combination sleeves that can be worn long or short.

Fourth Floor—Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

CANNON SHEETS and Pillow Cases

These are made of the finest quality of long fiber cotton and absolutely free from dressing; the finest sheet on the market at the price.

SHEETS
63x90 inches...\$1.50
72x90 inches...\$1.60
81x90 inches...\$1.65
81x99 inches...\$1.75
81x108 inches...\$1.85

PILLOW CASES
—Made from tubing of the same fine quality as the sheets.
42x36 inches...\$1.37
45x36 inches...\$1.40

Second Floor—Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

WOMEN'S NEW MOCHA GLOVES \$2.75

—New Spring arrivals in one and two-clasp styles; full pique sewn with fancy embroidery, in self or contrasting shades. Gray, beaver, pearl, khaki and butter shades.

Main Floor—Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

In the Great FEBRUARY SALE OF SILKS BLACK SILKS

At \$1.39—\$1.59—\$1.89

—The newest black silks for Spring at WONDERFULLY LOW PRICES. Duchess satin, luster satin, satin stripes; grenadine, chiffon taffeta, messalines and all other staple black silks; widths from 35 to 40 inches. An immense variety. Silks for coats, dresses, waists, skirts; silks in all weights, and all are wonderful values!

SILK BENGALINE—Very Special, \$2.19
—Navy blue, black, brown, midnight blue, Oriental, Copen and reseda colored bengaline of remarkable quality!

Second Floor—Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

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a beverage that hits the spot. Tasty, rich in flavor, with plenty of body, it stands out as the individual among the various brews.

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Second Floor.

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