FOOD DEMOCRACY GERMAN THEORY

Practically, in the Land of the Hohenzollern, the Rich Can Have What They Want.

AGRARIAN CLASS FAVORED

Food Question Likened to Old Classic Problem of Making Single Blanket Cover Double Bed. Man in Middle Is Warm.

BY CYRIL BROWN.

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STOCKHOLM, February 21. — (Special.)—There is no such thing as a democracy of food in Germany except in theory. Practically all men are not free and equal nor equally ration-bound. Human nature and the old law of supply and demand, though hamstrung and bound around with several thousand red-tape food regulations, still has a kick left in it, and money still talks its old persuasive rhetoric in Germany. There are, accordingly, no heroics about the rich going without fancy food, and plenty of it, in order that the deserving poor may have more. There is, in fact, no such thing as voluntary rationing.

War food conditions have engendered a certain honest primitiveness in contemporary Germans; a "back-to-the-instinct-of-self-preservation" spirit. It is not considered bad form or poor patriotism, except by some of the cranks who get left in the shuffle, it is the rule rather, for every one to scramble for all the food the law allows him and as much more as he can lay hands on and pay for.

There is consequently a constant merry food tug of war for the prize of Germany's small marginal surplus, a kind of incessant battle royal between the various social classes and interests, both individually and collectively, to get next to and cling to the surplus food trough, accompanied by a chorus of mutual abuse and recrimination through the medium of the party press.

Truth Lies Between Extremes.

You blame Socialism if you are a junker, and junkerism if you are a Socialist; and if you are either or neither, you blame the head of the Imperial food department for the bad food conditions and loudly prophesy an inevitable catastrophe unless radical changes are made in the interest of your particular class or category.

For this reason the press of Germany is no reliable medium for gauging actual food conditions in Germany, nor is it possible to note changes for better or for worse by reading between the lines, since the editorial and news attitude of every newspaper in Germany is distorted and colored by party politics or special interests or both.

All discussion of food conditions in Germany by German publicists, amateur or professional, must accordingly be discounted and digested with large additions of salt, whether they paint food conditions blackest black or in rosy hues of optimism. The truth lies between these extremes.

Germany's food problem is essentially the old classic problem of making a single blanket cover a double bed. Accordingly, a cross section of the German state in the fourth war Winter shows that it is composed of a warm and well-fed body of citizens in the middle, whose food requirements are at all times adequately covered, surrounded by a deep fringe of miscellaneous middle, lower and lowest class citizenry, all more or less out in the cold, their requirements hardly ever quite covered by the scant food blanket, scantiness varying with the seasons and with new food regulations that seek to "stretch" the single blanket first to one side and then the other.

The amply fed and the adequately fed, however, are in the majority. The underfed comprising all those financially or physically forced to subsist wholly, or almost entirely, on the scant minimum rations, average conservatively around 15,000,000, their number increasing during the Winter and reaching the critical maximum in the Spring.

"Self-Provider" Never Hungry.

Best fed and well fed are the military, the so-called "self-providers" (including large land owners and peasants), the idle rich, the war profiteers, well-to-do business and professional classes, favored groups of specially petted and pampered ammunition and other war industries workers and villagers and townspeople in the fat food-producing provinces.

If you must be a German you will make no mistake to get into any one of these categories, and there is little to choose between them in a food way. Poorest fed and underfed are those middle classes whose peace-time prosperity has been ruined, whose purchasing power is broken by the war; small merchants, tradesmen and shopkeepers, small officials, teachers, clerks and, in general, all those forced to live on fixed salaries or incomes, which have remained stationary, while the cost of living has been doubling; further, the masses of industrial laborers and metropolitan workers, not specially provided for under the favored categories of heavy and heaviest workers; and lastly, the war widows and wives and families of soldiers in the field, forced to exist mainly on their pittances of a pension or state allowance.

Among these, too, there is little to choose from; theirs is the minimum ration and the constant struggle to buy even the small quantities of foods which the state guarantees them.

Soldiers Well Cared For.

Germany's 3,000,000-odd men under arms, including old Landsturm and young recruits, constitute a specially favored food class. The front soldier's diet is still considered good and ample; both quantitatively and qualitatively his food position is far superior to that of the common run of civilian. He gets from two to three times as much food; more daily bread, more daily potatoes, meat six times a week, most real sugar, more and better marmalade, more butter and other fats, and, above all, an allowance of such rarities as cheese, rice, tea and other imported foods reserved almost entirely for the army.

Many cases have come to my knowledge of soldiers, and even officers on furlough, who have complained to their wives about the home cooking and home table and drawn invidious comparisons with the grub at the front. So, too, many soldiers, grown accustomed to the better fare of the trenches and rest quarters, when on home furlough and slender home diet, grow irritable, peevish and betray an eagerness to get back to the good food of the front.

Those who are about to die at the west front are in general fed better than their loafing, fraternizing comrades in the east; and the front soldiers as a whole are fed better than the Landsturm garrisons of the conquered countries; and these in turn are a bit better off than the troops in home training barracks.

Agrarians Privileged Class.

An officially privileged class too are the agrarians, large and small, junkers and peasants. Their food lot is a particularly happy one and they are accordingly an object of envy to the industrial workers and the metropolitan masses; and also an object of constant controversy. On the average these so-called "self-providers" are at least 100 per cent better off than the tightly rationed city dwellers. From what they themselves raise the large agrarians and small peasant farmers alike are permitted to keep just twice as much wheat and rye as the ordinary non-producing individual is allowed in bread rations by the state.

They are thus twice as well off quantitatively in the matter of bread, in addition to the element of security —of having their year's supply of breadstuffs actually on hand until the next harvest. The new food rule that Germany's 1918 bread must be stretched by an admixture of 10 per cent potato flour is waved in the case of these blessed self-providers, who may thus enjoy pure white wheat bread or any formula according to their taste. From what they themselves raise the self-providers are also permitted to retain potatoes equivalent to a per capita weekly ration of ten pounds, whereas the fixed potato ration for the average run of citizens is seven pounds weekly.

Being themselves the source, these self-producers naturally have the first go at milk, butter, eggs, vegetables and other products of their raising, the city dwellers running a poor second and getting only what the agrarians' interests, the welfed "self-producers," chose to give up at heavy prices.

Well-to-Do Also Privileged.

For all practical purposes, the rich and the well-to-do also constitute a privileged food class, thanks to the extensive and illegal clandestine traffic in every thinkable kind of food commodity. It is literally true that money can still buy everything in Germany today. And if you don't care how you spend your money and have the right connections, one can get all the meat one wants, including the rarity pork, plenty of flour, potatoes and other rationed foods. There is no necessity for holding oneself to small rations, if one has the purchasing power to command the underground food channels. But even keeping well within the law, the well-to-do can still be amply well fed, supplementing their meat rations for instance, with fancy poultry and game which are not rationed but far above the reach of the masses.

Not only in Berlin, but all over Germany, money will carry you far. The menus of war profiteers' little business dinners have been known to make even neutral mouths water; one such menu that recently came to light consisted of eight courses and could not have been improved on in peace times. But any one willing to spend from $10 a day up for food can eat his fill in Berlin, and do it somewhat more cheaply in other large cities, and at bargain prices in the provinces.

Good Dinner Costs $3.

The pleasing prospect for the prosperous who can afford to patronize the better class hotels and restaurants is indicated by the following typical menus being served at the Adlon: Table d'hote dinner, on a meat day, costing 12 marks or $3 at the peace-time rate of exchange:

Cream of Celery Soup.
Holland Oysters
or
Rhine Salmon With Truffle Sauce.
Salt Potatoes
(only against Potato Coupons).
Roast Young Turkey.
Champagne Ice
or
Stewed Fruits.

On the same day the gourmand could also eat, a la carte, priced at the normal peace time rate of exchange:

Oyster cocktail, 25 cents; chicken salad, $1.75; smoked salmon, $2; Swedish hors d'oeuvres, $2.50.
Celery soup, 40 cents.
Snails with butter, $1.50; Rhine salmon with truffle sauce, $2.50; carp in port wine, $2; frogs' legs with mushrooms, $1.75.
Rusk of lamb with young vegetables, $2; goose liver pasty with truffles, $2.50.
Cauliflower, 75 cents; mushrooms, 75 cents; Brussels sprouts, 65 cents; spinach, 65 cents; celery, 65 cents.
Mixed salad, 65 cents.
Champagne ice, 50 cents.
Stewed fruits, 50 cents.

The popular-priced wine and beer restaurants of Berlin still offer a fair range of choice in dishes running from 25 cents to 75 cents per portion, including two kinds of meat on meat days against meat coupons, also a limited number of fish, and generally one can also obtain certain meats that are card free, such as venison, game, duck, turkey and goose; these, however, owing to the great demand for meat-cardless meats, being exceedingly expensive; a portion of goose, for instance, not being obtainable as a rule under $2 at the cheapest. The neutral, however, can live high at comparative bargain figures in Berlin, and in fact throughout Germany, owing to the depreciation of the mark.

Munitions Workers Favored.

The ammunition workers constitute the last privileged food class, and their standard of living compares not unfavorably with that of the idle rich and the junkers. The contradictory character of the reports regarding food conditions among Germany's working population is due frequently to failure to differentiate sharply between the ordinary laborers, who get only the legal minimum rations; the so-called "heavy workers," who receive additional rations, making them about 50 per cent better off than the ordinary workingman, and the most favored class, the so-called "heaviest workers."

While there is a reasonable doubt whether even the additional rations enjoyed by the "heavy workers" are adequate and no doubt whatever that the regular rations received by the ordinary workingman are not adequate, the favored "heaviest" class are literally living on the fat of the land, and much of its cheese, milk, pork, coffee, beet sugar and other rarities.

Owing to the intense competition among the mushroom-like fast-growing war industries, particularly since the Hindenburg programme went into effect, to attract and then hold these rare aves — "heaviest" ammunition workers, able-bodied men, freed from military services—the latter have been able virtually to dictate their own food terms on which they are willing to work.

The strongest attraction the war industries can offer to obtain new help and hold their old is plenty of food of the highest class and greatest variety, and the large and powerful war enterprises have in consequence installed separate food departments, carrying immense stocks on hand and selling extra foods to the ammunition workers at cost price and in many cases below cost price, in order to make work attractive.

These "heaviest" boys, by a singular turn of fortune's wheel, placed in a novel position of being petted and pampered by capital, are living today on a high food plane they never dreamed of in peace time. Their lucky lot must not, however, be confounded with the drab and lean existence of the masses of German workingmen, particularly in the large cities and the densely populated industrial sections.

(Continued tomorrow.)

NEW PANTAGES STAR SHINES IN VAUDEVILLE FIRMAMENT.

Hope Vernon.

There is a new Pantages star in the firmament of vaudeville artists. It is none other than Hope Vernon, who is among the features at Pantages this week. Miss Vernon looks forward to a most successful career, for she is following in the footsteps of Daphne Pollard, Marilyn Miller, Wanda Lyon, Sophie Tucker and many other international favorites. These first made their appearance under the direction of Alexander Pantages, who is credited with developing more stars on his circuit than any other one vaudeville figure in the United States.

TALK ON FORESTRY GIVEN

Students at Girls' Polytechnic School Hear A. G. Jackson.

Five hundred girls and women, students at the Girls' Polytechnic School, yesterday enjoyed an interesting illustrated lecture by A. G. Jackson, of the Forestry Department, who told the students what the Government is doing to conserve timber and explained the importance of the Forestry Department.

Mr. Jackson's address was one of a series of talks arranged by the principal, Miss Anna Arnold, who wishes the girls to keep in touch with the larger affairs of the day and to augment their regular courses with knowledge gained in this manner.

Walville Mill Resumes Operation.

CENTRALIA, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—Following a recent shutdown caused by snow, the Walville mill in Western Lewis County has resumed operations. During the period of idleness a new and longer log carriage was installed in the plant, permitting the handling of timbers 120 feet in length, required by the Government.

We guarantee

that our clothes will be all wool because that wears the best and lasts the longest;

that the tailoring will be careful and enduring;

that the dyes will be fast and lasting.

We guarantee that clothes made by us will not need to be replaced soon; that they will be completely satisfactory to you in every respect; and that they will be economical of the country's resources of materials and labor.

Our label in a suit is a pledge of this—a small thing to look for, a big thing to find

Hart Schaffner & Marx
Good Clothes Makers

We distribute Hart Schaffner & Marx Clothes guaranteed to be all wool and to satisfy you.

Sam'l Rosenblatt & Co.
Fifth and Alder Streets

Simple Way to End Dandruff

There is one sure way that has never failed to remove dandruff at once, and that is to dissolve it, then you destroy it entirely. To do this, just get about four ounces of plain, common liquid arvon from any drug store (this is all you will need), apply it at night when retiring; use enough to moisten the scalp and rub it in gently with the finger tips.

By morning most, if not all, of your dandruff will be gone, and three or four more applications will completely dissolve and entirely destroy every single sign and trace of it, no matter how much dandruff you may have.

You will find all itching and digging of the scalp will stop instantly, and your hair will be fluffy, lustrous, glossy, silky and soft, and look and feel a hundred times better.—Adv.

STUMEZE
PUT THIS MAN BACK TO WORK

This is to certify that Mr. R. L. Wolfe, 229 Ash St., San Diego, California, purchased three bottles of STUMEZE. Mr. Wolfe stated that his stomach was giving him so much trouble he was unable to work; but since taking STUMEZE he is entirely relieved and able to resume his duties. (Signed) THE MONARCH DRUG CO., San Diego, Cal.

When your stomach is sick you are sick all over—upon knocks you out. Don't run the risk of total disability; go now to your druggist and get a bottle of STUMEZE, the real medicine for stomach ills. It is guaranteed.—Adv.

Diseased Skin

Freedom at once from the agony of skin disease. The soothing wash of oils. Try D. D. D.—it's different. 35c, 60c and $1.00. We guarantee it.

D. D. D.
SKIDMORE DRUG CO.
OWL DRUG CO.

Relieve Your Indigestion With A Laxative

Dyspeptics know that indigestion is accompanied by constipation, and that until the bowels can be regulated so they will act freely and naturally every day at a stated time, swallowing dyspepsia tablets is of little use.

A great and growing number of sufferers from this trouble find immediate and then permanent relief by the use of a combination of simple laxative herbs with pepsin sold by druggists under the name of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. The laxative herbs act on the bowels and the pepsin and extracts on the digestive tract, forming an exceptionally effective laxative-tonic.

It is a combination that has been found wonderfully helpful in indigestion, constipation, biliousness, headaches, bad breath, belching and gas on the stomach. A small dose is all that is required.

The druggist will refund your money if it fails to do as promised.

NO INCREASE
In spite of enormous increased laboratory costs due to the War the manufacturers of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin are sacrificing their profits and absorbing the war taxes, so that this family laxative may remain at the pre-war price of 50c and $1 a large bottle. So sold by druggists for 26 years

Dr. Caldwell's
SYRUP PEPSIN
The Perfect Laxative

FREE SAMPLES — Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is the largest selling liquid laxative in America. If you have never used it, send your address for a free trial bottle to Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 468 Washington St., Monticello, Ill. If you have babies in the family send for a copy of "The Care of the Baby."