

BRITISH GO AFTER TRADE IN SWEDEN; U.S. FIRMS ROUSED

Not Now Question of Shipping but One of Credit Extended to the Scandinavian Countries.

By Hal O'Flaherty
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Stockholm, Dec. 20.—The announcement in London that a delegation representing 1800 British business firms is coming to Sweden to establish bureaus in various cities has aroused Americans here to a serious trade situation. Under present conditions American firms are unable to compete with their English rivals. If President Wilson's assertion that exports must be built up is the prelude to any action along that line, it is high time that attention be paid to possibilities in the Scandinavian countries. At least half a dozen Americans here have expressed to me their hopelessness over competition with Great Britain either in Sweden or Norway.

It is no longer a matter of shipping, but one of credit, which must be extended by American firms. Until last month, six months Sweden had had the advantage of the exchange and her business men have been willing to place large orders with American firms without asking for three or six months' time in which to pay. Now that the exchange has placed the Swedish crown so low as compared with the dollar, they are turning to England. But if American firms are willing to extend credit they will get a good share of the trade. To offset the work of the British efforts to capture the Scandinavian markets, it would be highly encouraging to those who want to let contracts to American firms if they were given powers to arrange credits and to insure the delivery of the goods in a reasonable time after they come over from America.

COULD DOUBLE BUSINESS
For instance, if exporters in the Chicago region could appoint a representative who understood the Middle Western time payments, he could double the business of every firm in that area. I have represented, in a recent cable pointed out the suspicion attaching to orders, but had not fulfilled their contracts. Swedish buyers are not going to get over this doubtful mood unless they have proof of every American exporter's trustworthiness. A responsible commission working here over a period of several months could reinvigorate American products and extend the trade enormously.

Besides the immediate results there is a great future in store for those who establish connections in Scandinavia before the great sweep of trade begins toward Russia. Every business man and every workman in this part of the world wants to see normal conditions restored to the east. They want trade routes reopened and commercial relations built up. Within six months after peace is settled with Russia the whole world will feel the effects of the booming trade, for the eastern countries will not deal in money; they will deal in exchange of products.

WHERE AMERICA LOSES
To Sweden, Denmark and Norway will come enormous quantities of raw material, grains and manufactured articles for which they will pay with shipments of luxuries long. These luxuries might as well come from America as from England. In fact, there is an evident preference for American goods. This market is open to the American who wants to meet the buyers half way and give them time settlements with full opportunity to take advantage of new conditions.

Germany's Children Face Drear Holiday As Mark Declines

By George Witte
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Berlin, Dec. 20.—It is a cheerless Christmas to which Germany's children are looking forward. With the mark at the lowest value in its history—one gets 4 marks for \$1—and necessities more expensive than ever, the average citizen would have little enough money left for Christmas presents even if the profiteers had not already cornered the Christmas market. A powerful group of unscrupulous merchants have bought up the Christmas trees, candy, fruits, nuts and cake and are now holding the public up for enormous prices, which are out of reach of the middle and poorer classes.

The municipality of Berlin is making an effort to brighten up the event for the "kiddies." It is announced that all children between the ages of 5 and 13 will receive a quarter of a pound of "Christmas bakery," which will be specially made and distributed during Christmas week.

He Had Some Name
London, Dec. 20.—(I. N. S.)—"King Edward Horsenal" was the name of a youth charged with unlawful possession of khaki uniforms.

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American Relief in Balkan States Is Now Going Ahead

By Hal O'Flaherty
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Stockholm, Sweden, Dec. 20.—After continuous delays during the past three months the American relief organization has at last begun systematic work among the suffering peasants and refugees in the Baltic states. A pioneer contingent of Young Women's Christian Association workers, brought to Sweden by Mrs. Ira Nelson Morris, wife of the American minister to Sweden, has just sailed for Helsingfors. The party expects to work southward and to use Stockholm as a base of supplies.

VIENNA IS FACING FEARFUL MISERIES

Austrians, Underfed for Five Years, Are in Wretched Condition, Says Prof. Lorenz.

By A. R. Decker
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.)
Vienna, Austria, Dec. 20.—Today I visited Professor Adolph Lorenz, the famous surgeon who is well remembered in Chicago. Like everyone else in Vienna the professor suffers from hardships and he has become thin. His conversation showed that the fate of Vienna is telling upon him.

"Vienna and the Viennese," he said, "are perishing in a sea of miseries. Hospital men are better placed than others to realize the depth of this ocean. Deep all over Europe it becomes fatherless over Vienna with its 2,000,000 people, most of whom were starving and freezing even before the dreaded winter set in. What will become of us when it is winter in full blast? Its grip on the population, which has been undernourished for five years, will be terrible and it would be quite erroneous to think that undernourishment and cold afflict only the so-called proletarian classes. On the contrary, these people, on account of their increased wages, are generally much better off than are the middle classes, who lived decently before the war but who have now become impoverished to the point of beggary. We see them trying in vain to conceal their distress under neatly kept but threadbare clothes.

"The eyes of the children of this class are not less sad nor are their faces less haggard than those of us when we see in cases of abject pauperism. Their flesh has shrunk, their color has faded and their bones have become softened by continued lack of proper food. We used to speak of 'hunger bones' which bend and break without a crack. We dare not perform useful operations upon these people lest the loss of blood kill them. As an eyewitness, I do not exaggerate in saying that this description applies to the children of pensioners, officers, officials and even to the offspring of many savants. All of us have become lean because we are forced to tramp great distances while working and tilling more than ever, and at the same time carefully husbanding our small food supply."

Last of Bus Girls
London, Dec. 20.—(I. N. S.)—London has seen the last of her girl bus conductors in knee skirts. Some 2400 were employed, stepping lightly and gracefully along the hazy roads of the morning and night. Their places have been taken by ex-soldiers.

GREAT RELIGIOUS REVIVAL SPREADS IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Clergy Not Interfered With by Reds, Although Government Is Opposed to Religious Orders.

By Isaac Don Levine
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.)
Copenhagen, Denmark, Dec. 20.—The soviet government is not interfering with the activities of the Russian church, although carrying on propaganda against religion generally. One of the most surprising things to visitors in soviet Russia is the overcrowding of all the churches. This religious revival is due to the intense suffering of the people, who see Russia's salvation only in God's mercy.

Before I left Moscow I saw posters prominently displayed all over the city announcing a talk by an evangelist on the topic, "Can One Live Without Christ?" From the crowds gathering in front of the posters it was obvious how deeply interested the people were in a religious question.

Recently the heads of the Petrograd clergy, Metropolitan Benjamin and Fathers Fedenski and Sirinski, called upon M. Zinoviev, president of the Petrograd soviet, and presented to him the following letter in the name of the church:

"The Petrograd church at present is alarmed by seemingly false, but persistent, reports of the expected wholesale arrests and deportation of the Petrograd clergy on account of their counter revolutionism or as hostages. Knowing the soviet government's policy towards the church, we do not believe these reports. The clergy cannot by their very nature be white or red. The clergy serve Christ and stand outside politics. If certain individual clergymen sought to engage in politics without the approval of the church and the civil authorities, they are naturally liable to bear the responsibility for their action. But the Petrograd clergy firmly uphold the decree separating church and state. We engage in religious activity exclusively, and religion in soviet Russia is not persecuted. In Petrograd where we work it is understood that the enforcement of the decree separating church and state need not offend or oppress believers for believing. We explain the reports of exiles in this regard by the fact that not everywhere do the soviet officials enforce their instructions correctly. The firm church policy of the soviet government has created among the clergy and their followers in the Petrograd church a sense of genuine loyalty towards this government."

The delegation then officially informed M. Zinoviev that the church authorities had decided to unmask any clergyman found supporting the cause of the whites fighting soviet Russia. In reply Zinoviev assured the delegation that no arrests among the clergy had ever been contemplated and expressed the hope that the clergy would adhere strictly to the decree separating church and state.

Irish Dairy Trade Shows Big Increase

By William H. Brayden
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
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Dublin, Dec. 20.—The meeting of the Irish Agricultural Organization society on December 11 reported an astonishing year's work. The total turnover of the society has risen from £1,500,000 (\$37,500,000) to more than £9,000,000 (\$45,000,000), the increase being mainly due to the livestock business. There are now 950 cooperative societies in being, and the circulation of the society's organ, edited by the well known Irish poet and economist, has increased by 50 per cent.

Belgian Leaders Are Confident America Will Join in League

By William H. Neach
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.)
Brussels, Belgium, Dec. 20.—"America's deliberations are America's affairs and we do not pretend to judge them, but in the end we hope devoutly that America will join us in a pact for the regeneration of the world," said Leon Bourgeois yesterday.

"We regret sincerely that we see no delegates from across the sea," added Baron Descamps. "I am sure that all here join me in a prayer that America will find a compromise which will enable her to enter the League of Nations."

These words were spoken in the Academy of Arts and Sciences in Brussels before a body of delegates from 19 different countries representing societies interested in the League of Nations.

RUSS GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO CHINA

Vigorous Protest Is Made Protesting Against Cancellation of Autonomy of Outer Mongolia.

By William H. Giles
Special Cable to The Journal and The Chicago Daily News.
(Copyright, 1919, by Chicago Daily News Co.)
Peking, Dec. 20.—The text of the Russian legation's protest concerning the cancellation of the autonomy of Outer Mongolia, as handed to the Chinese government by Prince Kudschief, reads:

"With reference to the decree published by the president on November 20 abrogating the agreements concerning Mongolian affairs which was concluded by Russia with China and Outer Mongolia in 1915, 1916 and 1918, I deem it my duty to make the following statement: Treaties between states cannot be cancelled by the one-sided action of one of the contracting parties. This is conceivable only in the case of the existence of a state of war. But war does not exist between Russia and China. On the contrary, they are bound by the bonds of an alliance. Russia therefore maintains her unquestioned right to determine her attitude on this question as soon as the government of the whole of Russia is resumed. It remains beyond doubt that whatever attitude China may adopt toward Mongolia, all the rights in Outer Mongolia belonging to Russia—the citizens of which founded the above mentioned agreements—must remain intact and unscathed until consent to a modification is given by a Russian government duly recognized and fully authorized to do so."

Based on international law the note is considered dignified yet reserving for future action Russia's rights in the matter. The cancellation of Mongolia's

autonomy is a plot of the militaristic clique which does not care how China appears in the eyes of foreigners as the bearer up of treaties or what future complications may arise.

Suppressed Nihil Appeal
Rome, Dec. 2.—(By Mail.)—Considerable bitterness is expressed in official circles and the non-socialist press over the policy of the socialist newspaper Avanti, which alone among the Italian journals suppressed Premier Nitti's circular to the prefects and municipal authorities appealing for stringent economy and greater production.

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