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Edward F. Trefz, formerly assistant to Herbert Hoover, will be one of the principal lecturers at Chautauqua this year. He was sent overseas in 1918 by Hoover as a member of the American Food Mission to investigate food conditions in France, Belgium and England. On his return he gave to audiences in a hundred cities one of the most vivid and graphic descriptions of the European situation and the need for conservation.

RUSSIA IS HUNGRY BUT NOT STARVING

"Butcher Row" Flourishes; Executions Fail to Rule Quiet Deals.

BY FRANK J. TAYLOR (United Press Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, July 4.—Russia is not starving to death, as reports indicate. Parts of Russia are hungry, some people are starving, but still others are over-fed. As in the days of the old regime, Russia is the land of extremes, in food as in everything else.

In the public markets, along the streets of Moscow, you can buy practically any kind of food you want. You can get any quantity you are willing to pay for. The famous Moscow "Butcher Row" flourishes as never before with plenty of fresh meat for those who have money.

The soviet government once forbade the sale of food in these open markets on the ground that it was capitalistic exploitation. At once food became more scarce and prices soared unbelievably. Business continued "good" though not "as usual"—it was conducted on the quiet.

But, sell on quiet. Executions and other favorite forms of punishment failed to end buying and selling on the quiet, and the bolsheviks finally adopted a policy of ignoring private business in food.

It was found that suppression of open sale of food had a decided effect on public morale. People became hostile and gloomy when they could not buy if they had the money.

The soviet government aims to supply the people with food at co-

operatives which sell a limited amount on the card system for official prices. The difficulty is getting enough to sell to the people to keep them alive. At present there is not enough.

The government, through its co-operatives, is forced to pay exorbitant prices to get food for the people. Peasants will not sell their products unless they can be paid in gold or old regime money unless they are paid enormous amounts.

Now the government is selling much of its goods at prices lower than cost. The deficit is made up by printing more money. But even fabulous prices fail to secure enough, and people are forced to rely upon the open market, provided they have money.

It is forbidden to bring food from the country to the city privately. The government is supposed to have a monopoly on food commerce. Guards at the depots examine everyone's baggage, to see that each traveler carries only food for himself.

Commerce Uncontrolled.

There is sugar from the Ukraine, apple from Crimea, eggs, milk, cheese and meat from the nearer country and other products. The government with all its diligence cannot control commerce.

Prices are sky-high. In Moscow an apple costs twenty-five rubles. A ruble formerly corresponded to the American quarter. Now it is worth five or six cents. Bolsheviki rubles are plentiful.

A few Moscow prices are: cheese sixty rubles per pound; butter, forty; lemons, sixty; milk, twelve (pint per pint); meat, sixty; sugar, eighty; bacon, one hundred; potatoes, fifteen rubles per pound.

Petrograd prices are higher. Some of them are: butter, two hundred rubles per pound; one egg, twenty-five; sugar, two hundred; sauer kraut, twenty-five; pork, one hundred; and eighty; bacon, two hundred; bread, seventy-five; white flour, thousand rubles or more per pound.

Getting food into cities pays big money. Much ingenuity is shown. Probably the greatest profiteers are the railroad people. They are amassing fortunes. A number of times along the railroad the train will stop at the edge of a small town or even in a field.

The engineer and brakeman make a dash for the nearest house and come running back with sacks of food, which they hide usually in the locomotive. Other members of the train crew also stock up, often holding a train for fifteen or twenty minutes to buy food from farmers.

It is seldom that trains are examined, and railroad employees are able to smuggle their goods to merchants under cover of darkness. Both the railroaders and the merchants make from five hundred to a thousand per cent on their money. Railroad jobs are in demand.

Restaurants "banned." Theoretically restaurants catering to the general public are under the ban. You are supposed to be assigned to a certain place to eat all of your meals, if you do not have a family and live at home. The city commissaire assigns you. If you do not like it, you can lump it.

As a matter of fact, restaurants do run in quiet spots, even in Moscow. You can get a surprisingly good meal, sufficient in quantity and quality. Soup, meat, vegetables, dessert and coffee in one of these places costs you a hundred and twenty-five rubles.

But you can get enough provided you have the money. In the country prices are far better. At railroad stations along the lines other than the Moscow-Petrograd route you can buy milk, boiled eggs, cheese, butter and bread from the peasants at prices that are not unreasonable provided, you are benefiting by the exchange from American to Russian money.

The big problem is with the poor of the big cities. They cannot get enough at the co-operatives, even those who get the full hard workingman's ration, which is allowed to growing children, also. The light worker's ration is still worse, and the bourgeois allowance is not enough to keep one in health.

Despite the steadily increasing wages, people who do not have some "graft" or outside means of getting money are hard hit. In Petrograd especially. In other parts of Russia, even Moscow, people look sufficiently fed. The country has plenty, but it cannot be brought to the cities, owing to the military demands on the railroads.

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