

BELGIANS FORCED TO AID GERMANS

Kaiser's Officers Showed Open Disregard of International Law.

WORKMEN SEIZED AS SLAVES

Cardinal Mercier Moved to Bitter Condemnation of Acts of German Authorities Which Aroused Detestation of Christendom.

Contrary to rules laid down by the Hague convention, and all principles of civilized warfare, German authorities forced Belgians to aid them in the prosecution of the war. The committee on public information gives the facts concerning these atrocious deeds in a pamphlet recently made public, from which we take the following:

October 12, 1915, the German authorities took a long step in the development of their policy of forcing the Belgians to aid them in prosecuting the war. The decree of that date reveals the matter and openly discloses a contempt for international law.

"Article 1. Whoever, without reason, refuses to undertake or to continue work suitable to his occupation, and in the execution of which the military administration is interested, such work being ordered by one or more of the military commanders, will be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year. He may also be transported to Germany.

"In violating Belgian laws or even international conventions to the contrary, can, in no case, justify the refusal to work.

"Article 2. Any person who by force, threats, persuasion, or other means attempts to influence another to refuse work as pointed out in Article 1, is liable to the punishment of imprisonment not exceeding five years.

"Article 3. Whoever knowingly by means of aid given or in any other way abets a punishable refusal to work, will be liable to a maximum fine of 10,000 marks, and in addition may be condemned to a year's imprisonment.

"If communes or associations have rendered themselves guilty of such an offense the heads of the communes will be punished.

"Article 4. In addition to the penalties stated in Articles 1 and 3, the German authorities may, in case of need, impose on communes, where without reason, work has been refused, a fine or other coercive police measures.

"This present decree comes into force immediately.

"Der Etappensakteur,
"VON UNGER,
"Generalleutnant.

"Ghent, October 12, 1915."
"Slavery," said Cardinal Mercier. Cardinal Mercier's brief comment is as follows: "The injustice and arbitrariness of this decree exceed all that could be imagined. Forced labor, collective penalties and arbitrary punishments, all are there. It is slavery, neither more nor less."

Cardinal Mercier was in error, for the German authorities were able to imagine a much more terrible measure. In October, 1916, when the need for an additional labor supply in Germany had become urgent, the German government established the system of forced labor and deportation which has aroused the detestation of Christendom. The reader will not be misled by the clumsy effort of the German authorities to mask the real purpose of this decree.

"I. People able to work may be compelled to work even outside the place where they live, in case they have to apply to the charity of others for the support of themselves or their dependents on account of gambling, drunkenness, loafing, unemployment or idleness.

"II. Every inhabitant of the country is bound to render assistance in case of accident or general danger, and also to give help in case of public calamities as far as he can, even outside the place where he lives; in case of refusal he may be compelled by force.

"III. Anyone called upon to work, under Articles I or II, who shall refuse the work, or to continue at the work assigned him, will incur the penalty of imprisonment up to three years and of a fine up to 10,000 marks, or one or other of these penalties, unless a severer penalty is provided for by the laws in force.

"If the refusal to work has been made in concert or in agreement with several persons, each accomplice will be sentenced, as if he were a ringleader, to at least a week's imprisonment.

"IV. The German military authorities and military courts will enforce the proper execution of this decree."
"THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, SAUBERZWEIG.
"Great Headquarters, 3d October, 1916."

Military Rulers Responsible.
The responsibility for this atrocious program rests upon the military rulers of Germany, who had labored so zealously to infect the army and the people with the principles of ruthlessness. It is significant that the decree of October 3, 1916, followed hard upon the elevation of Hindenburg to the supreme command with Ludendorff as his chief of staff. In his long report of January 10, 1917, Minister Whitlock

says: (On file in state department.) "Then, in August, Von Hindenburg was appointed to the supreme command. He is said to have criticized Von Bissing's policy as too mild; there was a quarrel; Von Bissing went to Berlin to protest, threatened to resign but did not. He returned, and a German official here said that Belgium would now be subjected to a more terrible regime—would learn what was was. The prophecy has been vindicated. Recently I was told that the drastic measures are really of Ludendorff's inspiration; I do not know. Many German officers say so."

If Von Bissing had opposed the policy of deportation when his own judgment was overruled, he consented to become the "devil's advocate" and defended the system in public. Especially instructive is the following conversation reported by Mr. F. C. Wallcott:

"I went to Belgium to investigate conditions, and while there I had opportunity . . . to talk one day with Governor General Von Bissing, who died three or four weeks ago, a man seventy-two or seventy-three years old, a man steeped in the system, born and bred to the hardening of the heart which that philosophy develops. There ought to be some new word coined for the process that a man's heart undergoes when it becomes steeped in that system.

"I said to him, 'Governor, what are you going to do if England and France stop giving these people money to purchase food?'

"Von Bissing Relied on Starvation." "He said, 'We have got that all worked out and have had it worked out for weeks, because we have expected this system to break down at any time.'

"He went on to say, 'Starvation will grip these people in thirty to sixty days. Starvation is a compelling force and we would use that force to compel the Belgian workmen, many of them very skilled, to go to Germany to replace the Germans, so that they could go to the front and fight against the English and the French.'

"As fast as our railway transportation could carry them, we would transport thousands of others that would be fit for agricultural work, across Europe down into southeastern Europe, into Mesopotamia, where we have huge, splendid irrigation works. All that land needs is water and it will blossom like the rose.

"The week remaining, the old and the young, we would concentrate opposite the firing line, and put firing squads back of them, and force them through that line, so that the English and French could take care of their own people."

"It was a perfectly simple, direct, frank reasoning. It meant that the German government would use any force in the destruction of any people not its own to further its own ends."—Frederick C. Wallcott, in National Geographic Magazine, May, 1917.

A brief general view of the character of the deportations can perhaps be gained best from the report of Minister Whitlock.

"The deportations began in October in the Etape, at Ghent, and at Bruges, as my brief telegrams indicated. The policy spread; the rich industrial districts of Hainaut, the mines and steel works about Charleroi were next attacked; now they are seizing men in Brabant, even in Brussels, despite some indications and even predictions of the civil authorities that the policy was about to be abandoned.

[The etapes were the parts of Belgium under martial law, and included the province of western Flanders, part of eastern Flanders, and the region of Tournai. The remainder of the occupied part of Belgium was under civil government.]

Pitiable and Distressing Scene.
"During the last fortnight men have been impressed here in Brussels, but their seizures here are made evidently with much greater care than in the provinces, with more regard for the appearances. There was no public announcement of the intention to deport but suddenly about ten days ago certain men in towns whose names are on the list of chomeurs received summons notifying them to report at one of the railway stations on a given day; penalties were fixed for failure to respond to the summons and there was printed on the card an offer of employment by the German government, either in Germany or Belgium. On the first day out of about 1,500 men ordered to present themselves at the Gare du Midi about 750 responded. These were examined by German physicians and 300 were taken. There was no disorder, a large force of mounted Uhlans keeping back the crowds and barring access to the station to all but those who had been summoned to appear. The commission for relief in Belgium had secured permission to give to each deported man a loaf of bread, and some of the communes provided warm clothing for those who had none and in addition a small financial allowance. As by one of the ironies of life the winter has been more excessively cold than Belgium has ever known it, and while many of those who presented themselves were adequately protected against the cold, many of them were without overcoats. The men shivering from weeping wives and children, the barriers of brutal Uhlans, all this made the scene a pitiable and distressing one.

"It was understood that the seizures would continue here in Brussels, but on Thursday last, a bitter cold day, those that had been convoked were sent home without examination. It is supposed that the severe weather has moved the Germans to postpone the deportations."

"Your excellency will appreciate how painful for me would be the weight of the responsibility that I would have to bear as regards these families, if the confidence which they have given you through my agency and at my request were lamentably deceived."

"I persist in believing that this will not be the case."
"Accept, Mr. Governor General, the assurance of my very high consideration."
"D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,
"Arch. of Malines."

Municipal governments in Belgium appealed to the German authorities to observe their promises. The two doc-

GERMAN HONOR DRAGGED IN DUST

Solemn Promises Made to Belgians Proved to Be Worse Than Worthless.

ALL APPEALS WERE FLOUTED

Pathetic and Dignified Supplications of Municipal Governments Answered by Rebuke and Heavy Fine Imposed by General Hopper.

Over the earnest protest of Cardinal Mercier, heroic head of the church in Belgium, the terrible plans of the Kaiser's high officers concerning the deportation of the people were carried out. The solemnly pledged word of the German governor general of Belgium counted as nothing in the malignant hate shown by the Kaiser's creatures.

Cardinal Mercier attempted to persuade the German authorities to abandon their terrible plans for the seizure of Belgians to assist in the prosecution of the war, reminding them of their solemn promises in the past:

"Malines, 19th October, 1916.
"Mr. Governor General:

"The day after the surrender of Antwerp the frightened population asked itself what would become of the Belgians of age to bear arms or who would reach that age before the end of the occupation. The entreaties of the fathers and mothers of families determined me to question the governor of Antwerp, Baron von Huene, who had the kindness to reassure me and to authorize me in his name to reassure the agonized parents. The rumor had spread at Antwerp, nevertheless, that at Liege, Namur, and Charleroi young men had been seized and taken by force to Germany. I therefore begged Governor von Huene to be good enough to confirm to me in writing the guarantee which he had given to me orally, to the effect that nothing similar would happen at Antwerp. He said to me immediately that the rumors concerning deportations were without basis, and unhesitatingly he sent me in writing, among other statements, the following: 'Young men have no reason to fear that they will be taken to Germany, either to be there enrolled in the army or employed for forced labor.'

"This declaration, written and signed, was publicly transmitted to the clergy and to those of the faith of the province of Antwerp, as your excellency can see from the document enclosed herewith, dated October 10th, 1914, which was read in all the churches.

Solemn German Promises Broken.
"Upon the arrival of your predecessor, the late Baron von der Goltz, at Brussels I had the honor of presenting myself at his house and requested him to be good enough to ratify for the entire country, without time limit, the guarantees which General von Huene had given me for the province of Antwerp. The governor general retained this request in his possession in order to examine it at his leisure. The following day he was good enough to come in person to Malines to bring me his approval, and confirmed to me, in the presence of two aides-de-camp and of my private secretary, the promise that the liberty of Belgian citizens would be respected.

"To doubt the authority of such undertakings would have been to reflect upon the persons who had made them, and I therefore took steps to allay, by all the means of persuasion in my power, the anxieties which persisted in the interested families.

"Notwithstanding all this, your governing class more than any other has been forced to undergo the most bitter trials, experiencing misery and often hunger, while its children far away fight and die, and the parents of these children can never convey to them the affection with which their hearts are overflowing.

Pathetic Appeal Disregarded.
"Our laboring class has endured everything with the utmost calm and the most impressive dignity, repressing its sufferings, its complaints and heavy trials, sacrificing everything to its ideal of liberty and independence. But the measures which have been announced will make the population drain the dregs (of the cup) of human sorrow; the proletariat, the poor upon whom unemployment has been forced, citizens of a modern state, are to be condemned to forced labor without having disobeyed any regulation or order.

"In the name of the families of workmen among which the most painful anxiety reigns at present, whose mothers, whose fiancées, and whose little children are destined to shed so many more tears, we beg your excellency to prevent the accomplishment of this painful act, contrary to international law, contrary to the dignity of the working classes, contrary to everything which makes for worth and greatness in human nature.

"We beg your excellency to pardon our emotion and we offer you the homage of our distinguished consideration."
(Appended are signatures of members of the national committee and the Commission Syndicale.)
Von Bissing in his reply, November 3, practically admitted the truth of the complaint by attempting to justify the measures protested against.

Mercier's Moving Appeal.
"In the name of the liberty of domicile and the liberty of work of Belgian citizens; in the name of the inviolability of families; in the name of moral interests which the measures of deportation would gravely compromise; in the name of the word given by the governor of the Province of Antwerp and by the governor general, the immediate representative of the highest authority of the German empire, I respectfully beg your excellency to be good enough to withdraw the measures of forced labor and of deportation announced to the Belgian workmen, and to be good enough to reinstate in their homes those who have already been deported.

"Your excellency will appreciate how painful for me would be the weight of the responsibility that I would have to bear as regards these families, if the confidence which they have given you through my agency and at my request were lamentably deceived."

"I persist in believing that this will not be the case."
"Accept, Mr. Governor General, the assurance of my very high consideration."
"D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,
"Arch. of Malines."

Municipal governments in Belgium appealed to the German authorities to observe their promises. The two doc-

uments which follow illustrate Belgian appeals and German answers.

"In the matters of the requisition made by the German authorities on October 20, 1916 (requisition of a list of workmen to be drawn up by the municipality)

"The municipal council resolves to maintain its attitude of refusal.

"It further feels it its duty to place on record the following:

"The city of Tournai is prepared to submit unreservedly to all the exigencies authorized by the laws and customs of war. Its sincerity cannot be questioned. For more than two years it has submitted to the German occupation, during which time it has lodged and lived at close quarters with the German troops, yet it has displayed perfect composure and has refrained from any act of hostility, proving thereby that it is animated by no ill-spirit of bravado.

"In his declaration dated September 2, 1914, the German governor general of Belgium declared: 'I ask none to renounce his patriotic sentiments.'

"The city of Tournai reposes confidence in this declaration, which it is bound to consider as the sentiment of the German emperor, in whose name the governor general was speaking. In accepting the inspiration of honor and patriotism, the city is loyal to a fundamental duty, the loftiness of which must be apparent to any German officer.

"The city is confident that the straightforwardness and clearness of this attitude will prevent any misunderstanding arising between itself and the German army."

Answer is Lecture and Fine.
"Tournai, 23rd October, 1916.

"In permitting itself, through the medium of municipal resolutions, to oppose the orders of the German military authorities in the occupied territory, the city is guilty of an unexampled arrogance and of a complete misunderstanding of the situation created by the state of war.

"The 'clear and simple situation' is in reality the following:

"The military authorities order the city to obey. Otherwise the city must bear the heavy consequences, as I have pointed out in my previous explanations.

"The general commanding the army has inflicted on the city—on account of its refusal, up to date, to furnish the lists demanded—a punitive contribution of 200,000 marks, which must be paid within the next six days, beginning with today. The general also adds that until such time as all the lists demanded are in his hands, for every day in arrears, beginning with December 31, 1916, a sum of 20,000 marks will be paid by the city.

"HOPFER, Major General,
"Etappen-Kommandant."

The Commission Syndicale of Belgian workmen also attempted to induce the German authorities to abandon their terrible plans.

Recited Wrongs of Workmen.
"Commission Syndicale of Belgium,
"Brussels, 30th Oct., 1916.
[To the Governor General of Belgium.]

"Excellency: The measures which are being planned by your administration to force the unemployed to work for the invading power, the deportation of our unhappy comrades which has begun in the region of the etapes, move most profoundly the entire working class in Belgium.

"The undersigned, members and representatives of the great central socialist and independent syndicates of Belgium, would consider that they had not fulfilled their duty did they not express to you the painful sentiment which agitate the laborers and convey to you the echo of their touching complaints.

"They have seen the machinery taken from their factories, the most diverse kind of raw materials requisitioned, the accumulation of obstacles to prevent the resumption of regular work, the disappearance one by one of every public liberty of which they were proud.

"For more than two years the laboring class more than any other has been forced to undergo the most bitter trials, experiencing misery and often hunger, while its children far away fight and die, and the parents of these children can never convey to them the affection with which their hearts are overflowing.

Pathetic Appeal Disregarded.
"Our laboring class has endured everything with the utmost calm and the most impressive dignity, repressing its sufferings, its complaints and heavy trials, sacrificing everything to its ideal of liberty and independence. But the measures which have been announced will make the population drain the dregs (of the cup) of human sorrow; the proletariat, the poor upon whom unemployment has been forced, citizens of a modern state, are to be condemned to forced labor without having disobeyed any regulation or order.

"In the name of the families of workmen among which the most painful anxiety reigns at present, whose mothers, whose fiancées, and whose little children are destined to shed so many more tears, we beg your excellency to prevent the accomplishment of this painful act, contrary to international law, contrary to the dignity of the working classes, contrary to everything which makes for worth and greatness in human nature.

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Von Bissing in his reply, November 3, practically admitted the truth of the complaint by attempting to justify the measures protested against.

WOMEN ANSWER FOOD QUESTIONS

BLANKS DISTRIBUTED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE GIVEN TO FIVE BEND WOMEN—WILL AID IN REPORT.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Five questionnaires will be filled out by Bend housewives for use in compiling a survey of the food situation in the United States. Of the 400 question blanks being sent in from Oregon to the State Relations Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, Bend has been allotted this number, which have been distributed by Mrs. A. F. Larson to Mrs. J. M. Lawrence, Mrs. A. Whisnant, Mrs. Carl Johnson, Mrs. R. S. Linton and Mrs. C. M. McKay. The blanks were left here by Mrs. J. D. McComb, of the Oregon Agricultural College, who was in Bend early this week in the interest of the food administration.

A report of the food consumed in 1917 is to be made up with the idea of finding out just how much one family uses, how much it costs and what is now on hand. It is divided up into the following sections: Meats preserved for home use, fruits, vegetables and eggs preserved for home use, milk, household inventory and consumption record. A family record on the back includes information as to how many people are in the household, their ages, occupations and incomes.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Deschutes County. In the Matter of the Estate of Susan E. Benson, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that Mary A. Benson, executrix of the last will and testament of Susan E. Benson, deceased, has made and filed with the Clerk of the County Court of Deschutes County, Oregon, the final account of her administration of said estate, and that the Honorable County Judge of said Deschutes County has set Monday, the 4th day of March, 1918, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the Court Room in Bend, Oregon, as the time and place of hearing the final settling of said estate, and all persons interested are cited to appear at said time and place and show cause, if any, why said account should not be allowed.

Dated this 29th day of January, 1918.
MARY A. BENSON,
Executrix of the last Will and Testament of Susan E. Benson, Deceased.
48-51p

NOTICE OF SALE OF ESTRAY.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an order of the Justice of the Peace for Bend District, made and entered the 23rd day of January, 1918 the following described vicious estray animal, to-wit: One red steer, two years old, with split on the underside of the left ear and a blotch brand on left side near the backbone; will be sold at public auction by the Constable of Bend District, to satisfy the damages, costs of keeping, and all expenses incurred, including Justice fees and cost of advertising, and sale, at my ranch situated about two miles east of Bend, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon of Saturday, the 16th day of February, 1918.
48-49c P. H. DENCER.

NOTICE OF CONTEST.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Lakeview, Oregon, January 21, 1918.
To Howard Wallace, of Canby, Oregon, contestee: You are hereby notified that Eldon P. Swank, who gives Brothers, Oregon, as his postoffice address, did on December 16, 1918, file in this office his duly corroborated application to contest and secure the cancellation of your Homestead Entry, Serial No. 04641, made May 15, 1911, for S½ of Section 4, Township 21 S., Range 18 E., Willamette Meridian, and as grounds for his contest he alleges that:

1. I am informed and believe and therefore state that the said Howard Wallace has never been upon said land since the day he filed on same in May, 1914, and that he has been absent from said land ever since and more than six months last past and that he has entirely abandoned the same and does not intend to ever return to said land; that he has never made any improvements upon the land whatsoever and has never cultivated any of said land whatever, but entirely abandoned the land the day he filed on same.

2. That his said absence and abandonment was not and has not been due to his employment in the military branch of the U. S. Government, or service rendered in connection with operations in Mexico or along the borders thereof, or in mobilization camps elsewhere in the United States in any capacity or the National Guard of any of the several states, nor in the service of the U. S. in any capacity on account of the European war or in any other manner.

You are, therefore, further notified that the said allegations will be taken as confessed, and your said entry will be canceled without further right to be heard, either before this office or on appeal, if you fail to file in this office within twenty days after the

Fourth publication of this notice, as shown below, your answer, under oath, specifically responding to these allegations of contest, together with due proof that you have served a copy of your answer on the said contestant either in person or by registered mail.

You should state in your answer the name of the postoffice to which you desire future notices to be sent to you.

JAS. F. BURGESS, Register.
Date of 1st publication, Jan. 31, 1918
Date of 2d publication, Feb. 7, 1918
Date of 3d publication, Feb. 14, 1918
Date of 4th publication, Feb. 21, 1918
48-51p

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Deschutes County. In the Matter of the Estate of George W. McCallister, deceased.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, the executrix of the estate of George W. McCallister, deceased, that she has made and filed with the County Clerk of Deschutes County, Oregon, her final account of her administration of said estate, and that the Honorable Judge of said County Court has set Monday, the 25th day of February, 1918, at 10 o'clock of the forenoon of said day at the County Court Room in Bend, Oregon, as the time and place of hearing of said final account.

Dated this 22d day of January, 1918.
JULIA E. MCCALLISTER,
Executrix of the Estate of George W. McCallister, Deceased.
47-51c.

NOTICE.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Deschutes County. In the Matter of the Estate of Dan Dragich, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned was on the 5th day of November, 1917, duly appointed administrator of the estate of Dan Dragich, deceased. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present the same duly verified in the manner provided by law, to H. H. De Armond, O'Kane Building, Bend, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication hereof.

MIKE DRAGICH,
Administrator.
45-49c

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Lake County. In the Matter of the Partnership Estate of F. W. Silvertooth and Samuel A. Lester, the former now deceased.

Notice is hereby given that I, Samuel A. Lester, the duly appointed, qualified and acting administrator of the partnership estate of F. W. Silvertooth and Samuel A. Lester, the former now deceased, will, on and after the 31st day of January, 1918, sell at private sale for cash in hand the following described real property belonging to said estate, to-wit: The north half of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter, and the southeast quarter of Section twenty-eight (28), in Township twenty-two (22), south of Range nine (9) east, Willamette Meridian, in Crook County, Oregon.

Said real property to be sold subject to re-sale and confirmation in the same manner as other sales of real property made by executors and administrators.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of December, 1917.

SAMUEL A. LESTER,
Administrator of the Partnership Estate of F. W. Silvertooth and Samuel A. Lester, the former now deceased.

NOTICE OF CONTEST.

Department of the Interior, United States Land Office, Lakeview, Oregon, January 11, 1918.

To H. O. Sandin, of unknown address, contestee: You are hereby notified that Leo L. Weston, who gives Bend, Oregon, as his postoffice address, did on January 5, 1918, file in this office his duly corroborated application to contest and secure the cancellation of your Homestead Entry, Serial No. 04641, made May 15, 1911, for S½ of Section 4, Township 21 S., Range 18 E., Willamette Meridian, and as grounds for his contest he alleges that:

1. I am informed and verily believe, and therefore state that you erected a one-room shack and a small barn shortly after filing upon said tract in May, 1911, that you resided upon said tract a part of the fall and winter of 1911 and 1912, and that you abandoned said tract in the spring of 1912, and have never returned. I further state that I have personally known said tract for upwards of one year last past; that during said year last past you have wholly abandoned said claim for more than one year last past; that you have never made any improvements upon said land, nor cultivated the same, nor any part thereof; except as above; that your alleged absence from and failure to cultivate said land was not due to your employment in the army, navy or marine corps, or other organization described in the act of July 28, 1917, or otherwise.

You are, therefore, further notified that the said allegations will be taken as confessed, and your said entry will be canceled without further right to be heard, either before this office or on appeal, if you fail to file in this office within 20 days after the fourth publication of this notice, as shown below, your answer, under oath, specifically responding to these allegations of contest, together with due proof that you have served a copy of your answer on the said contestant either in person or by registered mail.

You should state in your answer the name of the postoffice to which you desire future notices to be sent to you.
JAS. F. BURGESS, Register.
46-7-8-9c.
Date of 1st publication, Jan. 17, 1918.
Date of 2d publication, Jan. 24, 1918.
Date of 3d publication, Jan. 31, 1918.
Date of 4th publication, Feb. 7, 1918.