

# BIRTH RATE OF GERMANY DROPS WITH THE WAR

### Fatherland Becomes a Babyless Nation Declares Famous War Writer—Scientists Ordered to Find Solution to Save Nation's Life—Slaughter of Soldiers Threatens Future.

BY J. W. T. MASON.  
(Staff Special.)

NEW YORK, June 14.—If the great war lasts two and one-half years longer, babies will disappear almost completely, in Germany, unless the government devises measures to check the proportionate fall in birth rates during the first two years of the war. Germany is facing the greatest catastrophe that ever threatened a modern nation. An alarming decline of childhood is hovering over the land at home, while the obliteration of Germany's youth and manhood is occurring on the battlefields.

#### Race Recay Threatened.

Decay of the German race, because of insufficient replenishment from sources inside the country, is not a fantastic dream of Germany's enemies, but is a disquieting possibility of the future, which German scientists have been ordered by the government to investigate.

During 1915, German births fell by 20 per cent below the record for 1914, the year the war began, and according to figures which have just succeeded in passing the German censor, the decline in 1916 was about 40 per cent under the 1914 figures. The same steady fall in births, at the rate of 20 per cent additional yearly, would make the decline 100 per cent at the end of 1919, with the practical disappearance of babies from Germany.

It is not certain, as a matter of absolute fact, whether the light upon future German humanity would be wholly complete, for German statistics refer not to small country villages, but to cities of 15,000 or over.

#### Losses Since War.

It is possible the birth rate has not fallen so extensively in the agricultural districts; but if not, this is due to a large excess of illegitimate births. Russian prisoners of war are being extensively used to supply the war's deficit of agricultural laborers in Germany, and are understood to have usurped the places of husbands of German peasant women, who in many cases actually assisted in the capture of the Russians.

The German governing class realizes there is no future for Germany if it has to depend for its coming man power upon such unions as these. Ways must be devised to keep the cities well supplied with lusty youngsters if Germany is to play even a secondary part in the world.

Germany has lost 1,200,000 in dead since the beginning of the war, and 500,000 in men so badly injured as to be useless for serious work when the war ends. About 800,000 German youths reach military age yearly. Decline by 20 per cent of German births in 1915 means that 20 years thereafter there will be only 640,000 Germans of military age; and decline of 40 per cent of births in 1916 means that in 1936 no more than 480,000 Germans will be ready for the army.

#### 1,700,000 Killed in War.

To the 1,700,000 Germans killed or permanently injured since the beginning of the war, must be added 480,000 potential soldiers, who disappeared from the future army rolls in 1915 and 1916 thru not having been born. Militarism cannot exist without manpower; and there can be no adequate manpower for Germany with births declining in anything like the present proportion.

The birth decline, in fact, is the third great movement working to overthrow the Prussian militarist rulers—the two others being growth of democracy within Germany and pressure of the allied armies outside.

German sociologists and governmental professors are holding conferences thru the empire, trying to devise ways of restoring a normal number of births—but, to the present, without success.

The government is ready to offer financial rewards to parents of large families, but German scientists are not convinced this is the way to meet the problem.

#### Birth Rate Falling.

To encourage large families among the few who are willing to undertake the necessary sacrifice and responsibility is far less important than to persuade the great and middle class families of Germany to do their share toward keeping Germany populated by contributing two or three children each.

The Germans are not willing to do this under the present conditions of living. Since the Franco-Prussian



**The Flag**  
By Berton Braley  
Against the skies Old Glory flies,  
It never looked so bright,  
For now it seems as if its gleams  
With some strange inner light;  
As though each thread of white and red,  
Each filament of blue,  
Were spun of spiritual fire,  
The flame of that fine high desire,  
Which thrills the nation through.  
The flag on high it greets the eye  
And grips our hearts somehow,  
Though it has passed through struggles vast,  
Its proudest hour is now;  
Now 'tis unfurled to show the world  
That willingly we give  
Our lives, our all to Liberty,  
That after we have ceased to be,  
The flag, the flag may live!

war, there has been a fall, decade by decade, in the German birth rate. The increase in German population has been due, during that period, the reduction in the death rate, which the government has accomplished by hygienic improvements and better living conditions. But the present fall in the birth rate is accompanied by the greatest increase in the death rate due to the war, that the world has ever known.

When the soldiers return home from the trenches, there will be an improvement in the birth rate; but the call now is for ever more men for the front. Every German who is now killed means his elimination from the total of future German fathers—and fathers are Germany's most pressing demand of the future.

The only real solution for Germany is to end the war so the fathers of the future can return home.

If the war goes much longer, piling up ever increasing future poverty for Germans, there can be no satisfactory solution even after peace is declared. For, not only will an increasing number of potential fathers have been killed, but those who survive will be reluctant to assume parental cares with taxes so high and living conditions so unsatisfactory.

If the birth rate scientists report truthfully to the kaiser, they will say quick peace gives Germany her only chance of meeting this new enemy at home.

### REESE CREEK RIPLETS

Mr. Robertson and sons had Mr. Debeck's engine and saw a few days last week sawing up some of their wood they cut last winter on Mr. Hammel's place.

Ellen McCabe visited Mary Robertson one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jackson called at Mr. Robertson's last Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Robertson called on Mrs. Watkins last Thursday.

Merle and Fern Jacks visited at their grandparents' most of last week.

Lloyd French and Pearl Stowal visited at Mr. Vestal's Sunday.

Mrs. Sam Courtney, Mrs. W. E. Hammel, Marshall Minter and the Misses Mina and Myrtle Minter called on Mr. and Mrs. H. Watkins.

The apples on some of the orchards are falling so fast they are almost thinning themselves.

Mr. McCabe began Monday in his orchard. Some of the workers are Ethel Egan, May French and Charles Jettlaw. They expect to begin at Mr. Jacks', that is the Willey orchard this week some time. Some of the workers engaged are Anna and Mary Robertson, Fay Perry and the Allen girls.

Wallace Bergman visited his mother, Mrs. Charno, Sunday night. He started this week to Washington to find a location.

Waymon Bergman, who is working at the Vilas ranch, visited his sister, Mrs. Will Crandall Sunday.

Weldon Yundel having driven his new car out to where his goats are herding near Reese creek, left his car in a by path while he and Frank Maxsona went to see the goats. After having been gone about half an hour, he returned to find his car reduced to ashes. Mr. Yundel phoned into Medford for a taxi to come out to meet him and take him home. They came out Saturday with a truck and took the remains of the car into Medford.

Miss Anna Robertson has been staying with her sister-in-law, Mrs. John Robertson of Eagle Point. Mrs. Robertson was just up from a bad

case of the measles, and since the night of the scare of Fish Lake dam, she has not been so well.

Mr. G. C. Griffin, the new missionary for this part of Oregon of the American Sunday School Union, came out in this community Saturday evening, stayed over night with Mr. and Mrs. H. Watkins, was at the Sunday school and gave a short interesting address, went from there to the Laurel Sunday school where he again preached. He is anxious to organize new Sunday schools where they are needed, as well as to aid those already organized. Mr. Griffin has taken Mr. Smith's place, who has not been well and unable to do the work. Al lare sorry to learn of Mr. Smith's poor health.

T. J. Pullens and mother, also Miss Anna and Miss Mary Robertson attended church in Ashland Sunday.

### BUTTE FALLS

G. W. Barker and family were at "Camp Nick" picnicking Sunday last. Bessie Chambers, Millie Patton, Etta and Norma Stewart and Charles Stewart and Chester Jones, went on a picnic to Camp Happy Sunday.

Ruper Gleeson came home Tuesday from Medford where he has been for several months.

Mrs. Louise Phillips of Fort Klamath is visiting her mother, Mrs. Obenchain this week.

Charles Patton returned to the ranch Wednesday after a few days visit at home.

Thomas O'Brien started across the mountains to Pelican Bay Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Mills and children and Mrs. James went to Medford Thursday and returned home Saturday.

Charles Stewart and Walter O'Brien went out to the valley Saturday to look for work.

Mrs. Ed Watson returned home from Medford Saturday where she has

been for some weeks at the hospital, recovering from an operation.

Millie Patton and Bessie Chambers went to Eagle Point Saturday.

E. A. Hildreth returned from the valley Saturday where he had been attending to business.

Miss Wilma Morris went out to Eagle Point Saturday.

Hila Abbott went to Eagle Point Saturday to visit her brother, Frank Abbott, and family.

Ira Tungate and wife moved up from Dugray Saturday and are settled in the Mills cottage.

Mr. and Mrs. Tungate of Jacksonville are visiting their sons, Ira and Jack this week.

Miss Nellie Smith and Frank Trefren went out to Medford Saturday.

T. W. Barker and family, Mrs. Bernice Barker and Vernon Jones went up on Elk creek Sunday and spent the day picnicking.

### ANTIOCH ITEMS

Mrs. Violet Ditsworth of Trail, who has been staying for sometime in Medford, is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Glass on her return.

A large number from Antioch attended the carnival during the past week, reporting a most enjoyable time of the season.

Miss Mattie Gordon of Beagle, who has been working in Medford, returned to her home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Chapman and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rodgers and family of Beagle all motored to Ashland Sunday, having a picnic dinner and enjoying the sights.

Mr. Abbott of Sams Valley left the first part of last week for Roseburg where he will work during the summer months.

Mrs. D. O. Frederick returned home Tuesday from Tillamook county, where she attended the funeral of her father, Mr. Ackley.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dean and family of the Willow Springs district were visiting relatives in Antioch Sunday. Mrs. Dean's mother, Mrs. Glass returned home with them for a few days' visit.

Mr. Norman is now working for Mr. Jesse Glass of Antioch.

Drien Glass is working for Mr. Peart of Central Point this month.

Mr. Bigham and sons and Frank Myers were gathering their cattle on the Table Rock range the past week to vaccinate them before taking them to the mountains.

Jack Walker and family who are living on the Fitz ranch, will move to Meadows district in the near future.

Theo. Glass of Antioch hauled an auto load of grain to Medford Saturday, breaking a spring of his car during the trip.

Mrs. Kincaid of California spent a week's visit with friends in Antioch leaving Saturday for California.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmunson and family, who have been living in Salem, Oregon, for the past year, returned to their mountain home this week.

Mrs. Abbott and daughter, Miss Zella Taylor, were visiting at the Chapman home Sunday.

Charles Centers purchased a couple of cows from the Riverdale ranch this week. Mr. Shenn helped him to drive them to his ranch in Sams Valley Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Doty, who have been residing at the Modoc orchards, have moved to the Plymhall ranch, east of Medford.

Jasper Rodgers of the Beagle store was trading in Central Point Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wyland and family of the meadows motored to Medford one day last week.

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