

WORLD FAMINE DESTROYS BASIS OF FOOD SUPPLY

Country Being Stripped of the Basis for Future—Fat Starvation Threatens—Situation is Desperate and Must be Met Quickly if We Are to Escape Disaster.

By HERBERT QUICK.

(Member of National Farm Loan Board.)

WASHINGTON, June 26.—There is a food crisis in the United States. Any one who denies this, shuts his eyes to obvious facts. Food scarcity is not the absence of food. In any civilized country food scarcity always shows itself in the high prices and never in the absolute absence of food. The laboring people of the United States, and people with small incomes are pinched today in the matter of food.

What is famine? It is nothing on earth but high prices carried to the point which makes it so hard to buy food that any large body of population cannot buy enough to properly feed themselves.

What is Famine?

Food was exported from Ireland during the worst periods of the great Irish famine. Food has always been exported from India during her worst famines.

What is the basis of our food supply?

It is the seed from which crops are grown, and the breeding animals of our flocks and herds, the hens, the geese, the ducks, the turkeys, the pigs, the cows, the goats and the ewes. These are the seed of our food crops and our food animals.

This country is today being stripped of the basis of its future food supply. The situation calls for rigorous governmental control of the breeding basis of our flocks and herds and the seed basis of our farm crops.

Fat is Necessary.

Milk and eggs contain a substance which all young animals must have or they cannot grow. Take away from our children the fat which is found in milk and in the yolk of eggs, and they will die, or they will be stunted. I have seen young animals which have been almost full grown kept down almost to their infant size by being deprived of this mysterious and wonderful substance which is found dissolved in the fats provided by the mother element of nature.

We hear of fat-starvation in Germany. This comes from the fact that the dairy cows of Germany were very largely killed off after the first year of the war.

An expert in foods told me the other day, at Memphis, Tennessee, that he expected milk to be 20 cents a quart next summer in the south, and I hear predictions of 40 cents a quart in various parts of the industrial north.

Starvation Threatens.

When such prices arrive, the fat-starvation of Germany will be repeated in this country, and when the dairy herds are reduced to the point of such scarcity as this, it will take years to build them up again.

Our dairy herds are being depleted in just that manner. Whole regions are being stripped of their breeding cows, because the high price of beef tempts the cattle owner to sell. He thinks of his \$100 or \$150 per cow today rather than of conserving his part of the future meat and milk supply of the country. These cows are going for beef. They are going by the thousands to slaughter houses to be canned. The heifer calves are being killed for veal.

Famine in Seeds.

There is already a famine in seeds over much of the country. In the south, the committees in charge of increased production are searching high and low for a bushel here and a bushel there of soy beans, cow peas, velvet beans, seeds of the various sorghums, California black-eyed peas, and many other seeds. They are parceling them out to the farmers whom they are inducing to plant as thinly as possible, so as to make the seeds cover the maximum amount of ground. A project is on foot to sow a million acres of wheat in each of the three states of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, but the southern wheat has been sold ahead of the harvest to the millers for food. That wheat is now going to market, and if the farmers of the south are to have the varieties of seed wheat which they must have, they must buy it back at starvation prices to seed their fields. In a trip over nine other states recently I found only two sorts of seed which were not scarce—corn and cotton.

Poultry Decreasing.

Go to any country railroad station in the United States, and you will find

on every platform crates full of laying hens, ducks and other poultry. If the country were actually starving, there is no one way in which so much animal food could be produced quickly as by multiplying our poultry flocks. I make the claim that if a census were made today of the poultry of the country, it would be found that it is decreasing instead of increasing.

Power must be lodged somewhere in the government to take hold of this matter with a strong hand, otherwise the present scarcity of food may reach the point where it will have to be called by a stronger name. Some one must have power to seize the seeds. Some one must have power to control the selling and slaughtering of female animals. We are setting up machinery for the control of a food administration. Unless seeds and female animals are conserved, this food administration will not save us from things which one dislikes to predict. The cows, hens, ewes and sows, and other breeding animals, are being turned into meat, in an endless and increasing stream.

Suck of World Famine.

The suck of the world is already moving to the mills. The tremendous suck of a world famine has caught the germinal elements of our food supply, and is sweeping it into the world's hungry maw. The way out is thru plain, prompt, effective, strong and wise administration of the seed elements of our fields, gardens, flocks and herds. There is no time to be lost.

COCCHI CONFESSES MORE DETAILS OF CRUGER MURDER

BOLOGNA, Italy, June 26.—The police authorities who are investigating the history of Alfredo Cocchi, the slayer of Ruth Cruger, in New York, brought to light the following additional details concerning him:

When he left Italy for the United States he was in love with Maria Magrini, a servant in the Cocchi family, according to the police. Soon after his arrival in New York Cocchi they say, wrote her that things were going well and promised to marry her at once if she would come to him. Notwithstanding the hesitation of her relatives the girl insisted on going to New York. A few weeks after her arrival, according to the police, Cocchi's bride wrote home, charging Cocchi with unfaithfulness. He was upbraided by his own relatives and those of his wife for failure to mend his ways. He wrote home humble confessions of his wrong doings, but urged his people to induce his wife to be less jealous of him.

Return a Surprise.

When Cocchi recently returned to Bologna, the police say, his relatives were surprised and even feared that something serious had occurred. In reply to questions, Cocchi said he had left New York because of the jealousy of his wife, and also that he desired to join the colors.

Shortly afterward a letter arrived from Cocchi's wife in which she is said to have asserted that Cocchi had eloped with a girl 18 years old, after borrowing Mrs. Cocchi's total possessions, fifteen dollars.

Cocchi denied the allegation. He told, however, about Miss Cruger going to his shop to have her skates sharpened.

During the examination, when Cocchi said he had sailed from New York on Feb. 17, the judge asked him to explain what he had done during the two days after his disappearance and time of sailing.

Sailed on Merchant.

Cocchi said that he had sailed aboard a British ship as a mechanic. The judge then pressed Cocchi more closely, and the prisoner even gave some details about the crime. He said he had partly smothered Miss Cruger to prevent her from shrieking, but as she had struggled he struck her. In falling, he added, Miss Cruger must have struck some vital spot because he suddenly discovered that she was dead.

In an attempt to conceal the crime, he carried the body into the cellar and buried it in a hole that had been used to store gasoline.

Later, according to the police, Cocchi said he spent two days and one night before sailing for Italy in the house of a priest in Carlton street, New York.

Riehl High Gun for the Day.

PORTLAND, June 26.—E. J. Chingren of Spokane, shooting from the 22-yard line, was the big star in the first day's shooting of the 33rd annual registered tournament of the Sportsmen's association of the northwest today. In the amateur class, Frank Troeh, of Vancouver, Wash., broke 145 out of 150, with Chingren dropping six and finishing with 144. F. C. Riehl of Tacoma, was high gun for the day with 147 out of 150, with L. H. Reid of Seattle turning in 146 out of 150.

AMERICA PLANS AIR PROGRAM TO WIN WAR

Great Aviation Fields Both Here and in France Nearly Ready—Congress Asked for Six Hundred Million as a Starter—Only Four Months Required to Train Aviator.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—Hearings on the government's \$600,000,000 aircraft program begun today before the senate military committee's subcommittee with Secretary of War Baker on the witness stand to advocate its adoption. A bill to authorize the program will be introduced in congress during the week.

By HOWARD E. COFFIN, Chairman, Aircraft Production Board of Council of National Defense.

WASHINGTON, June 26.—America's aviation program, which is being planned on a scale sufficient to sweep the German flyers out of the air and literally blind the German army, is already under way.

Congress will within the next few days be asked to appropriate \$600,000,000 to carry out these plans, but in the meantime the various branches of the federal government that deal with aviation are pushing the work of preparation on a large scale with money already appropriated.

Three Fields Being Constructed.

Three of the great aviation fields which the war department has planned are actually under construction; sites for the other six fields have been chosen and work on them will soon begin. Cadets are now in training at the preliminary training schools established in six representative engineering colleges and universities. Training planes have already been ordered and will be ready by the time the aviation fields are completed, and the instruction of the first group of 500 aviators will begin not later than August 1.

France and Great Britain, as well as our own experts, have made it plain they expect aircraft and aviators to be one of America's greatest contributions to winning the war. The government can now say it is actually embarked on the task of overcoming its present deficiency in military aviation. We believe the outlook promises a quick development of the enormous latent air resources of the United States which may be unprecedented in the military history of the world.

Up to America.

America is responsible for the invention of both the submarine and the aeroplane. In the development of both she has allowed Europe to outstrip her. It is for us to show we can yet surpass both our enemies and our allies in the development of these two great inventions which Americans first conceived.

It will surprise many people to know the United States has not only rushed plans for completion of a large number of aviation training schools in this country, but has selected a

site and let contracts for construction of a duplicate of the American standard two-squadron flying field in France to receive the first flyers graduated from the American fields.

It takes only four months to train a flyer. As America's new airmen finish their training they will embark for France. On French soil under French instructors and with French machines they will complete their preparation for work at the front.

Four Months' Training.

This training field in France will be entirely a product of American brains and American energy. The buildings will be constructed and the plans prepared by an American contracting firm with materials shipped from the United States.

Thousands of men are now engaged in preparation at the aviation fields at Dayton, O., Champagne, Ill., and Detroit, Mich. The government has made them emergency projects and nothing is being permitted to hamper their rapid construction. The work on these is being separately conducted and they will in no way interfere with the new army cantonments.

Work began more than two weeks ago on the big four squadron field at Dayton. It is significant that this field of 2500 acres, the largest of all, is on the site of the original field on which the Wrights developed their first successful aeroplane. The modest field of 86 acres in which the Wrights carried out their experiments is within the boundaries of the big, new government field.

Aviation Introduced.

The Dayton field, which is twice as big as any of the others, will accommodate 144 aeroplanes and 300 flyers can be trained there at one time. As the training period is just four months this means that this one field should graduate nearly 1000 flyers within a year. Including officers, enlisted men, instructors and mechanics, there will be 1700 or more persons at the school.

The instructors for these schools will be members of the aviation section of the regular army who have been at the Mexican border, and as fast as the cadets are trained a few of the most promising will be utilized for training newcomers.

America is launched on the greatest and most inspiring enterprise in the world's history, that of winning the war in the air. There are enormous obstacles in the way, but I am confident they can be surmounted.

The great American aerial navy is a certainty and its realization is not far distant.

FINN VOLUNTEERS LEAVING GERMANY

PETROGRAD, June 26.—The Russian Volla says that 3000 Finnish volunteers who formerly served in the German army are expected to attempt to enter Finland shortly. The border guard has been increased and strict orders have been issued. The newspaper regards the release by Germany of 3000 fighters in view of the great need of human material, as evidence of the very suspicious character of this emigration.

The central committee of the Finnish social democrat workmen's party has protested strongly against the non-admittance of the Finns to Finland.

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