FOOD RIOTS START IN DUTCH TOWNS

Men, Women and Boys Plunder Bakers' Carts and Shops

TROOPS FIRE INTO MOB

Ration of People in Holland Now Less Than That Allowed in Germany

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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The Hague, Sept. 20.

Rioting has again broken out in the larger towns of Holland, owing to the serious food conditions. Groups of men, women and boys pass through towns plundering bakers' carts and shops and demanding bread. Wagons of all kinds of foodstuffs are plundered and shop windows are broken.

The streets of The Hague, Amsterdam and Rotterdam are strongly patrolled by mounted police, and mounted troops have been sent into towns to help maintain order. Shopkeepers are again barricading their windows, to protect them.

In Amsterdam the infantry was called out and a number of volleys were fired, six persons being injured. Twenty-two were arrested. A mob stoned the soldiers, who fired on the crowd, and bricks were thrown from roofs. It is expected that much more serious disturbances will have to be coped with this winter by the authorities unless food conditions improve.

It is virtually impossible to live on the Government rations doled out on the "bone" system, and there is little to buy outside the distribution. The people's sufferings are ascribed in some foolish and unforeseeing Government and to the selfishness of the farmers, who have continued to export so much that the country is now barren of foodstuffs.

Dutch People Are Hungry

The people are now actually hungry. Potatoes are the main means of subsistence, and there are not enough of these. The ration of bad bread is hardly sufficient for a meager breakfast, which is eaten without coffee or tea. Half a pound of butter must suffice for two weeks for both the table and cooking. There is virtually no meat, although the "bone" system is supposed to make it possible to procure a quarter of a pound twice monthly. Fish also is distributed by the Government—about a pound to each person twice monthly.

Bread is much worse in quality and less in quantity than in Germany. The flour used for bread is not only moldy from having laid too long on the ships in America, but is now mixed with linseed, potato flour and various other indigestible ingredients to increase the quantity. It was first intended to use this adulterated flour only for cattle. A miller near Rotterdam recently refused to mill Government grain, owing to its bad quality.

The average rations are a half pound of cheese, a tenth of a pound of coffee, a half pound of butter every two weeks, also a half pound of sugar and a tenth of a pound of oatmeal or barley weekly. There has been virtually no meat for months. Eggs are now an event in the household, and in American money cost twenty-five cents each. Butter by back-door methods costs $2 a pound. Lard and what meat is obtainable are proportionately dear. Many workwomen are obliged to dispense with the midday meal, or else eat raw vegetables. They have nothing else to take with them. Good meals can still be obtained in the expensive restaurants, but the prices are exorbitant.

The Mayor of Amsterdam, interviewed by your correspondent on the food situation in Holland, said:

"The most serious problem is that of cereals. Bread is one of the principal articles of food for the laboring class in Holland. The present ration is quite insufficient and is less than half the normal consumption. In normal times all meals, except one daily, are bread meals.

"So far as cereals are concerned, we are in the hands of the United States, as our production has never reached further than half the quantity required, and in spite of all the efforts now being made could not be raised to anything near what is urgently required."

"What do you think of the situation for the coming winer?" the Mayor was asked.

Outlook for Winter Serious

"It will be very serious, indeed," he answered. "Owing to the lack of bread the consumption of potatoes has doubled. It is doubtful whether the present ration of eight pounds can be maintained throughout the winter and spring, but even if it is possible this ration would be insufficien t for most of the laboring class."

"What do the people live on at present?" your correspondent asked.

"They live on a small ration of bread and potatoes," the Mayor replied, "both rations being less than Germany's at present; no vegetables which are expensive; a quarter pound of cheese weekly, and very small quantities of oatmeal or barley, never more than a tenth of a pound a week. In the fall we hope to have a few beans and peas, but a ration never exceeding one meal weekly."

"What do you most need from America?"

"I think cereals, fodder and raw materials for margarine, either from the United States or our own colonies. If the Allies would allow us, we could get raw materials for margarine from our own colonies. If we do not get this we shall have to depend on our heavily reduced production of butter for all our fat requirements, and in consequence the ration of fat must again be reduced to less than half a pound fortnightly."

FRANCO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE FORMED ONLY FOR DEFENSE

Documents in Long-Promised Yellow Book Give French Estimates of What Germany Could Do in War and Contradict Statements of Michaelis

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, Sept. 20.

The French Government has released for publication the long-expected Yellow Book, containing the hitherto confidential diplomatic documents which reveal the origin and development of the Franco-Russian Alliance. Extracts from some of the more important documents given herewith are remarkable as showing the French estimates of just what Germany would or could do as a belligerent against France.

The Yellow Book consists of 107 letters consisting mostly of exchanges between the Quai d'Orsay and successive French ambassadors in Petrograd. It is divided into four chapters, dealing, respectively, with the origins of the Alliance, August, 1890, to January, 1892, an elaboration of the military convention between the two nations during 1892, the conclusion of the military convention in 1893 and the naval agreement between France and Russia of 1912.

The letters and notes attached to many of them constitute a diplomatic narrative of first-class political and historical importance.

The practical value the publication of these documents presents at this juncture will be realized when it is remembered that little more than a year ago the German Imperial Chancellor Michaelis, who had obtained power to examine the confidential archives of the Russian Government, revealed to the world the agreement concluded between the two Allied nations through M. Doumergue on the subject of the future eastern frontier of France. This document was used by the Germans in support of their allegation that the Franco-Russian alliance had been been arranged with the fundamental object of aggressive action against Germany.

Proves German Falsity

In order to prove beyond question the falsity of this, the then French Foreign Minister Ribot promised that confidential documents showing the history of the origin and development of the alliance would be published. This promise his successor, Pinchon, has now fulfilled.

The documents published prove beyond question: First, that the Franco-Russian alliance was directly caused by German pretensions to a hegemony of Europe, which left France and Russia no possible alternative except to unite in a defensive alliance; second, that there was no ground whatever for the German assertions that the alliance was entered into to enable France to reconquer Alsace-Lorraine; thirdly, that the alliance at first was not specially directed against Germany any more than against Austria or even England, as its aim was directed against no matter what combination of powers that might desire to disturb the status quo, and fourthly, that the French general staff in 1892 clearly foresaw and prepared for, as far as possible, what steps Germany would take and did take in anticipation of making the onslaught she launched on Europe in 1914.

It is impossible even to summarize the 107 documents contained in the new yellow book, which begins with dispatches to M. Ribot, the Foreign Minister, from M. De Laboulaye, the French ambassador to Petrograd, relating to a visit by General Boisdeffre to witness the Russian military maneuvers of 1890, and ends with a letter by M. Poi are to the Russian Foreign Minister Sazonoff, dated August, 1912, offering congratulations on the signing of the naval convention between the two countries.

Perhaps the most interesting of these documents at the present moment is a report by the French General, De Miribel, with the approval of M. de Freycinet, then French War Minister, which Foreign Minister Ribot forwarded February 4, 1902, to Count de Mountebello, French ambassador to Petrograd, to be handed to the Czar. This report reveals what was the original French view of the basis on which should be constructed the military convention with Russia, which was afterward on December 30, 1893, approved by the Czar and a few days later by the French Government.

General de Miribel's report was as follows:

"France and Russia being both animated by the same desire to preserve peace, the present note has been drawn up exclusively from the point of view of a defensive war, provoked by an attack of the forces of the Triple Alliance against either one or other of these two powers or against both at once.

"The note assumes that the two powers have decided to practice toward each other the principle of entire reciprocity; that is to say, if either one of them be attacked, the other will go to her help with every active means available.

"Rapidity being more than ever essential to conditions of success, active measures must be taken by both countries immediately the danger is known. Consequently the note assumes that mobilization will be simultaneous in France and Russia and that it will follow in a few hours the mobilizing of the forces of the Triple Alliance.

"As it does not appear that the other European powers will have taken an effective part in hostilities, calculations as to the military forces below refer only to the five countries, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, France and Russia.

"Section I. Germany will place on foot as field troops in the first line sixty-two infantry divisions grouped in army corps consisting of three or two divisions, which will be supported immediately by eleven divisions of landwehr to a total of seventy-three divisions of infantry, nine divisions of independent cavalry and 3564 guns, or 1,550,000 men, who would be concentrated at the frontier toward the fourteenth day. The remainder of the German forces will remain at first in German territory.

"Italy will place in the first line in addition to her Alpine troops nine army corps on a peace footing and four divisions of militia, making a total of twenty-two infantry divisions, twenty-two battalions of Alpine troops, two divisions of independent cavalry and 1092 guns, or 360,000 men, who would be concentrated near the Alps from the fifteenth day. The remainder of the Italian forces will at first be retained in Italian territory.

Austria's Forces 900,000 Men

"Austria will place in the first line fourteen army corps on a peace footing of three divisions, brought up to war strength, making a total of forty-two divisions of infantry, eight divisions of independent cavalry and 1766 guns, or 900,000 men, who would be concentrated on the Russian frontier from the sixteenth day as concerns the first ten corps, and from the twentieth to the twenty-fifth day for the last four. The remainder of the Austrian forces would be held within the frontiers at first, either to keep surveillance on Bosnia and Herzegovina or to guard military centers and home defense.

"The forces of the Triple Alliance in the first line therefore would be 137 infantry divisions with their divisional cavalry, nineteen divisions of independent cavalry and 6452 field guns, or a total of 2,810,000 men.

"France wil place in the first line very nearly the same force as Germany, and after having provided for the defense of Algiers, Tunis, and for home and coastal defense, will dispose of seventy-five divisions of infantry, seven divisions of independent cavalry, and 3370 guns, or 1,550,000 men, who would be concentrated at the frontiers from the fourteenth day.

"Russia will place on a field footing forty-eight infantry divisions re-enforced by twenty-one reserve divisions. After providing for the safety of her various frontiers, chiefly with her reserve divisions, Russia will have available twenty-two army corps of three divisions each, making a total of sixty-four infantry divisions of four battalions per regiment, twenty divisions of cavalry with an average of twenty-four squadrons per division, one half of which may be considered as having to be used as army corps cavalry, 80,000 Cossacks of second and third qualities and 3290 guns, 1,600,000 men, part of whom, owing to the big number of troops already in Poland, would be concentrated somewhat rapidly, but the concentration of the remainder of which would be at a rather later date, especially as concerns Cossacks of the third class."

HINTS AT ENEMY HAND IN ENDING PARLIAMENT

"Ex-Minister's" Letter in London Times Warns Against General Election in England

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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London, Sept. 20.—A sensation has been caused by a letter signed "Ex-Minister," published in the London Times, asking: "Are we all going mad?" The writer, whose identity is the subject of much guess work, Lord Rosebery's name being most frequently mentioned, considers that the immediate dissolution of Parliament would be a source of dissipation, and adds:

"In the midst of the terrible stress of this gigantic war, perhaps at the supreme crisis of this war, when we are straining every muscle and making every sacrifice to concentrate on the struggle for life or death, are we going to plunge Great Britain, and Ireland besides, into the disruptive chaos of a general election?—a general election with all its incalculable issues, its distraction from the only purpose, which signifies at this moment it would really seem a plan of our enemies or our invisible hand, whatever that limb may be."

The Times makes no comment on the letter, its publication of which arouses much speculation, for Lord Northcliffe has generally been understood to have been one of the strongest advocates of a general election this autumn.

U. S. FLIERS ATTACK BOCHES

150 Planes Swoop Down on Masses of Germans

By the United Press

London, Sept. 20.—One hundred and fifty American airmen swooped down on a road crowded with German soldiers during the advance into the St. Mihiel sector, dropping bombs and firing machine guns, according to stories of America's first personally conducted battle printed here.

The Germans were retreating along two main roads, the dispatch said. One of these was closed by American fire, and the Germans were all sent down the other, with the result that they were soon attacked by the Americans.

GERMANS OPENLY TALK OF REVOLT

Thousands Raise Fists Against Hindenburg, Declares Swedish Writer

COUNTRY IS DESPERATE

Offensive Cost 500,000 Lives, and Failed in Promise to End War

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Stockholm, Sept. 20.

Gustaf Sloesteen, a well-known author and German correspondent of the Gothenburg Handelsidning, who is known for his advanced pro-German views, has left Germany because the censor has prohibited him from telling the truth in his messages. Last night he spoke at a great meeting in Gothenburg.

"The time is graver than ever," he said, "and therefore one must tell the truth. One cannot keep silent when one has lived in Germany.

"At first we got the impression that the war was one of defense, but afterward we found out that it was a wild war of conquest, with the object of subjugating other peoples and creating an entire system of vassal States.

"Our own country has the greatest interest in the annihilation of a policy of vassal States. The world is longing for peace, and it is one's duty to tell the truth.

"Several times it has been declared in Germany that the war had reached the turning point. Last spring the soldiers in the trenches were filled with joy, hoping for peace within two months. Officers and staff were convinced of peace in the autumn after a German victory. There was no thought of a peace of conciliation. At that time it was high treason to speak of the restoration of Belgium.

"The German offensive cost half a million human beings. It was said that 'the offensive must be a success. Our last man is in it.'

"The Entente had reserves. On March 21 the offensive started, but was converted into a victory for the Entente. The reason was the falling off of the German reserves, their power declining from lack of food, while Foch was able to strike with many millions more than the Germans thought possible.

"This points to the failure of the German intelligence department and shows that the Germans have lost their superiority in the air. Already the Entente has from two to three times the number of airplanes, and when the Americans deliver flying machines in great numbers one can easily understand that the Central Powers cannot maintain their air service on a level with that of the Entente.

"The German people is strained to the utmost. The police in town and country are mobilized, and I myself have seen hunchbacks in uniform. Crime is increasing weekly, and in Berlin burglary is rife. Among those mobilized are youths of eighteen and men of sixty, and criminals.

"The morale of the soldiers is bad. Even after the offensive in May the soldiers had lost hope. They don't want to go back to the front. The military courts are working daily to sentence deserters."

In his journey to Kiel, the speaker said, he found railwaymen on strike, and the military train in which he traveled was derailed.

At present everywhere could be heard outspoken talk about revolution against Hindenburg, who six months ago was Germany's idol. Thousands of strong fists are now raised by people who condemn him. At present most Germans are ready to abstain from conquests in the east and also to discuss the cession of Alsace-Lorraine.

"Last autumn there was talk about a record harvest, but this was only pose. This year Germany has had a bad potato crop. In Rumania, the crops are failing, and from the Ukraine Germany cannot get many tons of commodities.

"In leading circles the prospect is feared, and by the people, too. But there is no other way for Germany to get peace than by proclaiming that she will leave territorial questions to be settled at the peace conference."

For Germany's own sake, the speaker said that he hoped the German people, who wanted peace as soon as possible, would force through a peace endeavor against the military party.

KAISER ORDERS INFIRM BACK

Discharged Soldiers in Switzerland Reluctant to Obey

By the Associated Press

Berne, Switzerland, Sept. 20.—(Havas.)—German authorities in Berlin have instructed all Germans discharged from the army and living in Switzerland to return to Germany for work in the rear of the fighting line, especially in guarding prisoners.

German subjects here show little inclination to respond to the call and it is believed that 75 per cent of the 10,000 Germans affected will refuse to return to Germany.

DAVIS APPOINTMENT PLEASING TO ENGLAND

British Press Welcomes Him as Ambassador "Fully Equipped for Task"

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London, Sept. 20.

The appointment of John W. Davis as American ambassador has been well received by the British press.

The Westminster Gazette says of him:

"He belongs to and adorns the most cultured school of lawyers in the United States, having been a professor at Washington and Lee University, of which he is a graduate. During the war Mr. Davis has been responsible for much of the technical work arising out of the position of the United States, first as a neutral and now as an ally, and he is even now engaged in negotiations relating to the treatment and exchange of prisoners of war. He comes to us fully equipped for his task, and the appointment to London of a statesman who has played so conspicuous and valuable a part in the war organization of our ally is a compliment which we will know how to appreciate."

The Pall Mall Gazette thinks "he could not have a better introduction than the confidence which his appointment at the hands of President Wilson implies," and points out the importance of his task in promoting a closer understanding between Great Britain and America.

"A perfect understanding and loyal friendship of England and America," it adds, "must be in particular 'a girdle round the earth,' vindicating justice and providing safety for all the essentials of democracy, enlightenment and productive energy. To keep that girdle broad, strong and tight will be one of the functions of the new diplomacy in which Mr. Davis has received his commission."

Siamese Troops Reach France

Paris, Sept. 20.—Siamese troops, with a general and his staff, have arrived in France to participate in the war.

This evidently refers to a new Siamese contingent arriving in France. On August 8 a Marseilles dispatch reported that a large number of Siamese troops had landed there. A call for volunteers was issued by the Siamese Government last September to augment the regular army, which consisted of ten divisions. Siam declared war on Austria and Ger-

Airmen Bomb German Towns

Amsterdam, Sept. 20.—Allied airmen daily are bombarding Cologne, Coblenz and other German cities, killing or injuring many persons, says the Het Volk.

The newspaper says the number of casualties published in the German newspapers is much under the actual total. Many residents of the Rhine cities are fleeing to Holland.

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