ECONOMIC RUIN GRIPS GERMANY

Menaced Without and Within, Bankruptcy and Starvation Loom

OVERWHELMED BY DEBT

Raw Materials, Especially Iron, Necessary for Resumption of Industry Unobtainable

By GEORGE RENWICK

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Amsterdam, Jan. 16.—Confronted with dangers from without, Germany is internally torn by political dissension and is in the grip of practical bankruptcy and starvation.

As regards her economic state, I have learned the following details from an observer who has been closely watching the course of events:

The war cost Germany some £20,000,000,000 ($100,000,000,000), which virtually equals her total capital. Should the war loans be honored, the interest charge would involve an increase in taxation over the last peace budget of about £700,000,000 ($3,500,000,000). The handsome surplus previously yielded by the Prussian State railways has now disappeared and the result of working the railways is more likely to be a deficit.

The financial situation is aggravated by the loss of feeling of security. A traveler who recently returned from Berlin tells me that money is now worth only a day's purchase, as no one knows what may happen the following day.

With no incentive to save, the people are indulging in a wild orgy of expenditure, determined to enjoy money while they have it. This desire for immediate expenditure, I am told, is prompting many of the strikes for higher wages which are impeding the restoration of the country.

Iron Supply Lost

As evidence of the state of affairs regarding raw materials with which Germany is faced, my informant gave me the following figures about iron ore: In order to produce her annual product of some 14,000,000 tons of iron, Germany required 50,000,000 tons of ore. Her own output of ore, exclusive of that from Alsace, amounted to only about 8,000,000 tons, the difference having to be imported mainly from France, Luxemburg, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Tunis and Algeria, while about 21,000,000 tons were obtained from Alsace.

With the French and French-controlled markets closed against her and Luxemburg probably lost to the German customs union, Germany will be hard put to it to find raw material to feed her furnaces. The effect is felt already at Krupp's, whose employes have been reduced from 120,000 to 10,000.

It must be remembered that Germany's purchasing power is heavily reduced because of the fall in the mark, which now equals about one-third of its normal value.

As regards food, my informant, who followed the food dictator's announcements and distribution cards for a period of two years, tells me that these cards entitle people to only one-fifth of the nourishment considered necessary by scientists and the supplies authorized by the cards are not always forthcoming.

Prior to the war Berlin consumed about 1,200,000 litres of milk per day, while the supply now available is only some 180,000 litres. Virtually there has been no milk, butter, eggs or cheese for months past.

Food Situation Desperate

The sugar ration per person is now a pound and a half per month, that of potatoes about seven pounds per week, bread, and that very bad, half a pound daily, with until lately, twenty grammes of fat per day, but fat has now virtually disappeared.

With the Russian food supplies lost to her, with home production of food reduced to one-sixth of the previous output, and with the potato crop left to be frost-bitten in the ground owing to lack of labor, it can be said that Germany's food supplies have really broken down. Her potato supply will last only a few weeks, her cereals only until February.

How this has affected the population can be gathered from the following statistics, prepared by the old regime, but only lately made available: In 1917 the mortality rate for the whole of Germany was 32 per cent higher than for 1913, and for only the first three-quarters of 1918, 34 per cent higher. In towns having populations of over 15,000, deaths from tuberculosis amounted in 1913 to 40,334 and in only the first half of 1918 to 41,800. Deaths from respiratory troubles amounted in 1913 to 46,000; in 1917 to 61,000 and in only the first half of 1918 to 34,500. These statistics do not contain the very large number of deaths from the Spanish sickness.

REVISION PETITIONS OUT

Papers Circulated Will Show How Many Want Reform

Petitions are being circulated by civic and business organizations to obtain signatures of persons who favor charter revision.

These petitions, containing hundreds of names, are forwarded to the charter revision headquarters in the Liberty Building. Some of the petitions are now on file.

The Women's League for Good Government and the Chestnut Street Association have indorsed the proposed charter revision. Both organizations favor the general plan as outlined and in addition the business men want Chestnut street repaved.

DOUTY IN SONG LECTURE

Popular Tenor Pleases in First of Series of Three Recitals

Nicholas Douty was in excellent voice in the first lecture-recital of a series of three, "The Poet and the Song," in Witherspoon Hall last night. This is the fourth year in succession in which he has come before the public as a beautiful singer of beautiful songs, vivifying his renditions by interesting comments, both humorous and instructive, on the poets and composers.

As typical of work of poets before the nineteenth century, he commenced with Buck's "How Long, Oh Lord!" and sang the same as the Psalmist King might have sung it, with much feeling. This prepared Mr. Douty for the control of tone needed in West's "I Sat Down Under His Shadow," a beautiful love song from Solomon, coming strangely, yet most refreshingly, as church music. The fine-spun final note showed the tenor at his best. However, he reached this best frequently through the program, in Mendelssohn's "Be Thou Faithful," and Haydn's series of Shakespeare's lyrics, in the last of which, "Hark! Hark! the Lark" the audience and apparently the singer took the greatest delight. Mr. Douty, in response to repeated calls, sang to his own accompaniment, as encores, Nevin's "Twas April," and Douty's "Lure of Gold."

WHERE MANY WERE KILLED IN BOSTON EXPLOSION

(c) International Film Service.

Probably a dozen persons were killed and fifty injured yesterday by the explosion of a huge tank of molasses on the water front off Commercial street near Keany square, Boston. Buildings were blown down and freight cars were blown off the track by the force of the blast. Two million gallons rushed in a mighty stream over the streets and converted into a sticky mass the wreckage of several small buildings which had been smashed by the force of the blast

RESIST N. J. MOSQUITO FIGHT

Allege Methods Have Reduced Hay Crop One-Half

Atlantic City, Jan. 16.—Claims that the prevailing practice of criss-cross ditching for the elimination of mosquito-breeding areas by drainage of marsh in Jersey coast counties is "ruining" thousands of acres of land for salt hay cultivation and playing havoc also with oyster beds were made at a public hearing yesterday before the County Board of Freeholders upon demands of shore hotelkeepers and business men for the restoration of the Atlantic County mosquito extermination commission's annual appropriation of $26,000.

Representatives of $50,000,000 worth of capital here, marshaled by Samuel P. Leeds, warned the Freeholders that the results of an expenditure of $150,000 in five years, through which the mosquito pest virtually has been eliminated, would be lost if the work was abandoned.

Hilliard Gale, an owner of large areas of marshland, in opposing the grant asserted that the existing method of ditching had reduced by one-half the hay production.

MOTHER SEES CHILDREN SAVED

Boy and Sister Go Through Ice and Nearly Drown

Millville, N. J., Jan. 16.—Edward Morgan, aged thirteen, and his sister, Charlotte, aged eight, children of Mrs. Helen Morgan, narrowly escaped drowning in Union Lake, when a sled upon which the little girl was riding broke through the ice. Edward, who was on skates and pulling the sled, attempted to rescue his sister, and both were soon struggling in the water, which was 15 feet deep.

While Joseph Hogan, Russell Wills and Ernest Klawitter, who were skating nearby, rescued both children by means of a human chain, their mother, who was watching from the shore, became hysterical.

PROBE MOLASSES EXPLOSION

Seek Cause of Blast Which Killed Eleven, Injured Fifty

Boston, Jan. 16.—(By A. P.)—Several investigations were in progress today in an effort to ascertain the cause of the molasses-tank explosion yesterday in the northend district, in which at least eleven lives were lost, more than fifty persons injured and property valued at more than $500,000 destroyed.

At daybreak members of the fire and police departments resumed their search for possible missing victims among the ruins. Cellars along Commercial street, where the greatest effect of the explosion was felt, were pumped out in the belief that pedestrians might have been swept in by the flood of molasses.

An investigation by Deputy Chief George C. Neal, of the State Police; Walter L. Wedger, explosives expert of the Massachusetts district, police and local officials was centered on the theory that gas expansion, due to fermentation, has caused the explosion. Officials of the Purity Distilling Company discountenanced the suggestion that negligence on the part of some employe, in not allowing proper exit for fermentation gases through manholes in the top of storage tank had led to the disaster.

ARREST GIRLS NEAR COBLENZ

Street Sweepers Charged With Talking to U. S. Soldiers

Coblenz, Jan. 16.—(By A. P.)—Twenty German girls who were engaged in sweeping streets at Andernach, near here, have been arrested, charged with a violation of General Pershing's order forbidding them to talk with American soldiers. These arrests have served to emphasize the determination of the American command not to permit fraternization in the occupied regions. Approximately the same number have been proved guilty of violating the order and have been deported to points within the German lines.

There has been a slight relaxation in the enforcement of the order in certain remote centers, but here and in larger towns it is rigidly observed. The provost guard or military police are certain to interfere should an officer or soldier attempt to talk to a woman on the street or in a cafe.

GUNNERS BEHAVED SELVES

Not a Man in 109th Artillery Arrested While "Over There"

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 16.—From the time the 109th Field Artillery left America up to the time Colonel Asher Miner was wounded at Apremont there was not a man under arrest in the guard house for any infraction of the army rules, Colonel Miner at his home declared that he expected that when the 109th comes home to be mustered out, officers in command will report that they made a perfect record.

"The 109th boys," said the Colonel, "were so anxious to get into the fight against the Hun that they would not break any rules or regulations lest their conduct would place them in the guard house and prevent them from taking part in the fight. There was no coward in the 109th. Every man realized what he went to France for, and all the 109th boys wanted to fight. That they did like real men when the opportunity came."

BILTMORE OSWALD

The Diary of a Hapless Recruit

APRIL 25.—Yesterday I wandered around Probation Camp in a very patronizing manner and finally stopped to shed a tear on the humble grave of Eli.

Many changes have taken place, Eli, since you were with us, much adversity has befallen me, but the world in the large is very much the same. Bill and Mike have been shipped to sea, and strange enough to say, old Spike Kelly has made the Quartermasters' School. I alone of all the gang remain unspoken for—nobody seems anxious to avail themselves of my services. My tapes are dirtier and my white hat grows less "seagoing" every day. The company commander still carols sweetly in the morning about "barrackses" and fire "distinguishers," rookies still continue to rock about the camp in their timid, mild-eyed way, while week-old sailors with unwashed leggins delight their simple souls with cries of "twenty-one days." New goats have sprung up to take your place in the life of the camp and belittle your past achievements.

April 29. — Life seems to be composed of just one parade after another. I am weary of the plaudits and acclamation of the multitude and long for some sequestered spot on a mountain peak in Thibet. Every time I see a street I instinctively start to walk down the middle of it. Last week I was one of the many thousands of Pelham men who marched along Fifth avenue in the Liberty Loan parade. I thought I was doing particularly well and would have made a perfect score if one of my leggins hadn't come off right in front of the reviewing stand, much to the annoyance of the guy behind me because he tripped on it and almost dropped his gun. For the remainder of the parade I was subjected to a running fire of abuse that fairly made my flesh crawl.

April 30. — I took my bar-keeping pal home over the last week-end liberty. It was a mistake. He admits it himself. Mother will never have him in the house again. Mother could never get him in the house again. He fears her. The first thing he did was to mix poor dear grandfather a drink that caused the old gentleman to forget his game leg which had been damaged in battles, ranging anywhere from the Mexican to the Spanish wars, according to grandfather's mood at the time he is telling the story, but which I believe, according to a private theory of mine, was really caught in a folding bed. However it was, grandfather forget all about that leg of his entirely and insisted on dancing with Nora, our new maid. Mother, of course, was horrified. But not content with that, this friend of mine mixed some strange beverages for the pater which so delighted him that he loaned my so-called pal the ten spot I had been intending to borrow. The three of them sat up until all hours of the night playing cards and telling ribald stories. As mother took me upstairs to bed she gazed down on her father-in-law and her husband in the clutches of the demon and remarked bitterly to me:

"Like father, like son," and I knew that she was thoroughly determined to make both of them pay dearly for their pleasant interlude. Breakfast the next morning was a rather trying ordeal. Grandfather once more resorted to his game leg with renewed vigor, referring several times to the defense of the Alamo, so I know he was pretty low in his mind. Father withdrew at the sight of the bacon. Mother laughed scornfully as he departed. My friend ate a hearty breakfast and kept a sort of happy-go-lucky monologue throughout its entire course. I took him out walking afterward and forgot to bring him back.

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(TO BE CONTINUED)

WORKMEN'S AWARD RULING

State to Pay Compensation in Full So Aliens May Go Home

Pittsburgh, Jan. 16.—(By A. P.)—Foreigners permanently disabled when at work in industries of Pennsylvania will receive their full compensation awards in lump sums, so that they may return to their respective countries, where they may become self-supporting.

This is the decision reached here by members of the State Compensation Commission and representatives of employers in a hearing in which it developed that many of the permanently disabled claimants have requested their compensation be awarded in full, so that they might go to their homes in foreign lands and buy farms or engage in some other business that would assure them a livelihood.

STRIKING TENANTS EVICTED

Thirty-five Families in New York City Lose Fight for Hot Water

New York, Jan. 16.—(By A. P.)—Thirty-five families, occupants of a large apartment house on the upper East Side, who refused to pay rent until they were supplied with hot water "for at least six hours a day" have been evicted.

Armed with dispossess notices a city marshal appeared with a brigade of furniture movers and dumped the belongings of four families on the sidewalk. The street resembled a scene in France when the German invaders were advancing.

The enforced exodus was the culmination of a long-standing dispute between tenants and landlords. Contending that when rents were raised their water supply had become cold, the tenants formed an association and raised a "defense fund" of $1000. The landlords replied by obtaining dispossess notices and announced that other landlords in the district had been called on to refuse the tenants quarters.

SEIZE 150 GERMAN GUNS

Americans Discover Treasured War Materials at Coblenz

Coblenz, Jan. 16.—(By A. P.)—Treasured German war material continues to be revealed as American troops search the vast warehouse area in Coblenz and vicinity. Officers found more than 150 guns of 77 caliber and leather worth half a million dollars today. The guns and leather come into the possession of the Americans as abandoned material under the terms of the armistice. The cannon are virtually all as good as new, having apparently been repaired during the last few months of the war.

Since the Americans arrived the warehouses have all been guarded by troops, but the chain of storage places in the region of Coblenz is so extensive that the Americans have not yet completed their investigation as to what material is stored in various places. All military stores, food, munitions and equipment belonging to the German army on November 11 and which were not removed during the period fixed by the armistice are forfeited under the terms of the agreement.

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Lace and embroidery trimmed fronts. All sizes.

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New smart poke effects, faced or edged with fur fabric. Black, brown, taupe or sand.

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Silk taffetas and satins in latest winter models.

SECOND FLOOR

White Envelope Chemises or Silk Camisoles 2 for $1.00

Street Floor

Women's $7 and $8.50 Shetland-Wool Sweaters $5.98

Coat or slip-over models.

STREET FLOOR

Women's $4.00 Plaited Skirts $2.00

Of wool poplins in navy blue or black.

STREET FLOOR

IN OUR BARGAIN BASEMENT

Extraordinary Sale—Women's & Misses' Fur-Collar Coats $7.50 & $10

Values are double. Many have fur collars. Good smart styles in kerseys, cheviots and fancy mixtures.

Women's $6.00 to $15.00 Satin, Poplin & SERGE DRESSES $3.69 & $5

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Children's Chambray Dresses 65c — Some are embroidered. Sizes 2 to 10 years.

Children's Winter Coats $3.29 — Smart trimmed models. Sizes 2 to 6 years.

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Girls' $2.00 Wash Dresses $1.19 — Of reps & ginghams. Several styles. Sizes 6 to 14 yrs.

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Fur Sets at 38.00 — Regularly 55.00 — Taupe or Gray Wolf Sets, Natural Raccoon Sets, Natural Nutria Sets

Fur Sets at 58.00 — Regularly 85.00 — Taupe, Brown or Black Wolf, Hudson Seal Sets, Taupe or Black Lynx Sets

Fur Sets at 74.50 — Regularly 110.00 — Taupe, Black or Brown Fox, Taupe, Black or Brown Wolf, Skunk and Taupe Lynx Sets

Wolf Scarfs — Taupe, Gray or Brown — 10.00 — Regularly 20.00

Fox Scarfs — In Brown or Taupe — 22.50 — Regularly 37.50

Fox Scarfs — In Taupe or Brown — 39.50 — Regularly 65.00

Fox Scarfs — In Taupe or Brown — 49.50 — Regularly 69.50

Nutria Muffs — In Smart Barrel Shape — 10.00 — Regularly 16.50

Hudson Seal Muffs — 15.00 — Regularly 20.00

Wolf Muffs — Taupe, Brown or Gray — 24.50 — Regularly 39.50

Fox Muffs — Black, Taupe or Brown — 34.50 — Regularly 60.00

Squirrel Coats 265.00 — Regularly 345.00

Squirrel Coats 325.00 — Regularly [illegible]

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