

Seriousness Of Food Question

Ottawa, May 20.—Evidence of the growing seriousness of the food situation in the Central Empires is furnished in a letter received in Ottawa. Food prices in Austria, according to this letter, have soared to extraordinary heights, half a dozen quotations which are contained in the communicating, being as follows:

Fifty dollars for a 100-pound bag of flour, \$1.25 for one pound of meat, and \$2 per pint for cooking oil, which, the letter states, is now being used in Austrian households instead of butter. Two hundred pounds of straw costs \$3, while a pint of coal oil costs 30 cents. A yoke of oxen costs a remarkable figure, \$360.

An experiment by the municipality of Charlottenburg, a suburb of Berlin, in feeding inhabitants of

\$100 Reward, \$100

The reader of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Catarrh being greatly influenced by constitutional conditions requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts thru the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in the curative powers of Hall's Catarrh Cure that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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the city from public kitchens resulted in failure on account of the rush of thousands of people for food, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs.

"The appearance in the streets of Charlottenburg on Monday of two mobile field kitchens known generally as 'goulash cacons,' was the signal for the collection of a crowd estimated by the Berlin Tageblatt at 4,000 persons," the correspondent says. "The crowds stormed the kitchens, with the result that this municipal enterprise had to be stopped. The cause of the fiasco is said by the Tageblatt to be that the enterprise was inaugurated with insufficient means. The magistrate of Charlottenburg issued a notice that owing to the rush of people it was impossible to distribute food in the street as intended. There were only 600 litres of food to be given out. The feeding of the people in this way cannot be undertaken until further notice."

Rome, May 19.—The Vatican has received confidential information that shortage of food in the Central Empires is verging on famine, especially in Austria, where conditions are described as worse than in Germany. It is said that the Emperor Francis Joseph will protest to the Pope against the "inhuman attempt of the Allies to starve non-combatants."

The correspondent is informed from diplomatic sources that in case a protest is made, the pope is not likely to take any action, beyond suggesting peace as a remedy for existing conditions.

Germany's Plight.

St. John Globe.
Maximilian Harden, an out-

spoken advocate of German frightfulness in the early days of the war, is now championing the cause of peace. An article in the Zukunft Magazine for May 5 is remarkable for its defence of President Wilson and his policy, and for its strong denunciation of that section of the German press which has abused the President and the American government for alleged friendship to the Allies. The interest created by this remarkable article is considerably heightened by its concluding sentences, an allegorical reference to—"our Cleons, who, like their precursor of Athens, who so long prevented a truce between the Athenians and Spartans, are letting the peace emissaries go back empty-handed at the most favorable hour."

A London despatch says this is interpreted as indicating the opinion of Harden and the influential group of political, financial industrial and interests behind him, that Germany should now seek and accept the best terms obtainable. Harden is a power in Germany, and if foreign interpretation of his remarkable article is the correct interpretation, then it must be admitted that Germany's plight is worse even than has been supposed.

India's Share In The War

London, May 20.—Lord Hardinge, ex-Viceroy of India, said in an interview yesterday:

"We sent out of the country no less than 300,000 men to the various fields of the Imperial battle line in France, Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, East Africa, Gallipoli and even the Cameroons. These consisted of both Indian and British troops. When it is remembered that the British army of occupation usually numbers some 73,000 men, and that at one time, for a few weeks, there remained only a handful of British troops, something between 10,000 and 15,000 men, in a country with a population of over 315,000,000, one can realize that such a course of action would have been foolhardy in the extreme had there been any real foundation for the reports of widespread and serious disaffection spread from enemy sources."

Referring to the discovery of a series of plots, Lord Hardinge said:

"One plot was directly instigated by Germany, through various agents, who supplied considerable funds. This was an ambitious scheme, nothing less than to create a general revolt, which was timed to break out on Christmas Day, 1915. However, the government, was furnished with full information of the projected rising, and was able to forestall it, and render all the preparations abortive. The centre of this plot was Bengal where there has always been a certain amount of anarchist activity."

Paris, May 19.—Finance Minister Ribot presented to the Chamber of Deputies yesterday credits for the third quarter of the year, aggregating 8,510,000,000 francs (\$1,709,000,000). M. Ribot proposed increased taxes that will bring in 900,000,000 francs (\$180,000,000) more annually on alcohol, wine, beer, cider, sugar and tobacco and also double taxes on many other items. Declarations of revenues under the new Income Tax Law total 2,949,000,000 francs (\$589,200,000) from 163,000

persons.
"No sacrifice," he said, "is too dear which will secure the peace."
France has determined to

More Peace Rumors.

Some diplomatic sources at Washington of European warring powers, while cheerful as to the outlook for an early peace, are confident that negotiations, pending in a declaration of peace, and a revision of the map in the Near East, will begin in the next six months. Austria's reports are so anxious for peace that her urgency has forced Germany to proceed a little less cautiously on the subject. It is accepted as a fact in no need of proof that Turkey and Bulgaria both would make peace if the Allies would let them.

It is reported in Rome that Pope Benedict, through Mgr. Bonzano, Apostolic Delegate to Washington, has requested President Wilson to initiate a movement for peace.

A Rotterdam correspondent of the London Telegraph says the next German harvest is bound to be a failure, and the Telegraph says this fact gives the explanation of Germany's earnest desire for peace.

Opened World's Eyes.

London Telegraph: After all, it has been Germany who has remodelled and reformed Europe by sheer force of contrast. Until the full measure of her iniquity was made known the kindlier peoples of the Western world did not understand the danger that threatened them, they could not visualize the horrors that lurked in cold truth behind the scarcely credited lessons of a Bernhardt or a Treitschke. Once again, in the world's history, it has been oppression that has given birth to liberty. Germany, and no one else, has made plain the depths of savagery that German policy required if her leaders were to attain their object.

British and Russian submarine activity in the Baltic will interfere with Germany's importations from Norway and Sweden, and may unsettle plans for naval participation in the anticipated drive against Riga. The Baltic in the first year of the war was almost a free sea to Germany, but now the Allies are asserting a strength which must cause Germany grave anxiety. If that avenue of commerce is closed or rendered dangerous, Germany will be completely cut off from overseas trade. St. John Globe.

The Real Tommy Atkins At War

(James N. Hall, in the May Atlantic.)
The picture of Tommy Atkins which lingers most willingly in my mind is that which I carried with me from the trenches on the dreary November evening shortly before I bade him good bye. It had been raining, sleeting, and snowing for a week. The trenches were knee deep in water, in some places waist deep—for the ground was as level as a floor and there was no possibility of drainage. We were wet through, and our legs were numb with cold. Near our gun position there was a hole in the trench where water gathered four feet deep. A bridge of boards had been built over one side of this, but in the darkness a passer by slipped and fell into the icy water up to his armpits.
"Now then, matey!" said an exasperating voice, "bathe in our private pool without a license?"
And another, "Eere, son! This ain't a swimmin' bawth! That's our tea water yer a staving in!"
The Tommy in the water must have been nearly frozen, but for a moment he made no effort to get out.
"One o' you fetch me a bit o' soap, will you?" he said coaxingly. "You ain't a go'n' to talk about tea water to a bloke wot ain't a bawth in seven weeks?"
It is men of this stamp who have the fortunes of England in their keeping. Given the leadership they deserve, I would add in their safe keeping.

Britain's Partners

(Montreal Weekly Witness).

From the present aspect of things it is the Russians who are going to make Bagdad. The British-Indian force, which started a year earlier than the Russian-Persian one, seems to have been persecuted from the Heavens. The first progress of the invasion aimed at the gates of the city of Baghdad was driven back, practically by heat, to 120 degrees, thereby brought to a mouthful of water. Later operations have been brought to a stand by floods, the denuded country, once so fruitful and populous, being, through the carelessness, the victim of annual deluges. The British have won their accustomed honors as brave and uncompromising sufferers rather than military glory. The Russians, on the other hand, having possessed themselves, by what right does not appear, of the naturally salubrious regions of northern Persia, had difficult but bracing mountains to cross before they could threaten the doomed city. Except in wild Africa, Russia alone of the Allies has gained much territory. Britain has established herself at Susa, commanding the whole delta of the Euphrates, a region that was at any time easily in her power. Russia having lost largely in Poland has in return some little, but very little, foothold in Galicia. But in Asia she has now spread herself over the most of Armenia, which she prevails in speaking of as the Caucasus. Her Caucasus army bids fair to cut the railway by which Turkey and her mistress, Germany, have communication with Mesopotamia, by which she would bag the whole army which is now facing east against Russia's Persian army, and south against the unfortunate but still formidable British-Indian force. Besides making southward from Mush for the railway at its nearest point. Russia is spreading out like a fan over Asia Minor—Anatolia, as the Turks call it. They are creeping along the northern coast where the shore range of mountains slopes into the sea. They are deploying upon the central plain with Erzincan, Laiburt and Diarbekr, before them, hoping some day to reach Constantinople and they are making this southern progress, strategically, for the moment the most pressing of all.

In Africa the Belgians are stepping in to share the Boer-British conquests in German East Africa. As they are sailing that possession at the extreme northwest corner, five hundred miles from where the British are attacking with impenetrable tropical forests between, we cannot tell how much it will either profit by or relieve the British campaign on the northeast German frontier. But it would look as though the Belgians of the Congo State would have an easy course as far as German opposition is concerned. As for the natives, all the diligence of the Germans

to poison their minds against the British will be inapplicable to the Belgians, against whom, to tell the truth, much worse and truer tales might have been told. We are not greedy of acquisitions for Great Britain. Let her come out of this war for humanity with her hands clean of selfishness. Yet when it comes to the disposal of individual spaces, we own that we cherished the Cape to Cairo dream before Cecil Rhodes was heard of and this German possession would complete the connection. As for Mesopotamia, the land of a history so long that Noah's flood would be chronologically central on it, the land of glories romance when lighted up by the flood Arab imagination, we were, in the days when Russia was the bugbear, willing to let Germany have it that she might have scope for her overflowing energy and efficiency in redeeming it to commerce and teeming life from the jackal, the dragon the cockatrice and other doleful creatures to which the ancient prophet had so long consigned it, also that she might, like our own empire, give to the world a pledge of peace in having a valued vulnerable possession. It would, if it fell to us, be a new liability and risk for our Indian Empire, and would be brought to life like an exhausted farm at very great cost. Its possession would be a bad business for Russia, which has enough to do at home, and which has far more needs just now to nurse her democracy than to pamper her imperialism.

Nearly Twenty Victims

The executions in Ireland did not stop as soon as expected. These continued after an unofficial report had declared them ended, nearly twenty being put to death, all told, the victims including all those who had signed the declaration of Irish independence. One of those shot was put to death before the declaration of martial law. It has been promised that the officer responsible in this case will be brought to trial.

Denmark's King Under The Knife

Copenhagen, May 18, via London, May 19.—King Christian was operated on to-day for an intestinal trouble, similar to that which necessitated an operation in the early part of 1915. He was under an anaesthetic for an hour. After the operation the surgeons issued a bulletin saying that it had been successful.

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Ex-Boer Officer Among The Irish Victims

One of the most picturesque figures among those who fell before the firing squads which disposed of Irish rebel leaders was Major McBride. The Major sprang from a long family line of revolutionists. Born in Westport, County Mayo, the son of an ardent Irish patriot, he was nurtured in an atmosphere of revolt. His paternal relatives were the Gallaghers and the Gills, who were eventually driven from Ireland, because of their affiliations with Irish freedom movements in the uprising '67. McBride was in Johannes-

burg when the Boer War began. He formed a brigade of 500 Irishmen in the city and led them against the English in the first battle of Ladysmith. After the British granted amnesty to the Boer rebels McBride managed to escape to France and later to Dublin, where he became a hero at the time Maud Gonne, called the Irish Joan of Arc, was denouncing the treatment of the Boer women and children in the concentration camps. Both had gone to Paris, where they were married about a year later. Their domestic happiness was short lived, for inside of two years Mrs. McBride returned to Dublin and secured a separation. While they were still living together they made a lecture tour of the United States.