

Germans Bleed Lorraine White

With the French Armies, July 26.—Alsace and Lorraine are being milked dry by the Germans while they still have the opportunity to do so, according to authoritative information that has just reached France by way of Switzerland.

So clean is the final sweep now being made by the Germans both of Everything eatable and untable, that the condition of the civil population, despite the fact that Alsace and Lorraine, still rank as German province, is little better than that of the inhabitants of invaded Belgium. All metal that could be used in the manufacture of war materials was long ago taken by the Germans, including the church and school bells, organ pipes, door knobs, stoves and cooking utensils. Among the latest things requisitioned were the famous bells of the Strasbourg Cathedral, which were hung in 1805 to replace the historic bells destroyed during the revolution.

Food restrictions and food requisitions are now being imposed. Not only are the Germans requisitioning all live stock, but the inhabitants of Alsace and Lorraine are under military orders, with military penalties attached not to kill a single food animal.

Requisition is also being made of smoked meats, dried fruits, potatoes, vegetables, wheat and flour.

The restrictions have reached a point where the farmers are no longer allowed either to milk their own cows or collect the eggs laid by their own hens. All this is done by the German soldiers in

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order that every particle of food may be controlled and may go to the German authorities. As the farmers no longer have the use of their own milk, butter is no longer to be found. Oil and coffee are also no longer obtainable.

These conditions, coupled with the liquidation by the German of all properties owned entirely or in part by French capital and French people, have reduced the position of the civil population to one of half starved and abject misery.



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Burden of German Workers

Collapse May Follow Breakdown of Economic Life

In The Kaiser's Empire

Rebellious Sentiment Likely to Bring War Failure, Says Former U S Consul

That Germany is near collapse because of the breakdown of the economic life within the empire the increasing burdens on the wage earner, and the rising flood of rebellious sentiment, is the view of A. Curtis Roth, formerly American Vice-Consul at Plauen, who writes in the current issue of The Saturday Evening Post.

"The German High Command," he says, "is thoroughly confident that Germany can fight on for fifty years in a purely defensive warfare against the combined forces of the world, if necessary. But the German people will not fight on for fifty years. I doubt very much that they can be held to their bitter task for another year. The great mass of the people are rebellious in their hearts, and they are only awaiting an opportunity to express their rebellious feeling in deed.

"Moreover, the German middle class, the backbone of Germany's strength is becoming more and more convinced that final victory cannot remain with the German. German officialdom has strained the bonds that formerly bound it to the people until those bonds have been broken. The people look with sullen suspicion upon their Kaiser and all their present rulers, and they are being taught that all their hardships would cease once they can rid themselves of those rulers. There is needed only a leader in Germany today to give the widespread, dull, aching protest against further useless sacrifices a resistless momentum.

"The German classes were welded into a marvellously well coordinated organism before the war. These classes are now drawing apart. The great mass of the people have come to feel that their interests no longer go hand in hand with those of the land bar-

ons, the bureaucrats, or the great manufacturers and merchants, with the financiers or the shippers, or with the ruling families. Their endurance has been tried to the breaking point. They want a rest from war; they must have such a rest soon, or they will turn savage in their misery as did the German peasants once before.

"Since my return to the United States I have read many reports with considerable interest to the effect that the splendid German social sense has brought about an equitable distribution of the burdens of the war upon all classes of the people. These reports deal with theory, not with fact. The wage-earning class in Germany has staggered under such an unequal load of war burdens that he has become restive and rebellious. There has been little cause for the well-to-do to learn the bitter sufferings of famine; but the poor can only afford to buy bread and potatoes, their butter, eggs, sugar, and meat ration cards being little more to them than a mockery of their necessities.

"The men of the wage-earning class have marched away to the battlefronts, and their wives and daughters have been forced to take up all manner of rough, brutalizing work. The small savings of the working class have long ago been consumed. The gulf between the officer caste and the common-soldier caste has steadily widened during the war, the same drawing apart of classes has taken place upon the battlefields that has taken place back of the front.

"There is in Saxony, where I was stationed, an added sense of wrong and injury among the common people. Saxony is a thickly populated land of wage earners; the Saxons, producing an insufficient supply of food on their own farms, have felt the food shortage far more keenly than any other German people.

"Their factories, formerly doing business with every corner of the world, have closed by the score, throwing tens of thousands of people out of work. The Saxons have suffered more from the war than any other German people and stand to win least from a successful conclusion; they have been crowded aside by the Prussians and Bavarians, and the result has been an intense re-awakening of a sense of Saxon nationality among them in contradistinction to a sense of German nationality. The Saxon soldiers, and many officers among them insist that wherever there has been especially dangerous work to do the Saxon troops have been stationed. This, they say, has been the policy of the war lords because of the widespread socialism in the ranks of the Saxon regiments.

"Considerable disintegration has taken place in the material organization of Germany as well as in her spiritual organization. It has been impossible to keep the roadbeds of the railroads in repair, to replace the worn rails and switches, and renew the rolling stock. The result is the railroads are no longer the efficient roads that they were at the outbreak of the war, and this is a very real factor in the reduction of Germany's military efficiency.

"It has been impossible, too, to keep the great State roads in repair. There has been an increasing difficulty in the replacement of

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the machines used in the various metal-working industries, many of which were formerly imported from England and America. The manufacture of staples and war industries runs at full blast day and night, while the strength of the peace industries ebbs and ebbs, and while the host of workers for the interest of a world organized for peace starve as unskilled labor in the roughest lines of endeavor.

"The signs of physical decay on every hand; the worn, rubby streets; the building grown dingy and out of repair; the miserable, broken-down, and antiquated conveniences that make up the traffic on the streets; the unkempt, desolate parks; the closed stores and the meagerly filled shop windows of the stores still open; the frayed, unattractive clothes of ancient style displayed by the people on the streets; frowning in the faces of the people—and the weariness, sorrow, and suffering all these elements go to make up an environment that is sapping the resolution and the will of even the most patriotically inclined."

New Ruse to Lull Opponents

Paris, Aug. 9.—The French War Office announces that the Germans have invented a new ruse to lull their opponents into the belief that artillery batteries are still in position for action, when actually they have been withdrawn, and by it to prevent untimely advances. The device consists of a mechanism, fitted with half a dozen globular capsules filled with an explosive, which is placed on the side of the battery to be or being withdrawn. The capsules explode every 35 or 40 seconds with a sound exactly like that of a field gun heard from a distance. They are said to easily fool a listener into thinking that he is still facing artillery.

Rome, Aug. 9.—The sensation of the day here is the discovery of a secret subterranean passage from the villa of the roses, the residence of Prince von Bielow, the former German ambassador, to the hotel Eden, the former proprietor of which was a German. It is believed the passage was used to facilitate secret meetings between the diplomat and persons in various walks of life as well as to ensure secrecy to the ambassador's guests when the occasion required. An investigation which promises interesting disclosures is under way.

Petrograd, Aug. 9.—Wednesday, the first of the three "liberty loan" days in Russia proved a great success. Automobiles paraded the streets of the capital and decorated booths were installed in the principal thoroughfares for the sale of the war bonds.

Great Britain's War Burden

London, Aug. 11.—Lord Robert Cecil Minister of Blockade, in his weekly talk with the Associated Press discussed Great Britain's war expenditure in the hope that a better idea of its details might serve to show the people of the United States what a tremendous war burden the people of Great Britain have cheerfully shouldered.

"In the period from April 1, 1914, to August 4, 1917, the British Government's total expenditure has been \$26,378,000,000," Lord Robert declared. "Nearly one fifth of this figure, or \$5,220,000,000 has been advanced to our

Allies." "How does this hit the ordinary citizen? Well we raised by taxation, and taxation per head in Great Britain has increased from less than \$18 per year before the war to \$61 yearly at present. Of this average \$61, which every man, woman and child pays annually to the government, \$50 is collected by direct taxation, namely income tax, excess profits tax, stamp and death duties or inheritance tax. The other \$11 comes from indirect taxation, namely customs or excise.

"We are raising \$314,000,000 yearly by indirect taxation and \$2,835,000,000 by direct taxation.

"It may be added that heavy restrictions have been put on all government expenditures which is not immediately required for war purposes and on private expenditure wherever such restriction was possible. To take an instance, building trades have been practically at a standstill since the commencement of the war so that there is a large shortage of houses at the present time.

"The people have responded wonderfully to appeals for voluntary restrictions in food expenditures, and an increasing proportion of all classes is practicing economy in every possible direction putting the front of this economy at the service of the Government in the form of loans. Popular loans have had a wide success and today over 35,000 civilian associations are at work collecting small private war loan subscriptions.

Drastic Action Against British

London, Aug. 8.—Germany is known to be turning out simultaneously several classes of submarines, running from the small type for use in the English Channel and on the trade routes between England and Holland and from the base at Zebrugge on the Belgian coast, to the super-submarine of 1,200 tons and carrying two five inch guns.

The intermediate types—these inflicting the largest amount of damage to enemy shipping—are of the U-53 class and the mine laying submarines.

The U-53 type is large and speedy, with extraordinary sea-keeping powers, and is employed in the lines between the United States and Europe, between Russia and England, and in the Mediterranean.

They, together with the mine laying U-boats, operate from the largest submarine bases such as Kiel.

These submarines do not restrict themselves to fixed sea areas, but employ the utmost strategy in evading their most deadly foe, the destroyer.

The problem is narrowing down and drawing closer to the necessity of initiating a naval offensive, and it was learned on the highest authority that "unofficial pressure from official sources" in the United States has been brought to bear upon the British Government to induce it to institute or rather to plan for a naval offensive.

The pressure from America, unofficial as well as from official sources, was said to be having its effect upon the Allies, and the prediction was confidently made that the time when the offensive will be undertaken is drawing near.

It is not proposed to send warships up against German land fortifications, but to devise modifications of offensive methods involving the closing of submarine channels, both by deep nets and also by the use of destroyer patrols and seaplanes, the latter to be used both for observation and also for continuous raids upon German bases and submarine plants.

A Rutgers College summer session "diet squad" of girls has determined that 27 cents a day is the irreducible minimum for the average American's food cost in these war times.

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