

HUN WAR MACHINE BREAKING DOWN FROM LACK OF ABLE MEN

Washington, Aug. 8. — The Kaiser's troops are threatened with shortage of munitions and war supplies. Germany's war industries are slowing down on account of lack of coal, electric current and materials. For weeks her munition plants have been running only part time, producing only a part of the guns, shells and weapons on which modern military success depends.

This is considered in Washington to be the real underlying cause of Germany's peace moves and the frantic efforts of the Kaiser to obtain decisive results on the Russian front.

This great news comes through a copy of the Frankfurter Zeitung, which has just reached Washington, an obscure paragraph of which tells the whole truth about Germany's critical condition. How it escaped the eagle eye of the censor is a mystery.

"In view of the fact that the working on short time is becoming more common in the war industry, on account of shortage of coal, electric current and materials, we demand that the workmen shall everywhere be paid for the time lost."

"The intolerable prices of food and all other necessities compel the workmen to insist upon this demand, as a further deterioration in their living conditions is unbearable."

Analysis of this resolution shows its importance. This is not a local union protesting about conditions that might arise from a transportation tie-up, but the strongest of all the German unions with a pre-war membership of 1,106,003, represented in every industrial city, protesting about the loss of time in war industries generally, demanding that workmen "every-

where" be paid for this time.

The loss of productive time is not due to a deficiency of some one material for which a substitute might be found by German science, but to a shortage of the essentials of industry without which not a wheel can turn—"coal, electric current and materials."

This shortage is affecting, not the woodworking industry or some other line of manufacture with which Germany could dispense, but the "war industry," without which Hindenburg's army would be little better than so many tin soldiers.

This loss of time, "becoming ever more common," is not simply a matter of a day or two once in a while, but is so prevalent that this great union, ultra-loyal from the beginning of the war, is at last driven to voice its demands to be paid for this shortage in their pay envelopes.

There can be little doubt that the shortage of coal has been caused in part at least by the furious Allied attacks on Lens, the great French coal centre, but there is reason to believe, as indicated by previous despatches, that even the German mines are not producing up to capacity on account of lack of able-bodied men.

The shortage of electric current arises from the coal shortage, but it means more than a mere lack of current to operate machines. Shortage of electric current menaces Germany's supply of nitrates, the essential bases of powder and every form of explosive. Germany has no nitrate deposits and is forced to rely upon the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen by electric current.

The vital meaning of this obscure paragraph in a German newspaper is that the German war machine is breaking down and no amount of frenzied drives by the Kaiser or Crown Prince on Russia or the western front can conceal that fact.

So great is the need for all possible aid to the Allies' fighting forces on the western front that women have been pressed into service as mechanics at the French aviation stations.

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ROGERS' HAND AGAIN SHOWN

Ottawa, Aug. 9. — While official information is not naturally available, it is understood that there was a quiet little round table conference on the present political situation at Rideau Hall this afternoon presided over by His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire. The guests at luncheon were Sir Robert Borden, Sir George Foster, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Baron Shaughnessy, Sir Clifford Sifton, Sir Lomer Gouin and Hon. George P. Graham. What occurred at this notable gathering of big men is "a state secret," but there is good reason to believe that the raison d'être for the function, as the society column would say, was political rather than social. Sir Clifford Sifton has been sadly disappointed in the result of the Winnipeg Liberal Conference and of his propaganda. The Prime Minister has been similarly disappointed with the failure of his coalition proposals and, with the rest of the Cabinet, would like a way out of election upon party lines and with the present political outlook.

It is surmised that His Excellency was prepared to intervene in the hope of securing, through a quiet conference of the political leaders some eleventh hour compromise which might avoid a general election and result in another year's extension for Parliament under a Coalition Government, hence the luncheon party with Baron Shaughnessy and Sir Clifford Sifton attending as representatives of the circles and movements they represent.

As far as can be learned the conference broke up pleasantly and politely, after an exchange of opinions as to what was in the best interests of Canada and of the continued prosecution of the war, having regard to all the complex aspects of the national situation. There is no reason to believe that the Liberal representatives at the conference have heard any new arguments which would induce them to change the deliberate and fully considered views they have already expressed in parliament or in previous conversations in connection with the coalition and extension proposals.

It is understood that in suggesting at today's Rideau Hall conference that it was still not too late to effect coalition and avoid an election, Sir Robert Borden intimated that he would be prepared to leave the enforcement of conscription bill in abeyance for several months pending a further united trial of the voluntary system.

DR. LIEBKNECHT IS AT LIBERTY

Paris, Aug. 12.—Dr. Karl Liebknecht the socialist leader in the German Reichstag, who was arrested in connection with the May day demonstrations in Berlin in 1916, was liberated a fortnight ago by the German government through fear that he might die in prison.

He is said to be suffering from tuberculosis, weighing only 84 pounds. The authenticity of the story seems certain, says the Temps Geneva correspondent, though the German newspapers, on the obedience to orders, are silent regarding it.

The news, brought by a Hollander from Germany, says the trades unions brought pressure upon the government for the release of Liebknecht.

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TWENTY-THREE KILLED IN AIR RAID ON ENGLISH TOWN

Paris, Aug. 12.—The French aviators yesterday dropped bombs on Frankfurt-on-the-Main, one of the most important cities of the German Empire, having a population of more than 300,000. The French official statement, announcing the raid, says it was in retaliation for the German aerial bombardment of Nancy and the region north of Paris.

Both French machines returned undamaged. The text of the announcement reads:

"In reprisal for the German bombardments of Nancy and the region north of Paris, two of our machines, piloted by Lieut. Mezergues and Sub-Lieut. Beaumont, yesterday dropped bombs on Frankfurt-on-the-Main. Both returned undamaged."

It is confirmed that a German aviator was brought down Aug. 9 on the Belgian front. Yesterday a German machine was shot down by machine gun fire northeast of Vauxaillies."

Another Raid on England:

London, Aug. 12.—Twenty-three persons, including nine women and six children, were killed, and fifty persons were injured at Southend, in Essex, forty miles east of London, by bombs dropped by German raiders today, says an official statement issued tonight. Considerable damage to property was caused at Southend by the nearly forty bombs dropped upon the town.

The latest statement reads:

"Enemy raiders caused considerable damage at Southend, where they dropped about forty bombs. The casualties thus far reported are:

"Killed, eight men, nine women, six children; about fifty people injured. At Rochford two men were injured, but no damage is reported. At Margate four bombs were dropped. One uninhabited house was demolished."

"There were twenty German airplanes in the raid."

INVALIDED MEN BEING CARED FOR

Ottawa, Aug. 11. — If the present average weekly increase in the number of patients on the rolls of the military hospitals is maintained there will be 10,000 returned soldiers in Canadian military convalescent hospitals by the end of the year. On July 31, the number of patients in the care of the commission was 8,491.

Accommodation at the present time is abreast of the returning stream and when hospitals now under construction are completed there will be 15,000 beds available. There are 18,000 Canadians being cared for in hospitals and sanitariums in the United Kingdom.

In some of the large New York hotels girls are replacing boys as elevator operators.

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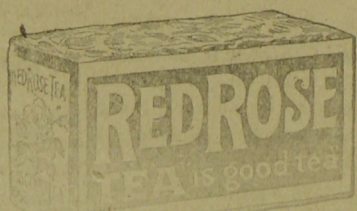
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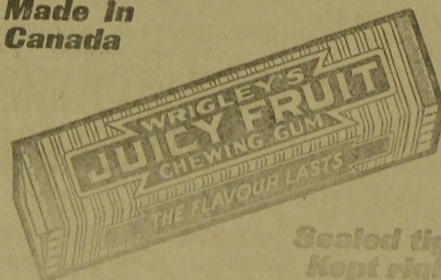
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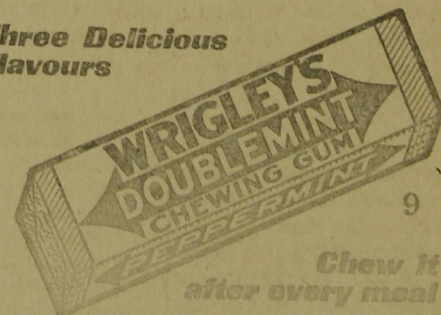
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