

Lamentation in the Hun Larder Grows Louder and Louder

THE meat supply of Germany has evidently been reduced to a far greater degree than had heretofore been assumed, if figures given by the German Food Office are correct. In the "Koelnische Zeitung" of June 6 G. Oetelshofen discusses statements of the office published in connection with the recent reduction of the bread ration from 7-1-3 to 5-2-3 ounces daily, from which it appears that there were slaughtered in Germany during the past spring months 1,600,000 head of cattle.

Now, the startling point in the Food Office's statement is that the average weight of these animals was only 300 pounds, whereas the average of animals butchered in the spring of 1917 was 462 pounds. The cattle slaughtered this year produced, therefore, only 478,720,000 pounds of beef, whereas, if the average weight of last year had been maintained, the yield would have been 739,000,000 pounds.

Oetelshofen goes on to say that the animals slaughtered in 1917 had already a low average weight, and that now a further reduction of 30 per cent from that low average has occurred. Assuming that these animals had so improved last summer through grazing in open pastures that their weight in the fall was about 20 per cent greater than the average of the animals killed in the spring of 1917, he says that if the 1,600,000 beves slaughtered this year had been converted into meat before the winter set in they would have produced 880,000,000 pounds, instead of the 478,720,000 actually obtained. He therefore figures out a loss of 399,000,000 pounds of beef, or 45 per cent, not to mention the feedstuffs consumed by the animals during the winter.

But this does not give the full measure of the shrinkage of Germany's meat supply. Oetelshofen points out that, there being no appreciable loss in the weight of the bones, the reduction in gross weight fell wholly to the meat. Beyond this was the depreciation of quality. He quotes Professor Rubner, of Berlin University, a specialist in physiology and food values, as saying that a pound of lean beef yields only 445 calories, while a pound of good fat beef produces 1,486 calories. Upon this basis Oetelshofen reckons that the 1,600,000 animals slaughtered this spring yielded less than one-fifth of the caloric value that they would have yielded last autumn.

That he assumes as giving a fair measure of the reduction in nutritive value of the meat now consumed by the German people. The conclusion that he draws from all this is that the Germans should feed nothing to livestock which can be used for human food. Vegetable products of all kinds, he points out, are not fully utilized in producing feed for men if they be first fed to livestock. Hence the Germans, during the war, must confine themselves as far as possible to a vegetable diet.

Interesting evidence of difficulties in other corners of the German pantry have been coming across in the past weeks. The cherry season, it seems, did not bring the poor fruit-hungry Berliners all the joys they were anticipating. According to German newspapers, it had been announced by Sunday, June 9, that the cherries were ripe at Werder. That is a little town on the Havel, a few miles below Potsdam. It is surrounded by hills completely covered with orchards. It is here that Berlin gets its largest supplies

of fruit, so that Werder is popularly called the "fruit chamber of Berlin."

On the Sunday in question there were queer scenes at the Potsdam railway station in Berlin. Crowds of people came early in the morning, armed with baskets, bags and other receptacles, to buy tickets to Werder; and so great was the demand that the sale of tickets had after a time to be suspended altogether, and access to the train platforms was shut off by the police to prevent the crowds from taking the trains by storm and crowding them beyond their capacity.

But this quest for cherries was doomed to bring disappointment to most of the pilgrims; for railway stations and steamer landings at Werder were sharply watched by cordons of policemen, and only persons holding official permits to carry away fruit were allowed to pass through the lines. So most of the bags and baskets were carried empty back to Berlin.

The German papers tell of other illegitimate attempts to bring cherries from Werder into Berlin. A Berlin orchestra went there to give a concert, and when it came back there was a rigid inspection at the station in Berlin. The man who played the double-bass viol was caught in the act; all the spare space in his instrument case was found to be filled with cherries.

The orchard men of Werder are also up in arms against the retail dealers of Berlin. They recently held a meeting and appointed a committee to go to Berlin and complain of the retailers to the Fruit and Vegetable Bureau and to ask for a rigid inspection of fruit shops by the police. Their grievance was that the shopkeepers were asking 48 cents a pound for cherries which they bought in Werder for 14 cents, and that even at that exorbitant increase few or no cherries could be bought, for they were disposed of surreptitiously at even higher prices.

Oh, Indeed! The Soldiers Must Have the Cherries!

The Berlin city authorities are a foresighted group of men, and they had made contracts for cherries for the citizens long before the season. Some of these contracts were placed in the province of Silesia. But when the cherries ripened there the Berliners learned to their sorrow that no shipments could be made. Why so? The military declared an embargo upon the entire crop, which was taken for the army.

The fruit crops of Germany this year, as shown by an investigation carried out by the German Pomological Society, are very unsatisfactory. It was found that night frosts, insect pests and disease of various kinds had done much damage to the growing fruit. A producer in the Duchy of Anhalt wrote that the hopes for a good fruit yield had been dashed; leaf lice of all sorts had attacked the trees in such number as he had never seen. Another orchard owner reported that he had suffered a loss of \$14,000 on his fruit crop. He said that the fruit growers did not have the materials or the labor to make war upon the insects. A man in Posen wrote that his orchards had been stripped quite bare by caterpillars. Drouth also did great damage in many parts of the country. Altogether, therefore, the outlook for fruit was regarded as very bad.

The shortage of vegetables is no less keenly felt than that of fruit. There was such a clamor at Berlin for these much-missed food commodities that Herr von Tilly, the director of the Imperial Bureau for Fruit and Vegetables, received the members of the press on June 18 to enlighten them as to market conditions. His remarks are summarized by the "Vossische Zeitung" as amounting to claiming that the principles of the bureau were all

The Class of 1930



—From Lectures Pour Tous, Paris.

right, but the actual conditions were mightier than the official regulation of the market. The small deliveries of fruit and vegetables were explained by the director as due to reduced imports and bad harvests at home. The imports from Spain, France, Italy, North Africa and other countries were very large before the war; but now they are completely lacking. Consequently imports are now only one-sixth to one-fifth of what they were before the war. He said the home crops were not good and in many parts of the country they were late in maturing. On the other hand, the demand for fruits and vegetables had enormously increased. There was, therefore, absolutely no prospect that the Imperial Bureau would ever be able to make such deliveries of them as were demanded. Such

was the cold comfort that he had to give to the press.

With his bread ration recently reduced, with few or no vegetables or fruits in prospect, and everything else eatable or drinkable scarce to an alarming degree, the hungry Berliner who has money enough naturally is planning to go off somewhere for the summer where he can get rid of that hungry feeling. But the news that his morning paper brings him must convince him that his feeding will be most rigidly scrutinized and regulated, wherever he takes his vacation.

He has read, for example, of the action taken by the Town Council of Freudenstadt, a little summer resort near Tübingen, in Württemberg. The council is determined that every summer visitor, or "cure-guest," as the Ger-

mans say, shall eat strictly within the regulations. Every new arrival in the little town will receive a notice, upon stepping off the cars, which reads thus:

"All persons stopping in our district, whether as transients, excursionists or guests, are hereby warned that all purchasing of food supplies from the producers, such as butter, eggs, meat, legumes and so on, is prohibited; also all procuring without card of food subject to the card system, such as bread or meat; or the purchase without a buying permit of any article requiring such a permit will carry with it rigorous punishments for both buyer and seller. Cure-guests detected making such purchases or sending away what they buy will be compelled forthwith to leave our district; and their names will be published and also notified to the prosecuting attorney. All police boards and country gendarmerie offices

have been directed to proceed with vigor against hoarding cure-guests."

A Berlin paper, which prints this notice, ironically calls attention to one point in which it shows a "gratifying difference from similar notices of the Middle Ages": it does not threaten the poor summer visitor with having his head chopped off!

A notice of this kind might decide the Berliner to go north instead and try one of the seaside towns on the Baltic. But there he will meet with similar difficulties. Not long ago the Landrat of the Usedom-Wollin district, of which Swinemünde is the chief town, posted this warning to the "cure-guests and bath-guests," and it differs from the Freudenstadt notice only in being a little more polite. He promises not to exercise his right to restrict the stay of visitors so long as the visitors keep within the food regulations and do not jeopardize the supplies of the residents. Yet if any visitor—quite contrary to his expectations—should be caught buying food in illegal ways he would be expelled from the district within forty-eight hours and his name printed in the newspapers. The food thus illegally bought would be confiscated and the culprit would have to stand trial. Moreover, the police would keep a sharp lookout at railway stations, ferry houses and postoffices to see that there were no unlawful shipments of food.

Meanwhile the scarcity of food continues to swell the criminal records of Germany. A month ago a Socialist speaker quoted in a speech in the Prussian Chamber figures compiled by the Minister of Justice which showed that there were 487,722 convictions for infringement of the food regulations from September, 1916, to November, 1917. The police authorities of Cologne, too, recently contributed their mite to the statistics of food swindlers. They reported that their seizures for food infringements of the regulations during a single month included 2,212 pounds of meat, butter and lard, 2 cows, 2,766 pounds of grain and legumes, 1,115 of bread and flour, 63,000 of sugar, 3,545 of potatoes, 3,139 of marmalade, besides much other stuff. This was all taken in the so-called "sneaking trade," which is the German conception of illicit dealing.

The Courts Are Full of Food Squabbles

The figures quoted above by the Socialist suggest that the courts are overworked with food cases; and the columns of the newspapers fully bear out this presumption. A single paragraph in one of the Berlin newspapers recently enumerated the following convictions of food swindlers: Honey-cake manufacturer at Thorn, fined 6,648 marks for selling sugar at 200 marks per hundredweight which he had bought two years ago at 23.50 marks; Max Herzberg, merchant at Bromberg, fined 10,000 marks for extensive illegal operations in grain; Heinrich Simon, merchant at Coburg, fined 42,000 marks and his profits of 26,000 marks confiscated for selling willow twigs and reeds above the maximum price; Max Klingner, merchant at Duisburg, fined 15,000 marks for charging above the maximum price for grain. And these are only a part of the matter in that paragraph.

The trials of these food swindlers bring out at times some interesting evidence. In June one of the Berlin courts tried and sentenced to six months in prison Herr von Eberstein, farm overseer to Prince Friedrich Leopold, who is a cousin of the Kaiser. The charge against him was that he had sold twelve hogs clandestinely, charging at the rate of 280 marks per hundredweight. It was shown in the trial that the hogs were sent away

from the estate in wagons, each carefully wrapped in rye straw, giving the appearance of big bundles of straw. The dealer who bought the animals sold again at 325 marks, and he also got six months.

Another trial at Berlin recalled the famous case of the captain of Koepenick, and shows that the Kaiser's uniform still exercises its magic charm upon the German imagination. One Jaster, a book-keeper, donned the uniform of a non-com. and stopped on the streets of Berlin a wagon that was conveying a load of bread cards from the printers to the food office. Of course this wagon was attended by two soldiers with loaded rifles to guard against thievery; but Jaster boldly told them that he had been sent by the commanding general to assist them, and they made room for him on the box. Arrived at the food office, he ordered the soldiers to help the driver carry in the packages; and in their absence he walked away with one containing 10,000 cards. He got nine-months.

A Melodrama About Silk

Three other thieves at Berlin played police detectives to execute a bold robbery. They ascertained that a woman merchant kept her reserve stocks of silk stored in her flat above the shop, as a protection against shop burglars. They visited the flat in broad daylight, told the servant girl they were police detectives and were sent to search the house for unlawful stores of goods. Two of them were loaded with bundles of silk and ostensibly sent down to the shop to ascertain from the owner why she was concealing silk goods. Of course they disappeared; and the other thief, after keeping the girl quiet till his pals got away, finally went down to inquire after them. He has not been seen to date.

Some other thieves fell upon a man at night in the most crowded part of the Friedrichstrasse, the principal business thoroughfare of Berlin, and robbed him of 3,800 marks in money and valuables.

Infringements of food regulations are so prevalent that lawyers, in arguing cases at court, do not scruple to plead for light sentences or even acquittals on that very ground. At a recent trial in Berlin the lawyer for the defence thus spoke: The conviction of his client would cause the greatest disquiet among the people, for he had done nothing more than what hundreds of others were doing every day. He only bought rye for his own family and for distribution among his friends. "Thousands are doing the same thing every day," cried the lawyer, "and if you propose to condemn all these persons to prison for clandestine trading you would just as well build a great wall around all Berlin and convert it into a prison." The court was partly persuaded by this eloquence. The man was acquitted of clandestine trading and was fined only \$48 for breaking the grain regulations.

Another lawyer was still bolder. He was defending two girls from the Berlin food office, who took butter from the municipal supplies, paying the legal price, and sold it secretly for 12 marks a pound. The lawyer pleaded mitigating circumstances for the girls, alleging that even judges themselves in some food trials had excused themselves from serving on the bench upon the ground that their own consciences were not clear. At that point the presiding judge interrupted with the inquiry whether the lawyer was referring to the present court, in which case the court must most energetically forbid such language. The lawyer replied that he had a perfect right to refer to facts quite well known to everybody.

The confiscation of table linen has now grown still more rigorous. It was ordered in June that hotels and restaurants after July 1 no longer use tablecloths or provide their guests with napkins. Seventy-five per cent of them were to be called in and also 50 per cent of the bed linen of hotels. The supplies thus secured were to be used chiefly for infants.

Germany's Socialism of the Sword

THE war has developed in Germany a new school of socialism more militaristic than the most hidebound of Junkers. Its ideal is a revolution of the world to be brought about by the fulfillment of Germany's destiny, which is the political and economical domination of the world. The principles of this new school and its mode of reasoning are shown in a book called "Three Years of World Revolution," by Dr. Paul Lensch.

Dr. Lensch, after a university education and some years spent in foreign travel and Socialist journalism, entered the Reichstag at the last general election in 1912. He is only forty-five years old, but is exempt from military duty, although he had his military training in a Prussian Guard regiment. He is one of the ablest representatives in Germany of the new Socialist school, which regards internationalism as obsolete and sets it aside entirely in favor of a world dominated by Germany and German principles and ideals.

Whereas socialism has hitherto been regarded as a war on capitalism, German socialism and German capitalism are now declared by Lensch in his book to be in alliance for revolutionary and progressive aims. German socialism is no longer the enemy of the Prussian state, but is its enthusiastic supporter and desires to accomplish Germany's full "destiny" and revolutionize the world.

According to Lensch, the present war is a natural explosion in which the organized German state is destroying "reaction" as represented by the old Russia on the one hand and British world power on the other. Protectionism as opposed to free trade is the basis of German organization. Hence, the war is a conflict between protection and free trade, the latter representing reaction.

Protecting Themselves "Against England"

He describes German development as follows:

"Quite obviously the point of protection—industrial protection—was directed against England. Protection kept foreign industrial products from the home market and gave our own industry predominance and then complete domination of the German market. At the same time it created the conditions that gave German industry an organized superiority over English industry. The main factor was the close cohesion of industry and finance. The early and close alliance of industry and finance led to that organization of industry in cartels and syndicates which became characteristic for the modern development of capital. Organized industry, when foreign competition was warded off by protection, was able at the same time to produce more cheaply and yet to raise prices in the home market."

Lensch describes enthusiastically the tyranny of the German cartels and the way in which they dominated the market, fixed prices and made "gigantic profits."

"These profits were now used for the

conquest of the foreign market. The powerfully extended and extremely efficient German industries required more business than the home market could give them. So they began to work for the foreign market, and in order to meet competition there, the cartel created for its members who were working in foreign countries a special fund, which was fed from the extra profits of the home market. From this fund the cartel paid the so-called export premiums. With this support behind them, the German industrialists were very soon able to appear in the foreign market and there to sell their goods more cheaply than in the German market. . . . There was no longer any question of protecting the home market; it was purely a question of attacking the foreign market. Protection, which was intended to break the monopoly of the superior English industry and to create free competition for German industry, was converted into the monopoly of a handful of cartel magnates, and had finally driven free competition out of the German market."

But, as Lensch says, this was by no means the end of the process. The former Berlin correspondent for "The London Times," commenting on the matter, says:

"For the purposes of fighting the competition which Germany had created in the foreign market the whole resources of the German state were brought to bear. The German customs duties went on rising, and 'the higher the duties the higher were the extra profits in the home market, the higher the German export premiums, and the more powerful the position of Germany in the world market.' Lensch continues:

"This fight for the world market and

the money market was conducted more and more with the resources of the organized power of the state. German diplomacy was at every moment at the service of German finance, and this help was all the more powerful the more powerful the power of the state which stood behind German diplomacy. A strong navy and a ready army in the background were a precious support in the fight for the world market and for the division of the still "unowned" remains of the earth's surface."

All the Brains of the Country Were Thrown In

"Lensch attributes the German success, first, to the fact that Germany was really producing a riper and higher form of economic; secondly, to the very fact that the movement started from such small beginnings and apparently hopeless prospects, and Germany positively profited from her political backwardness, which caused all the brains of the country to be thrown into economic organization, while other countries were spending their brains and activities upon 'politics.'

"For him all that is necessary is for Germany to break down old-fashioned political barriers in her stride toward world-power through ever greater state concentration. He is satisfied that the necessary amount of 'freedom' will be granted to the German people, simply because that will be a necessary relief from the ever tighter domination by the state. For example, the Prussian franchise will be reformed because it has become the interest of German finance to remove such obstacles to German prestige abroad!

"What, then, is the new revolution, the

essentially German—"world revolution"? For Lensch it is this: The economic course of the war has destroyed the middle classes as a distinctive factor, raised the "proletariat," and welded the whole population together and the whole population with the state. 'The state,' says Lensch, 'has passed through a process of socialization, and the social democracy has passed through a process of nationalization.' The aim of German Socialism is no longer to overthrow the existing state and the non-Socialist classes, but to permeate all classes, to become itself the state, and to carry forward the 'world revolution,' which is Germany, to the overthrow of all 'counter-revolutionaries,' of whom the chief is England. The obsolete ideas of 'liberalism' and 'democracy' were mere borrowings from 'English individualism,' and, since what is wanted is not a weak state, but a strong state, the 'revolutionary character' of a particular country has nothing to do with the question whether its constitution is 'liberal and republican, or monarchic and autocratic.'"

The writer, concluding his analysis, says this of the work:

"The importance of Lensch's book lies in its candid, if boisterous, expression of what the ordinary German Socialists think but do not dare to say, and in its penetrating analysis of the economic foundations of militarism. Lensch regards England as the one great enemy, and he expects that England after the war will adopt protection and be 'rejuvenated' by faithful imitation of the whole Prussian state system, economic and military. What he has never attempted to face is the possibility that Germany's enemies will achieve real economic unity and destroy the German system in the only way by which it can be destroyed—by the destruction of its economic foundations."

"What, You Say I Started the War?"



—From The Westminster Gazette.

Another Dream Gone Glimmering



"The Louvre Shall Be My Stables!"
From Esquella, Barcelona.