

Thousands Join Bread Boycott On East Side

Women Demand a Loaf for 3 Cents and Rolls for 18 and Put Picket Lines Around the Bakery Stores

Owners Refuse to Yield

Home Ovens Are Busy Supplying Necessities; Meetings Spread the Campaign

Twenty-five bakeries were boycotted by customers and mobbed by agitators in the 6th Assembly District yesterday as a result of the mass meeting of the Socialist Consumers' League, held in the Lenox Assembly Rooms, Second Street and Avenue C, Tuesday night. It was with difficulty that the police prevented rioting among the excited and clamorous women who mobbed the bakeries and held meetings at the street corners. Three thousand women are interested in the bread strike and hundreds of homes are affected. The police look for serious complications within the next two days. It is said to be the intention of the striking cloak makers to aid and abet the women in their demand that the price of bread be reduced from 9 to 8 cents and rolls from 20 to 18 cents. The ovens in the district were working overtime yesterday. The women are making preparations for a long siege and they have entered with enthusiasm upon a home-baked bread campaign. Yesterday children were munching matzohs, bought in grocery stores.

Hundreds of Homes Hit
Agitation commenced in the district with the first raucous sounds of maternal life yesterday. Plans for volunteer picketing had been laid by Mrs. Rose Elias, organizer of the Consumers' League; Mrs. S. Weingart, Louis Sperling, manager of the People's Cooperative Society, and others. In all 250 women were detailed for picket duty, but they soon resolved themselves into an unruly mob, which was gradually augmented as people turned out to find what the trouble was. In no time scores of screaming, chattering, gesticulating women formed self-appointed bodyguards around the doors of the bake shops.

Any one who attempted to enter was held up, and few had the luck to break down the solid barrier which confronted them at the door of every bakery. The local policemen had to send for reserves to break up the mobs and to keep an eye on the street corner meetings.

Banners over the improvised platforms declaimed the high cost of living and called for justice for the consumer and retribution for the profiteering baker. American flags were flown after a warning by the police.

Bakers Won't Give In
Bakers, for the most part, folded their hands under their aprons and murmured: "These women! Bolsheviki—that's what they are. Like to hear them—

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selves talk. It costs us 11 cents to produce the loaves we're selling for nine.

"Let them keep it up. They'll get tired of it before we do. It would be better for us to close than to sell our bread any cheaper."

"My husband and I will close, but we certainly won't bring down the price," confided a Jewish mother. "We work night and day, and our men work overtime and still we're not making money. Labor is \$58 a week and flour is \$10.50 a barrel. I work half the night. My children work, too, but what's the use?"

The woman hugged her baby a little closer and shrugged her shoulders.

Plan Cooperative Shop
One baker on Eighth Street has been selling bread for 8 cents since the Passover, but he did not profit yesterday to the extent of one cent. The boycott of bakeries, in general, included him. The other bakers regard him as a black sheep and the public does not patronize him, so he is distinctly skeptical.

Louis Sperling, manager of the People's Cooperative Society, is laying plans for opening a cooperative bakery shop like the butcher's shop, which he has already instituted in the Sixth Assembly District, and which will undersell all the stores in the neighborhood.

Mass meetings were held last night and the pickets will be out again this morning, so that the iron ring is solidly clamped around the bakeries of the district. The agitators expect the strike to spread to other parts of the city.

Bakers and Drivers Make Strike Threats
William Karlin, attorney for the Bakery Drivers' Union, announced yesterday that a strike of 6,000 bakery wagon drivers is being organized. The main demand is for union recognition. Journeymen Bakers' Union No. 1 has issued an ultimatum giving their employers until May 25 to grant its demands. The bakers are demanding an increase in wages of 50 cents a day, the abolition of night work and a maximum eight-hour working day.

Predicts Drop in Cost of Bread

Grain Official Says That Lower Wheat Price Will Bring Buyer Benefits

Lower prices for wheat, resulting in a reduction to the consumer in the price of bread is an early prospect, according to Julius Barnes, Federal wheat director. Mr. Barnes conferred

yesterday with grain handlers, millers, flour jobbers and bakers in the office of the Food Administration Grain Corporation, 42 Broadway.

Mr. Barnes announced that all the interests concerned had agreed that if a lower basis for the price of wheat is justified as the season advances the reduction shall reach the consumer in bread. He issued this statement, giving the results of the agreement:

"There was a general agreement, in order that all the wheat producers of the country should secure equal benefits, that the various trades could be bound by contracts to see that wheat trading should be only on the guaranteed price, and if a lower basis was justified by the developments of world factors as the season advanced, this lower basis should be made to reach the consumer by trade agreements with millers and manufacturing facilities, the wheat director making the readjusting basis effective by the payment of the difference, as allowed allowed under act of Congress.

Protection Is Asked
"In return for protection against a fall in price, after the guaranteed price had been made for wheat bought, the wheat director would require from the various trades contract obligations by which their trade practices and margins of profit would be subject to his review and control.

"It was suggested, for instance, that the mills agree that their total gross operating profits between wheat bought and the finished products sold should not exceed an agreed basis a barrel of flour manufactured, thus assuring immediate reflection to the consumer of any reduced price of wheat supplied to the mills.

"The jobbers expressed a willingness to contract that their handling margins should not exceed the price fixed on an agreed basis, thus making immediately effective a lower retail price of flour when made by the mills on a readjusted wheat basis.

"The bakers were willing to enter into a contract by which they would reflect at once in their products the lower price of flour made effective by the mills.

"Some of the Western delegates expressed the view that certain sections of the producing wheat country had developed a sentiment that wheat next year might be worth more than the guaranteed price in the open markets, but the general view was that the crops promised so well that any withholding from the market and blockade sentiment would be unappreciable in the total volume.

"New wheat will be moved in Texas in thirty days and from the present outlook in six weeks more they will commence a very large movement of new winter wheat. In order that seaports and interior markets should not be choked by congestion and blockade the general opinion was that the grain corporation should continue the cooperative control with the railroad administration of the movement of cereal and cereal products by the permit system of car shipment.

U. S. Doughboy Sends Food to Enemy Uncles

Wounded Soldier Says He Doesn't Want Relatives in Germany to Starve "Now That the Scrap Is Over"

Big Cargo for the Thala

Army Lieutenant and Federal Official Among Those Who Have Engaged Space

A United States soldier, recently returned from France, with two wound stripes on his sleeve, accompanied his mother yesterday to the offices of the Balkan-American Express and Navigation Company, at 25 Broad Street. That is the corporation which has chartered the steamer Thala to sail June 5 with a cargo of foodstuffs for Germany.

They made a reservation for the shipment of a quantity of canned meats, chocolate and other articles of diet to the mother's relatives in Bremen.

"In addition to my son here," said the mother, "I have two brothers in the American army, both of whom fought overseas. Three other brothers were in the German army, and it is to them and my mother, ninety-two years old, that I wish to send food."

"You didn't happen to ever meet any of your uncles on the battlefield, did you?" an official of the company asked the soldier.

He said he had not.

"Would you have shot them, if necessary, had you met them?"

After the Battle
"You bet I would!" was the response. "But I don't want them to starve to death now that the scrap is over."

The Thala is due at New York today from San Francisco, and work of loading her with German relief foodstuffs will begin immediately. She will discharge her cargo at Hamburg and the packages will be distributed to various parts of Germany. The Balkan-American Express and Navigation Company chartered the vessel shortly after the war trade board, on April 23, announced that shipments of food for Germany would be permitted.

Ever since the projected sailing of the Thala was made known the offices of the company have been besieged by Americans with relatives and friends in Germany. There are lines of applicants sometimes of sixty and seventy persons. Telephone applications have been received from as far away as Chicago and telegrams from points as distant as Los Angeles.

A first lieutenant in the United States army reserved cargo space for ten cubic feet for his grandmother and two uncles in Germany. The uncles served in the Kaiser's forces.

U. S. Official Among Shippers
A United States Court Commissioner, serving in a district in the vicinity of New York City, arranged to ship \$500 worth of food to friends in a Rhineland town.

Mitchell I. Liebenson, secretary and general manager of the Balkan-American Express and Navigation Company, made it plain that the voyage of the Thala was not in any way

for the purpose of opening trade relations with Germany.

"It is merely for relief," he said, "and nothing except foodstuffs will be accepted for shipment. If we were taking regular merchandise we would need five ships instead of one."

The War Trade Board has even drawn the line against sending soap to Germany, although that is a badly needed article there. The reason is that soap contains glycerine, which can be utilized in the manufacture of explosives.

Cotton Shipment Refused
While a Tribune reporter was talking to Mr. Liebenson a New York broker called up to find out if he might ship 1,000 bales of cotton on the Thala. His request was refused.

Large individual shipments of foodstuffs are being discouraged in order that as many as possible may avail themselves of the opportunity. Shippers are being urged to confine their packages to two cubic feet each. The shipping charge is \$5 a cubic foot.

Some of the commonest articles appearing in the cargo list are chocolate, cereals, lard and its substitutes, spices, canned meats, soups and fruits, bacon, coffee, tea, flour, sugar, dried

peas and beans, rice, butter, baking powder, condensed milk and cocoa. Fresh meats are not accepted and cured meats, such as smoked pork, must be submitted to inspection by the United States health authorities.

The Thala will also carry supplies for Czechoslovakia. These are not limited to foodstuffs, that country having been taken under the protecting wing of the Economic League at Versailles.

The Czechoslovak shipments will be transferred at Hamburg from the Thala to a river steamer and transported on the River Elbe to Prague.

Another ship is to be chartered by the Balkan-American Express and Navigation Company to carry foodstuffs to German Austria, but no sailing date has been announced. The offices of the company are kept open from 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. for the accommodation of persons who wish to make shipments to Germany and Czechoslovakia.

"The note expressed by the great majority of those who have applied to us so far," said Mr. Liebenson, "has been one of appreciation and gratitude to the United States government for raising the blockade. None of them have appeared to be pro-Germans. They

are people who are and have been throughout loyal to America, but their hearts have been for their relations and friends in Germany and they are merely following natural humanitarian dictates in providing them with that which will keep body and soul together."

Five Face Murder Charge

Charged with the murder of Joseph Holbach, a hotel keeper of South Ozone Park, Queens, and his wife Helen, about midnight of January 20, six Italians were arraigned in the Queens County Supreme Court yesterday and held without bail.

In spite of the fact that they pleaded not guilty District Attorney O'Leary says he has five complete confessions. The accused are: Michael Casolino, twenty-seven, of 146 Classon Avenue; Paul Ricci, thirty-three, of South Ozone Park; Rocco Bracci, twenty-seven, of 841 Kent Avenue; Tony Bruno, twenty, of 928 Hudson Avenue; Nicholas Chiusano, nineteen, of 80 Emerson Place; Frank Diolo, thirty-four, of 251 Classon Avenue; all of Brooklyn.

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