

PACKING INDUSTRY HAS GOOD RECORD

Chicago Concerns Ordered to Ship 200 Cars of Meat to Seaboard Daily.

BIG ORDERS GIVEN FOR BACON

Packer Experts Solve Puzzling Problem in Manufacture of Gas Masks. Story of What Business Is Doing to Help Win War.

CHICAGO, June 22.—At least one hog out of four raised in America this summer is being sent to the allies. The shipments of meat are made up of beef, mutton, pork, and the various products put up by the packers. Never before in the history of the world has an organization been built up quietly that handled supplies on such a colossal scale. The detail involved is enormous. The whole general and little conception of the prodigious nature of the tasks handled by the grain and meat divisions of the food administration.

So said Charles McCarthy, representative of Herbert Hoover, in a statement appearing in the Chicago Tribune of June 5. In a nutshell, it is the story of one industry that has measured up fully to war requirements. Packing and distributing the food which is destined to win the war is one problem which has caused no end of Washington because the official organization known as the American packers have met every demand upon them and "delivered the goods" at the place specified and to the minute.

In view of the columns that have been written regarding the failure of various industries to come through properly on war supplies, it is interesting to know that the most essential of all army requirements—food—is being delivered in exact accord with the wishes of the government.

Mr. McCarthy speaks truly when he says the public has little conception of the colossal scale on which food supplies are being handled. Shipments of meat are going to the allies and to our expeditionary forces at the rate of 15,000 pounds a minute. The ten-hour work day at Eastern ports. That means 5,000,000 pounds a day. Shipments, of course, are not so well distributed as the above daily average might indicate. They are regulated by available ships. The ship movements are irregular, and there are times when numbers of them put into port together, and want cargoes immediately. It is in meeting such sudden demands that the packing industry has distinguished itself from other industries.

For example, one day not many weeks ago shipping space for a considerable quantity of food became available in a few hours' notice. The government authorities in Washington wired to Chicago packing concerns to begin shipping meat to seaboard at the rate of 200 cars a day. Such an order had never been dreamed of before. But the packers delivered the goods and kept it up till the government wired the rate to 400 cars a day. On several occasions the government buying agents have summoned representatives of the big packers into conference and then told them that bacon was wanted in unusual amounts. "How much can you supply?" was the query directed at each packer representative, and some prodigious orders have been given on that basis.

Last month the United States ordered 250,000,000 pounds of meat to be delivered in three weeks. The final shipments have just been made—well within the time limit.

Not alone in meats, but in other things that the industry and its allied branches supply, has packer efficiency been apparent. For instance, a sandpaper works received an order by wire for an enormous amount of its product "at the earliest possible moment." The factory buckled down to the task, ran off eighteen miles of sandpaper a yard wide, dried it, cut it up, packed it and shipped it before the following morning.

These are merely a few instances of the way the packers are measuring up to war demands. They are the efficient machine which, with the government administration is working in handling the prodigious tasks which Mr. McCarthy speaks of in his interview.

The whole story of packer usefulness in winning the war cannot be told in a short letter, however. One could be written regarding the development of any one of dozens of by-products which are proving of inestimable value to the nation. For instance, it was an auxiliary concern which enabled the government to overcome the handicap of our army equipped by the German monopoly of potassium sufficient to produce the glass that is needed for our soldiers and sailors' binoculars, range finders and cameras. It was packer experts who solved one of the most important problems incident to supplying our men with gas masks. It is a packer product that is used to stanch the flow of blood from the wounds of our soldiers; it is a packer product which is used to sew up the wounds of our soldiers; which the soldiers clean up after their turn in the trenches is a packer product; the glue which figures largely in the manufacture of airplanes comes from the packers; the aviators' sheep felt coats are packer products; glycerine for use in explosives, animal oils for lubricating purposes and the like come largely from packing houses.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

State Association of Commercial Associations Pledge Uncle Sam They Will Help Win War.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., June 22.—At the recent meeting of the Southern Commercial Secretaries' Association, resolutions were unanimously adopted as follows:

"Whereas, all the energies of our people at this time are devoted to the winning of this war; now, therefore, be it resolved, That we, members of the Southern Commercial Secretaries' Association, do rededicate ourselves to the service of our country, subordinating all other activities, and hereby pledge our every effort to meet all demands to supply the various needs of our government.

"We further reiterate the sentiments expressed at the annual convention of the Southern Commercial Secretaries' Association unanimously pledging our support to the President of the United States, and we assure him that we are ready to respond to any call he may make upon us.

"Further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by wire to the President of the United States of America and to the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy, respectively."

Great Woman Spy Tells Life Story

Author Gives Striking Revelations of German's Far-Reaching Espionage System.

WRITTEN BY MISS OLGA VON NIELL. EDITED BY HENRI DE HALSALLE. (Copyright, 1917, by Henri de Halsalle, by the International News Bureau, Inc.)

At the abode of my mother's old friend, Madame Varia Nogloff, close by the church of St. Vladimir, I was enthusiastically welcomed. And you have become an American? Well, I have heard of the country. Our Jews go there, but it is far away, and are they civilized, these Americans? We have had a few of them in this town before, and all they have said is 'Fancy, Jane, this place was built by Peter the Great in 1710. Think of that, Jane, in 1710! It is a very ancient place. We have nothing like it in Minneapolis, do we? And I do not like their talk, it is a sort of nasal mimicry of the English speech; and, remember me well, I know English, for my dear mother came from the port of Liverpool, and her maiden name was Bleasdale."

I liked Madame Varia Nogloff at once; she gave me the impression of being "genuine." Could she be of use to me, or had she any friends I could "sound?"

"To-morrow evening, she informed me, she was giving a little party in my honor. Some fifteen guests would be present. "We shall have some music and singing. You will enjoy yourself, I am sure," cried Madame Nogloff, questioning her about the party to be present. I learned that there would be two military officers and their wives, a violinist called Steglau, who was going to make a great name for himself in the musical world; a nephew of the Governor of Kronstadt, and several other persons whose description were of no significance to me.

The nephew of the Governor of Kronstadt might be of use to me. Who was he? I put the question to Madame Nogloff.

"Oh, my dear," replied my mother's friend, "he is just a most ordinary young man. By profession an engineer, he is always inventing things. Through his suggestions some of the forts have been reconstructed, and he is said to have made vast improvements in the guns. Yes, he is the genius of this island, which he calls his 'mother.' When an English firm were building the Askold batteries, in the North, they asked him to see the Admiralty at Petersburg, and this young man's word was law, as far as Russia is concerned. Yes, the English asked him to go to England, some where in the North, and they promised him many thousands of roubles a year; but no, young Alexander Kovanko will not leave Kronstadt any more than a fortnight old kitten will leave her dam. You see, he fell in love with him when you see him—handsome as a god, and good-natured, like all good Russians, but unlike so many Russians, full of wit and laughter, and a philosophy in himself, for he persuades you that life is worth living. It ruffles the silver tresses of the stars. It was a habit of his to take a poetical flight when she was enthusiastic about anything.

Need I say that Alexander Kovanko began to interest me. I might "go further" than the Admiralty, I decided to cultivate the young gentleman's acquaintance.

At the party given in my honor I am afraid I spent more time conversing with Alexander Kovanko than the rules of politeness allow. But then, to a young American woman (who so frequently has no manners at all) much is forgiven in Europe.

Young Kovanko I did not find quite so handsome as the good Nogloff represented him to be; but he was a quite unusual type of Russian, fair-haired,

blue-eyed, and with none of the slav melancholy in face or manner. He was only too eager to speak English, and soon became friendly and communicative. At the piano he accompanied me in two or three songs admirably.

"You must give a concert in the city," he said, "we do not often hear such a fine voice as yours in Kronstadt, but perhaps you have that intention," he added. I told him that I had no such intention, and that I should never again sing publicly.

"Why, that is a great loss to the musical public. You will miss a great career," he said. I then explained to Kovanko my reason for abandoning the profession.

"You are here then just for sight-seeing, for pleasure?"

"Yes, I have come to spy on Kronstadt," I answered with a laugh. Kovanko laughed, too, more heartily than I did.

"That is good," he cried. "I know now you are not a spy for the last thing a spy would do would be to disclose his profession—unless under compulsion. But you have not done that, for you are on the island before," I said. "I have read of them."

"Ah, what you have read—pardon my saying so—will contain little of the truth. Only the truth could be learnt here, in records that the ever kept under lock and key."

"I read of an Englishwoman once who stole blanks and things from the Governor's house, and—"

"Oh, yes, that is very many years ago, but she was detected. There was no harm done—nothing done to her. She was sent back home with a 'flea in her ear,' as the English say."

"But you are said to be very afraid of spies in this island," I returned. "What formalities, what precautions you take! All the world has heard of them."

"Yes, but we no longer fear the woman spy. What there is to be learnt of the defenses of Kronstadt—worth learning—could not be ascertained by a woman. The cleverest men spies ever known have at one time or another tackled spies, but they have always come off badly. To-day the spy knows that Kronstadt is a granite nut, to crack which would break his teeth and make his gums bleed."

"You imprison the spy when he is caught?"

"Oh, yes, he gets punishment enough, although altogether I don't quite agree with the severity of our laws concerning the spy. The really dangerous spy is the resident one; but there is no resident spy in Kronstadt these times, unless he be a Russian, which is unthinkable."

"Then my mission here as a spy employed by the American government is futile," I jokingly replied.

"Quite," he added. "Your country has been enough to catch her own affairs. She is the last nation to spy in the region of the Baltic."

"But I bear a German name, remember," I said, "and for what you know I might not be a German spy."

The young Russian laughed loudly. "Oh, those German spies! They do make me smile. Why, there is not a hand employed on any of our harbors who does not know the name of a spy as the Gulf of Danzig. As soon as a spy enters Kronstadt the very pavement whistles his name and his nationality, and his visit is always a very brief one—to get on to other affairs. He finds that visit considerably prolonged—east of Petersburg."

"Then I can consider my spring mission at an end?"

"Kovanko laughed again. 'Not at all,' he said, 'let us say it has just begun. Now, Miss von Kopf, I know you are only joking—pulling my leg,' as the English say—I will make you this offer. I will show you part of the defenses of Kronstadt. Mind you, if you are a spy (Kovanko looked serious for a moment) you must put up with the consequences. Siberia would be an ungenial and uninteresting climate for any one coming so far eastward as you have done."

"I will accept your invitation," I replied laughing. "And as for Siberia, well, I have been as far as Irkutsk before, and I like that country."

(To be continued to-morrow.)

IN EASTERN CAROLINA

A People Who Need to Handle More of Their Raw Material at Home.

In the Manufacturers' Record, Colonel Fred Olds, the mile-a-minute North Carolina correspondent of several newspapers and magazines, gives utterance to a well as follows:

"Peanuts are produced in great quantities in Edgecombe, Martin, Chowan, Perquimans, Bertie, Northampton and other counties; some the Virginia peanut and the others the Spanish, the latter being the oil-producer. But, like the tobacco, these go out unmanufactured, and during the summer and until the new crop comes in there is far too much idleness in the towns, which fact greatly impressed the writer, for it is in such sharp contrast to the Piedmont towns from Raleigh westward with their humming factories, manufacturing products from cotton, tobacco and other materials. Then, too, from the east so much crude timber and lumber go out of the State unmanufactured; this also in sharp contrast to conditions west of Raleigh."

The colonel also furnishes the following item that is of interest to Richmond merchants:

"Srenuous efforts are being made for the building of a network of real highways in the Northeastern section of the State and the Eastern, with a bridge across the Roanoke River, at the Williamson, as a keystone of the scheme, for that river is the cause of many troubles, there being no bridge across it from Weldon to Albemarle Sound, so that counties are separated as if by a wall."

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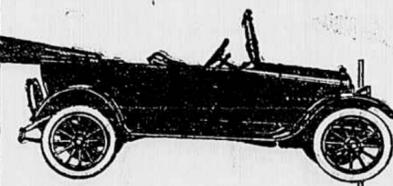
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