

ENGLAND HELPS HER ENEMY POOR

Maintains Charitable Committee for Needy Germans in Country.

London, Dec. 18.—So far as known here, England is the only one of the countries at war which supports a charitable committee for the help of enemies in its midst. Yet such is the "emergency committee for the assistance of Germans, Austrians and Hungarians in distress."

This society was formed by members of the Religious Society of Friends to aid "innocent alien enemies in Great Britain rendered destitute by the war," and its report for the last fiscal year shows that nearly one hundred thousand dollars was contributed and disbursed. Membership is not confined to the Quakers, for the archbishop of Canterbury, the head of the Church of England, and the bishops of Litchfield and Lincoln, as well as Viscount Bryce, Lord Haldane, formerly minister for war, and several members of parliament and ministers of Protestant churches are among its supporters.

The committee maintains a regular staff of visitors who pay regular calls and enter sympathetically into the many difficulties that continually arise.

The report shows how the strain of the war is telling on many people. "Many of the women visited are suffering from depression and other nerve troubles, owing to the great strain put on them by the isolation of their position and the struggle for existence. A small special fund has been opened to enable our visitors to cheer these poor souls during the times of acute crisis or prolonged

THESE FOUR RULERS READY FOR PEACE



Left to right, top: Kaiser of Germany and Sultan of Turkey. Bottom: Emperor of Austria-Hungary and King of Romania.

These four rulers of the central powers are ready for peace, but apparently are not ready to surrender anything to their foes. Peace on their terms would aid Germany by making separate kingdoms of Poland and Lithuania, and giving her a freer hand in the Balkans and Mesopotamia; and would aid Bulgaria by giving her Macedonia and Dobruja. Austria-Hungary and Turkey would lose nothing, and perhaps might gain something in the peace conference.

monotony, so that the mental and spiritual strain may be relieved before the breaking point is reached."

Still the committee finds many cases where deportation to Germany or Austria is sought. "As the weary months of the war drag on for those who are unable to take any part in the active work going on in all directions, and as savings diminish, many families who asked for and obtained their exemption to stay in England now make up their minds to return to their own countries. The questions we are asked, and the advice sought, become more and more varied. We continue to make up parties of those leaving England, and we are frequently asked to send children back to their relations. So far we are glad

to say that all such children have reached their destination safely, although sometimes obliged to travel almost alone. A chain of workers in England and Holland hand them on from one to another."

A considerable part of the committee's activity devoted to work in the internment camps. During the past year the number of interned civilians in England has increased considerably, and the military prisoners are also growing in number. With regard to the condition of those interned, the report says: "We find that in many cases the men are continually oppressed with anxiety about their families, whether in England or Germany, and about their business and future prospects. There is often a deep sense of injustice and uselessness. It is only natural that long months of confinement should lead to depression, and threaten nervous mental or moral breakdown in a good many cases."

"We share the feeling of dread and horror with which prisoners—especially the civilians, who suffer most—on both sides, look forward to the possibility of another winter in camp and we are longing for the success of the present negotiations between the governments for ending the whole internment system."

"Commercial Slavery" Objected to by Many German Business Firms

Berlin, Dec. 18.—German commercial organizations are making a strenuous protest against a form of "commercial slavery," which they say is beginning to make itself known.

Most business firms, since the beginning of the war, have voluntarily paid to the relatives of employees called into the army, a portion of such employees' salaries or wages. Some of them particularly in the Rhineland are now making the employees enter into an agreement to work for their firms at least three years after the arrival of peace, on pain of having the voluntary payments to their relatives cease. Their salaries may or may not be raised during that time. They also are asked to sign a sort of note, which is in effect promise to repay the aggregate of the payments made to relatives, at five per cent, if they leave the employ of the firm within three years.

Chambers of commerce that have taken the matter up, while agreed that the burdens upon many firms of paying salaries to employees' relatives are sometimes inordinately severe, are convinced that stringent steps must be taken against a practice as "unsocial" and "unpatriotic" as the plan adopted by the Rhineland firms.

EMPLOYED BY U. S. IN FIGHT TO SAVE THE ADAMSON LAW



Frank Hagerman, an attorney of Kansas City, Mo., has been appointed as special counsel for the defense of suits by the railroad against the constitutionality of the Adamson eight-hour law. Assistant Attorney General Underwood will head the defense in these suits.

Funny how fickle some bachelors are who say all women are alike.

PROPERTY TO BE SOLD

Mobbs Millions, Cause of Legal Wrangling for Past 80 Years, Up for Auction.

London, Dec. 18.—Legal wrangling which has been going on for 80 years over "John Mobbs' millions" will be ended next spring with the sale at auction here of the immense properties which have caused so many heart burnings.

The auctioneer knows these properties as the "London estate of Lord Arlington," and their value is somewhere in the neighborhood of seven million dollars. They include factories and docks covering scores of acres on Regent's Canal in London, together with more than 2,500 houses, rented for various terms of years to working-class tenants.

Mobbs' millions have for nearly a century been a glittering bubble to hundreds of "rightful heirs" who have either turned up in quest of them or been turned up by lawyers in quest of the large fees.

John Mobbs was a Northamptonshire coachman. In 1757 he married the daughter of his old master, a rich

London distiller, and thus became the owner of a large agricultural estate in the then outskirts of London. His Mobbs' use of the land was restricted by certain ancient "rights" which the citizens of London possessed to practice "free archery" over them, and there were stone "archer's marks" dotted over the fields when Mobbs became their owner.

Mobbs, however, granted lease imprecisely over the greater part of the estate, and then mortgaged the whole thing to a merchant named Sturt. The greater part of the Mobbs meadows thus fell into the hands of the Sturts, the head of whom is now Lord Allington.

Building began on the Mobbs meadows in 1823 and twenty years later they were all covered with houses and factories, wharves and coal yards, canal basins and timber sheds. The golden acres have ever since been so occupied. Hideous slums grew up there too, which the tax payers had to buy up at high prices in order to replace them with parks and healthier dwellings. As London increased in value the value of the property went up, and various descendants of John Mobbs went into the court, carried on lawsuits, seized empty houses, and otherwise endeavored to assert their alleged claims.

Many of the original leases did not

expire until 1870, and there was then a great reopening of the legal hostilities. The attempts to regain the property for the descendants of Mobbs always failed, however, although there seemed to be plenty of legal technicalities to justify their pleas. At one time professional pugilists were employed to garrison the empty houses, but the Sturts won in the end and the Mobbs meadows are now to be dispersed by the auctioneer's hammer.

Jap Superdreadnaught Ise Launched at Kobe

Kobe, Japan, Dec. 18.—In the presence of Prince Higashi Fushimi, the superdreadnaught Ise was launched yesterday at the Kawasaki shipyard. When a chain was severed with a commemorative axe the warship slid into the sea amid the booming of guns and cheers.

The Ise is a sister ship of the Yamashiro, with a length of 813 feet and displacement of 3,260 tons. Her armament will consist of twelve 14-inch guns, twenty 5-inch guns, four 3-inch guns for destroying aeroplanes, four machine guns, eleven 3-inch guns for landing parties and four torpedo tubes.

France is now tightening the prohibition of intoxicating liquors.

The opinion is expressed in periodicals that the present prices of farm products would justify the farmers in reducing their day's labor to fourteen hours.

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This list of buyers is national—from every State in the Union, and includes:

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- Noted Lawyers
- Bank Directors
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- College Presidents
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- Famous Authors

(A "Blue Book," containing a complete list of these buyers is now being compiled.)

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