

HOOVER FACES TASK OF FEEDING STARVING NATIONS OF EUROPE

Backed by \$100,000,000 Voted by Congress He Is Directing America's Part in the Work—Trusted Aids Make Personal Inspections of Food Situation in Poland, Serbia and Austria—Difficult Problems to Solve.

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Paris.—Backed by \$100,000,000 voted by congress, Herbert Hoover is here directing America's big part in feeding the famine-threatened nations of Europe.

But it is not the policy of Mr. Hoover's commission to give food away to the peoples now so sorely pressed with reconstruction problems. They must pay—at once, whenever possible. When they cannot pay, they are to be given credit, with security that will insure America against total loss.

Any other policy would mean the pauperization of Europe, and Hoover has no intention whatever of conducting a commission that would quickly put the millions of Roumania, Poland, and Serbia, to say nothing of the enemy nations, into a mighty bread line.

With this fundamental policy as the basis of conducting a gigantic relief commission, Mr. Hoover first of all needed money and authority to start the machinery. He had come to Europe with \$5,000,000 apportioned from President Wilson's contingent funds to finance such immediate relief work as was found, upon investigation, to be absolutely necessary for the salvation of Europe's new democracies, the Czechoslovaks, the Poles and Serbs, and also the Roumanians.

Congress Votes \$100,000,000.

When Hoover had a chance to look around, he discovered that \$5,000,000 was just about enough to finance food shipments for one of these nations. He did not single out one nation, however, but ordered cargoes aggregating \$15,000,000 rushed from the United States at once.

He trusted the American people to provide the capital needed. And when he got the first news of the final passage of the \$100,000,000 appropriation in congress, an expression of relief came into his face that had not been there for weeks.

With a small staff, Mr. Hoover has headquarters in the Hotel de Crillon, in Paris, which has been turned into a combination office building and hotel for members of the American commission to negotiate peace.

Some of Mr. Hoover's most trusted aides are making personal inspections of the food situation in Poland, Serbia, and Austria.

Dr. Alonzo Taylor's report from Vienna is very interesting. He found the output of coal and agricultural products in Austria-Hungary seriously reduced during 1917 as the result of the war, and still further lowered during 1918.

Austria-Hungary Badly Crippled.

As a result of the war and the allied food blockade, the stocks of commodities of all kinds, especially textiles, have been dangerously depleted and on account of the short production of coal the railways of the Austro-Hungarian states are badly crippled. Having efficient railway transportation is an important factor in moving foods where they are most urgently needed. Anything for the Czechs must pass through what is left of Austria proper.

Austria-Hungary has been divided into five separate political areas. Taylor believes that this action has for the time being greatly reduced the resources of all this territory. Each state sets up barriers against the others. He found the food distribution and supply which formerly was a matter of exchange among the separate states almost at a standstill. One section will have coal, another some sugar, another some grain, but each unable to "carry on" because of lack of what the others have. In such a situation, one state, inefficient, and with its financial system paralyzed, will have plenty of coal, but no food, while another having some food cannot distribute it because its railways have no coal.

All of which causes such general unemployment as to approach the danger point.

Slaves Without Hope.

In the essentially Austrian lands, there is a condition of apathy. No one seems to have hope. The people wait and in Vienna make an attempt at gaiety. Of industry there is none. In Jugo-Slavia and in Czechoslovakia there is an entirely different psychology. These liberated people have faith in the future and are reaching out and struggling to build up prosperous nations, while the German-Austrian peoples drift along in an apathetic state, and the Hungarians live in a daze of proud resignation. Galicia and eastern Hungary, that have been taken over by Roumania, have become voiceless.

Doctor Taylor found the food shortage most serious in German Austria, where the people are on a very low daily ration with extremely short supplies in stock, or in sight.

In Czechoslovakia there was sufficient food to carry the nation through the worst of the winter, but a shortage before the new harvest was inevitable.

Austria-Hungary—with fatalistic attitude—seemed unable to start reconstruction; not knowing and scarcely

earing what became of them. Political bitterness and financial paralysis completed the picture.

Out of this chaos, as director general of the supreme council of supply and relief, Hoover must find some method for distributing American foodstuffs.

Feed Him Before He Faints.

For the new nations, the Czechoslovaks and the Poles and Jugo-Slavs, that have no money, the scheme for selling American foods on credit is simpler.

Should any emergency arise in these countries demanding the prompt distribution of food, it will be distributed on the principle of "feed him before he faints."

The communities or nations must pay. Where they have no money—and the new democracies have little or no money worth anything outside their own borders—the food commission will take over some commodity produced in the nation.

Some time must elapse before the Americans can trade with Austria even on the basis of getting money or its equivalent for every pound of American-bought food that is distributed, because Austria was one of the nations against which America declared war. Until the blockade is lifted American interests cannot trade with the Austrians—unless perchance the situation develops to a point where red tape must be cut to save the lives that otherwise would be lost on account of the inroads of famine.

While the peace conference was building up a machine to settle problems arising from a war-torn Europe, Poland, one of the new democracies, was suffering from lack of foods that could only be supplied from America.

Saved From Starvation.

Hoover sent Dr. Vernon Kellogg to investigate the situation. Kellogg reported "Poland must have immediate assistance from the outside world (which meant America) if the poorer inhabitants of the large cities and the unemployed workmen and children in the industrial centers were saved from starvation."

Under normal conditions, Poland is self-supporting, as regards food, but four and a half years of war had brought the nation to desperate straits.

German looters stripped all machines of copper and belting. Scores of machines were wantonly destroyed. Tons of stuff were carried away by the Germans.

In all Poland, with its 4,000,000 people, the danger of starvation was a daily menace from December, when the peace conference started, until food from America arrived.

Take Security.

It is with such nations as Poland that Hoover has to deal. There was only one way to obtain some kind of compensation for American foods distributed. This "one way" entailed considerable risk when one thought in terms of millions of dollars. But millions—in the old war game were mere pawns in the gigantic enterprise of war. And in the first reconstruction days they had to be viewed from the same standpoint. The one just method, according to the Hoover policy, was to take some kind of security from the nations benefited by American supplies. Each nation had a different security. Roumania had oil fields which formed a basis of credit, if the world (America) sent food in time. The world needed oil, and Roumania needed food.

In Warsaw there was another kind of security; the woolen mills, which in peace times were among the finest in the world. Factories could not reopen, however, until the employees were fed. The population was weakened from hunger. "Feed the people; they in turn will feed the securities," was the Hoover policy. The first need has been met by a gift ship from America, but it is only a drop in the bucket.

War Dead 17,500,000, Says British Paper

London.—A complete summary of the world war casualties compiled by the Manchester Guardian gives the total number of deaths at 17,500,000.

This number includes a mortality of 4,000,000 from pneumonia and influenza.

Allied losses are placed at 5,500,000, excluding a large number of French civilian dead.

Deaths suffered by the central powers are estimated at some 12,000,000.

Italy's losses were 300,000 from disease in the war zone, or three-fifths as many as were killed in action. Four million Armenians, Syrians, Greeks and Jews were massacred by the Turks.

Serbian civilians to the number of 1,000,000 died through massacre, hunger or disease. Germans are held responsible for deaths of 7,500 neutrals.

PLEASANT VALLEY.

Mrs. Levi Foster went to Bemidji last week on a visit to her new grandson, baby Hedgland.

Ira Cook was a business caller in Bemidji Saturday.

Joe Pete hauled in ties to the railroad last week.

Quite a few saw logs are being put in at the mill. In the not distant future we hope to have some new, modern houses in this community.

The Literary club met at the F. V. Gardner home last Friday evening and spent a most pleasant time with program and lunch.

Misses Nina Cook and Gladys Peterson spent the day at C. W. Clark's Saturday.

Horace Higgins of Nebish was visiting Norman Gardner at Boston Lake.

Clyde Fuller is in the hospital at Bemidji having successfully undergone an operation for appendicitis. He will doubtless be home soon.

Earle Cook has gone to Emerado, N. D., to spend the summer.

F. V. Gardner and Geo. Edwards made a business trip to Bemidji.

E. R. Lee and Mr. McClellan were callers in Bemidji last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Randall and Mrs. Mrs. Ray Warden made a business trip to Bemidji recently.

R. R. Dickens made a business call in Bemidji last week.

Bemidji is surely our home town from the way our people are doing business there.

Clarence McClellan is home from Minneapolis where he has spent the winter mostly in the hospital, where

he had his ankle straightened. He feels very proud to be able to walk without his usual limp. We congratulate him.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pete gave a taffy-pull at their home recently. The young folks, and some of the older ones, too, report a very pleasant evening.

Rev. Palmer conducted services at the Watson school house Sunday the 16th. Sunday school is re-opened and attendance urged each Sunday at 10:30 a. m.

LAKE HATTIE.

Erick Landgren, W. G. Cook and Sam Boyd were recent visitors in Bemidji.

Mrs. Signa Spragg is working for Mrs. D. C. Searl.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Allen entertained the J. W. Heggie family at dinner Sunday.

L. V. Harpel and H. Tiara are cutting their summer's supply of ice on Lost Lake this week.

Miss Grace Stillwell resumed her studies at the high school in Bemidji, Monday, after a very pleasant visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Stillwell.

Miss Genevieve Boyd who spent the winter with Mrs. Gust Hoglin, and attended the consolidated school, has returned to her home in Lake Alice township.

S. J. Horner, accompanied by his sons, Velmar and Gerald, returned Saturday from Shellah, Iowa, where they have visited for several months, to prepare for the seasons work on his large farm.

W. G. Cook has discontinued his logging operations on Schoolcraft River, on account of the thaw. He and his wife have again taken up their residence on their farm at Fernhill.

D. C. Searl and family, who have been living on W. G. Cook's place during the latter's absence, moved Wednesday to their own home near the Lake Hattie town hall.

Mr. John Mickelson and Mrs. Bessie Pearson were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at Bemidji, Wednesday, March 20th, 1919. Both of the contracting parties were among the earliest settlers of this vicinity and their many friends wish them unbounded happiness and prosperity. They will reside, for the present, on the bride's farm near Bemidji.

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Properly Dressed You Can Look the World Squarely in the Eye

MANY, many men have a secret philosophy about the character of clothes they wear. They know that power is largely a matter of consciousness, and that a man must win his own approval before he can command the approval of others.

If, for any reason—negligence, a false sense of economy, or lack of good judgment—a man clothes himself in garments that misrepresent his taste, or feeling, or knowledge of relative qualities, he knows that he loses some of the power by which men achieve success.

In providing for the clothing requirements of men of every age we specialize on each type or class and carry it to the utmost degree of intelligent development.

Suits that accentuate the aggressive spirit of youth, or suits that add dignity and character to the man of mature years are offered in the advance selection of Spring. Our familiarity with the requirements of our patrons—men who are representative of practically every calling—coupled with the best tailoring, has produced garments which will be a creditable addition to any man's wardrobe.



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