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Alsace Question One For Germans To Settle, Claim

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Basel, Oct. 26.—The question of Alsace-Lorraine is purely a German international question, declares Karl Hauss, the new governor of Alsace-Lorraine, in a statement published in the Strassburg Gazette. The statement is a reply to declarations made in the reichstag by Dr. Bickin, a deputy from Alsace-Lorraine and amounts to a government manifesto. It is issued in agreement with other deputies in Alsace-Lorraine.

The statement of Herr Hauss declares that the future of Alsace-Lorraine must be decided by a vote of the population and that it is an internal question of Germany with which a peace conference could have nothing to do. It concludes by saying that a new era is opening for Alsace-Lorraine which will enable the two provinces to form a point of reconciliation between France and Germany, "and to collaborate in establishing a compromise between two civilizations called to work in common for the safety and prosperity of humanity."

Poultry Men Are Asked Not to Sell Young Fowls Now

There is already the usual fall decline in market prices of poultry, announces the food administration. This is due to large receipts of immature and poorly fleshed chickens, scarcity of labor and inadequate refrigerating space. A heavy marketing of molting hens also has a depressing effect on the market.

Producers may assist in stabilizing the poultry market by withholding immature chickens and molting hens and by extending the normal period of fall marketing well into the winter. This will not only stabilize the market but result in actual increase in food from poultry.

True christianity is as deep as charity is high.

THE DAILY GERMAN LIE

By Harvey O Higgins, Associate Chairman Committee on Public Information

Washington, D. C., Oct. 26.—An Associated Press dispatch from London some time ago reported that there was current in Amsterdam a rumor to the effect that soldiers of the Forty-second American division had killed 150 German prisoners near Rheims on July 15, in retaliation for alleged losses sustained by our troops in action. Wolff's bureau, which is a German press bureau, endorsed the story as given on "creditable authority" and it was featured in the German newspapers.

Our war department has made an official investigation of the charge. Testimony has been obtained from thirty-eight officers who were in command of our troops in the action of July 15. No German prisoners were killed by American soldiers there, nor were any mistreated. "On the contrary," the war department finds, "the prisoners were well treated, the wounded cared for and carefully transported to the rear, and the prisoners given food, drink and cigarettes. In at least one case a wounded prisoner was carried, while one of our wounded officers walked."

It is generally wise policy on the part of our military authorities to encourage the German soldiers to surrender. To that end, the allies have been exceptionally kind in their treatment of German prisoners and they have spread word of this kindness up to the German lines in every possible way. It is equally obvious that the German military authorities wish to make their men fight to the death. And it is for this purpose that such stories as the above are invented by German agents and circulated in Germany.

Moreover, it has become increasingly evident of late that it is not merely stories of American atrocities that are being invented by German agents. They are inventing also stories of German atrocities and circulating them in this country. Such stories are frequently suspicious in their origin and easily disproved. When they are credited, they have the effect of crediting also the record of German atrocities in Belgium. When they are not discredited, they act as a sort of counterfeit "frightfulness." They worry the relatives of soldiers and Red Cross nurses who are exposed to the alleged bestialities. They also lend a popular demand for reprisals against the German troops. And with the German morale breaking down, it is not fanciful to assume that the German military authorities would welcome reprisals, and encourage the demand for them by means of these atrocity stories, in order to make it difficult for the German soldiers to surrender in the coming battles in which has been surrendering recently.

This appears to be the explanation of various forged copies of German atrocities that are appearing in American newspapers. A paper in Auburn, Nebraska, published such a story under the heading "Tongue Cut Out by Huns; American doctor sends message to family written under stamp on envelope." An investigation discovered that the doctor's family had not received any message of the sort. The story had been started by an anonymous telephone message that pretended to come from the family, but really came from some unidentified liar who was outdoing the German campaign.

A similar story in a California paper declared that another message had been received by the sweetheart of an American soldier who was dying in a German hospital. He had sent her his watch as a souvenir from his death-bed. Concealed in the watch was a message to say that his tongue had been cut out so that she would never see him again. The story proved on investigation to be a fake.

What appears to be a forged letter from an American soldier's mother is circulating in Iowa, Nebraska and Colorado newspapers. It alleges that he has been returned to her without eyes, nose, or arms. But he was two-fisted. Cross nurses, apparently mutilated by the Germans, and then the Germans "cut prisoners' eyes out and then stand and laugh at them."

A Trenton, N. J., newspaper recently published a news item from the Philadelphia Inquirer to the effect that there were in Springfield, Massachusetts, three hundred girls, ranging in age from six to ten years, all of whom had either one or both hands amputated at the wrist, the work, not of German soldiers, but of German officers. Inquiry at Holyoke found no mutilated Belgian girls there. There have been no Belgian girls brought to Holyoke either mutilated or otherwise. This sort of story has the added advantage, from the German point of view, that by depicting some costs a demon on all the proven and well-authenticated cases of German atrocities committed on Belgian girls during the early days of the war.

As a result of the campaign to deceive and inflame and confuse the American people with false atrocity stories, the military intelligence branch of our war department has sent the following letter to newspapers that have been imposed upon:

"Atrocity stories are daily handled around army camps abroad, they gain credence through circulation, and frequently they are communicated to this country in news dispatches, as soldiers' letters, as facts. Many of these stories are extremely difficult, if not absolutely impossible to trace to the source of origin. Consequently, we are asking editors to refrain publishing atrocity stories, whether charged against the enemy or against our allies, until such charges embraced in them shall have been substantiated and officially made public by our government, or the government of one of our allies.

"This is not the result of a desire to suppress criticism, but rather a reluctance to give publicity to charges that may be found to have been made by the enemy to prevent violation of the unimpeachable rule case which has not been established against him by the British, French reports and the findings of other official agencies which have investigated instances of cruelty. Publication of charges of atrocities that are not susceptible of proof would be a valuable asset to enemy propaganda, reacting upon the parties concerned.

"Furthermore, these atrocity stories require our officers to commit acts of espionage to enable the enemy to launch against us cruelty propaganda. Publication of atrocities charged against our allies affords him a similar opportunity.

"Generally speaking, conscious of the effect of publicity given to atrocity charges, we are loath to cable a public message to the war department describing statements relative to the atrocities charged against the German army which were being made in speeches delivered by a sergeant who had been returned from the expeditionary forces to participate in the Liberty Loan campaign.

"This message is directed particularly against statements uttered by soldiers, and we will appreciate it if you will co-operate with us by advising it."

In this connection, it is well to note that there has been an error made in the public history of the crucifixion of an American soldier by Germans named A. B. Cole of East Liverpool. A circumstantial account of the crucifixion has been printed by the American Army as related by Dr. T. H. Leonard, a member of the St. Louis chamber of commerce, who visited Belgium to gather first hand information about the war. All the world was giving the story as given by Private A. C. Cole, a Belgian, who found the crucified man pinned with no nails to a door.

To an inquiry from the war department, Dr. Leonard has replied that he has never seen A. C. Cole's signed statement, that he knew he "found his brother crucified by Uhlans, battle of Ypres, Jan. 1, 1915." But if the atrocity was committed in July, 1915, perhaps Cole was not a member of the American expeditionary forces but was enlisted probably in the Canadian army.

Austrian Foreign Minister Pacifist

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris, Oct. 26.—In well informed circles it is understood that the nomination of Count Julius Andrassy as successor to Baron Burian, the Austrian foreign minister, is above all important from the viewpoint of a conclusion of peace and an application for the "safety first" principle in Austria. It is said that peace at any price is now popular at Vienna and Budapest.

The Vienna correspondent of the Journal says that the new foreign minister is understood to be a partisan of immediate negotiations with the entente without recourse to the offices of President Wilson. He says that the situation in Austria-Hungary is such that the monarchy will soon capitulate and throw itself on the mercy of the allies.

The Czechs are now masters of the situation at Prague, it is said. The Slovaks have decided to change the name of Pressburg to Wilsonville. The Ruthenians of Galicia have declared for a separate Ukrainian state comprising regions in Austria-Hungary inhabited by Ruthenians. It is reported that anarchy reigns in the ancient Hungarian monarchy of Hungary. The correspondent says that in Austria no notice is being taken of decisions arrived at by Berlin.

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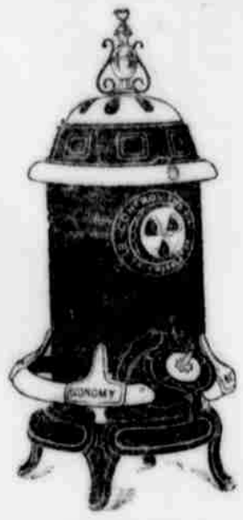

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'America First' Clubs Are Formed In Silver State

Since its inauguration in April, 1916, the Americanization movement in the state of Colorado has forged ahead vigorously. Five months have seen the work grow from a mere idea to a well concerted movement, which includes all the foreign groups now resident in the state. The means taken has been the organization of "America First" societies with a view to awakening an active spirit of patriotism and bringing the way for further education in the language, history, government and ideals of America.

There are now 41 chapters of the America First society of Colorado, including Japanese, Czech-Slovaks, Greeks, Italians, Germans and some of mixed nationalities. The total enrollment of the 32 chapters, a number of which are in mining towns, is more than [illegible] members. It is planned to form branches in 50 and 55 chapters throughout the state.

The task of organizing these societies in Colorado has not been an easy one owing to the great distances to be covered and the difficulty of reaching many of the metal mining camps. There are two societies organized at altitudes of an elevation of 12,500 feet above sea level, which are practically inaccessible in the winter time except by aerial tram, one of the trams being two miles long and the other four and one-half miles long. It is necessary to provide moving pictures for these meetings and to have competent instructors for evening classes twice a week.

Epidemic Is On Decline in El Paso

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 26.—The influenza ban on all public amusements, churches and schools was ordered continued until November 7 by the city board of health at a meeting today. It was announced the epidemic was rapidly decreasing but precautionary measures were still necessary.

At Fort Bliss only one death occurred from the disease last night. Twenty new cases were admitted to the base hospital, 49 discharged as cured, and a total of 251 influenza and 161 pneumonia cases were being treated. The military quarantine will be continued.

DEMOBILIZATION OF AUSTRIAN ARMY NOW IS PLANNED, RUMOR

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Oct. 26.—An official statement that demobilization of the Austro-Hungarian army is being prepared, is published by newspapers of Vienna, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says.

MOTHER! DON'T TAKE CHANCES IF CHILD'S TONGUE IS COATED

If cross, feverish, sick, bilious, clean little liver and bowels.

A laxative only moves a sick child long enough. A teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs" then don't worry, mother! It is perfectly harmless, and in few hours all this constipation poison, sour bile and fermenting waste will gently move out of the bowels, and you have a well, playful child again. A thorough "inside cleansing" is sometimes all that is necessary. It could be the first treatment gives joy and gladness.

Beware of counterfeit fig syrups. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs" which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Look carefully and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."

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