

## BELEAGUED HERDED IN CATTLE PENS

Testimony of Degradation Accompanying Deportation From Mons.

## DEGREASING OF FIENDISH CRUELTY

Forbidden to Give Food and Clothing to Men Facing Privation and Cold—United States' Appeal Unheeded.

Among cold-blooded cruelty committed by the Germans, to their everlasting dishonor, the deportation from Mons is a crime. Official documents published by the committee on public information tell part of the harrowing story.

A vivid sketch of the deportations from Mons, ordered by German authorities, as given by a participant, may well be read here:

"I will take the 18th of November (last year) [1916]. A week or so before that a placard was placed on the walls of my capital city of Mons telling my capital city of Mons that in seven days all the men of that city who were not clergymen, who were not priests, who did not belong to the army, would be deported.

That was five, in the year of the

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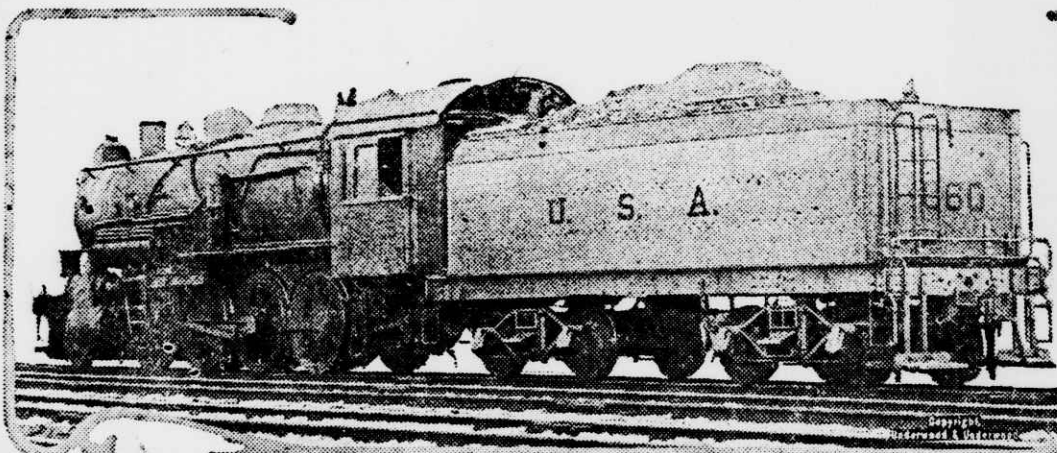
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## ENGINES MADE FOR RUSSIA WORK FOR U. S. A.



Marked with the insignia of the government railways, engines made for Russia, which have not been shipped because of the uncertainty of the situation there, are doing duty "somewhere in New Jersey" hauling long lines of coal cars to places where the fuel is greatly needed. The tender is marked U. S. A., and the engine is one of the many now owned by the government and being used to relieve the coal situation.

battlefields with that of their sons.

"Those who are taken away today do not go to perform a glorious duty. They are slaves in chains who, in a dark exile, threatened by hunger, prison, death, will be called upon to perform the most odious work—service to the enemy against the fatherland.

Rights of Honor and Conscience.

"The mothers cannot stand by while such an abomination is taking place without making their voices heard in protest.

"They address you in the name of the unalterable rights of honor and conscience.

"It has been said that women are 'all powerful supplicants.'

"We have felt authorized by this saying, Mr. Minister, to extend our hands to you and to address to your country a last appeal.

"We trust that in reading these lines you will feel at each word the unhappy heartbeats of the Belgian women and will find in your broad and humane sympathy imperative reasons for intervention.

"Only the united will of the neutral peoples energetically expressed can counterbalance that of the German authorities.

"This assistance which the neutral nations can and, therefore, ought to lend us, will it be refused to the oppressed Belgians?

"Be good enough to accept, Mr. Minister, the homage of our most distinguished consideration.

(Signed by a number of Belgian women and 24 societies.)

The United States government did not fail to respond to this touching appeal and to others of a similar nature. The American embassy at Berlin promptly took up the burning question of the deportations with the chancellor and other representatives of the German government. In an interview with the under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Grew was handed an official statement of the German plans, which is, in translation, as follows:

German Camouflage.

"Against the unemployed in Belgium, who are a burden to public charity, in order to avoid friction arising therefrom, compulsory measures are to be adopted to make them work so far as they are voluntarily inclined to work, in accordance with the regulation issued May 15, 1916, by the governor general. In order to ascertain such persons the assistance of the municipal authorities is required for the district of the governor general in Brussels, while in the districts outside of the general government, i. e., in the provinces of Flanders, lists were demanded from the presidents of the local relief committees containing the names of persons receiving relief. For the sake of establishing uniform procedure the competent authorities have, in the meantime, been instructed to make the necessary investigations regarding such persons also in Flanders through the municipal authorities; furthermore, presidents of local relief committees who may be detained for having refused to furnish such lists will be released."

Mr. Grew pointed out that the deportations were a breach of faith and would injure the German cause abroad. In his official summary of the negotiations which he carried on he says:

"I then discussed in detail with the under secretary of state for foreign affairs the unfortunate impression which this decision would make abroad, reminding him that the measures were in principle contrary to the assurances given to the ambassador by the chancellor at general headquarters last spring and dwelling on the effect which the policy might have on England's attitude towards relief work in Belgium. I said I understood that the measures had been promulgated solely by the military government in Belgium and that I thought the matter ought to be brought to the attention of the

personal attention in the light of the consequences which the new policy would entail. Herr Zimmermann intimated in reply that the foreign office had very little influence with the military authorities and that it was unlikely that the new policy in Belgium could be revoked. He stated, however, in answer to my inquiry, that he would not disapprove of my seeing the chancellor about the matter."

Solemn Protest by United States.

The formal protest of the United States was as follows:

"The government of the United States has learned with the greatest concern and regret of the policy of the German government to deport from Belgium a portion of the civilian population with the result of forcing them to labor in Germany, and is constrained to protest in a friendly spirit but most solemnly against this action which is in contravention of all precedent and those humane principles of international practice which have long been accepted and followed by civilized nations in their treatment of non-combatants in conquered territory. Furthermore, the government of the United States is convinced that the effect of this policy if pursued will be all probability be fatal to the Belgian relief work, so humanely planned so successfully carried out, a result which would be generally deplored and which, it is assumed, would seriously embarrass the German government."

This protest was followed by those of the pope, the king of Spain, the government of Switzerland and other neutrals. They were, of no avail except, perhaps, to lead the German authorities to draw a tighter veil over their detestable proceedings. But the evidence has in some measure come through, although the full facts will not be known until the liberation of heroic Belgium.

## May Abandon Heatless Day After Monday

## Conference Develops Belief Fuel Problem Distinctively One of Transportation

Washington, Feb. 1.—Abandonment of the heatless Mondays program after its enforcement next Monday was predicted tonight at the close of a prolonged conference between Fuel Administrator Garfield and Director General McAdoo.

A final decision was not reached and another conference will be held Tuesday, but there was every indication that both officials, as well as President Wilson, who has been consulted, feel the purpose sought can be accomplished from now on by continuance of preferential coal transportation and distribution and by railroad embargoes now in force.

At the conclusion of the conference tonight the following statement was issued jointly by Dr. Garfield and Mr. McAdoo:

"We have under consideration the question of suspending after Monday next the Monday closing order. We have not reached a final conclusion about it. We shall have another conference on Tuesday next, when the results of the Monday closings and of the railroad embargoes up to that time can be fully considered, and shall be able to make an announcement next week as to whether or not a suspension of the Monday closing order may be made."

## "What's Being Done"

## War Service Work By Women's Federated Clubs

Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, President General Federation Women's Clubs, in her Christmas message says: "The record of war service presented at the different State Federation meetings is great in volume and comprehensive in extent. It must be recorded and kept as a part of the history of the General Federation, for however difficult life may be at this time, it is inspiring to realize we are an active part of history in the making."

We must never forget, as women, that the Federation of Women's Clubs is doing far-reaching war work. To desert the Federation now is to desert our vital relations with our Government.

The Department of the General Federation are receiving wide recognition for their war work and other activities. The Bureau of Information of the United States Department of Literature and Liberty Extension to send them three hundred copies of their bulletin on Latin America and Pan Americanism. The State Department desires to send these to their correspondents to show what the General Federation is doing for this subject.

The Mother's Club of Arcadia, has adopted for the year's programme list of subjects sent out by the Women's Committee of the National Council of Defense.

The Twentieth Century Club of Shreveport, organized to maintain the Khaki Club, where hospitality is offered to the soldiers encamped here doing guard duty; providing also a rest room, furnished with magazines and writing materials.

Mrs. John D. Wilkinson, of Shreveport, has been appointed as Chairman of the Industrial and Social Conditions Department, to fill the place of Mrs. John D. Webb. Under present conditions this department is

(Continued on last page)

in extracting information from the first American prisoners captured in November. Such treatment of prisoners it is felt could be designed only to make them give up military information.

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