

FOOD SITUATION OF ALLIES BEST SINCE WAR BEGAN

All, but Especially France, Well Supplied With Foodstuffs.

ONLY SHORTAGE IS SUGAR

Agricultural Crop in France in Fine Condition, While the Fruit Crop is Abundant—Meat Now Sold on So-Called Meatless-Days—France in No Danger of Coal Shortage.

On the eve of the approaching winter, the fourth year of the war, at least three of the great powers of the entente allies, England, France and Italy, particularly France, are discovered in the most favorable light with regard to food supplies.

Whatever causes may tend to force an end to the war, it will not be either starvation or coal famine, as far as France is concerned. While the harvest of the most important item of all, wheat, has not yet been completed, indications are that it will at least equal last year's, and preparations have already been made to remedy the deficit between the crop and the average consumption. Coal has been received sufficient to insure the needs of the population and the industries for the winter, while the herds of live stock throughout the republic have never been in better condition since the outbreak of hostilities.

The scheme of bread and coal rations instituted for the first time in France, and which has been in force in Germany since the inception of the war, has led many people to believe that the economic conditions of the country were far from satisfactory, but such is far from being the case, and only prudence is behind the measures that stern necessity imposed upon the Teutonic empires three years ago.

A tour throughout agricultural France reveals that crops are in exceedingly good condition, while the fruit crop has been the largest of any year of the war. In some localities pears, peaches and apples actually are lying rotting on the ground because of the scarcity of labor to gather them up. This is true of the whole of France except in some few isolated spots, where local ball-torners knocked the fruit from the trees before it had time to ripen or where too heavy rainfalls delayed the harvest or caused the grain to sprout too rapidly.

Cattle Are Fine and Fat. But what damage the rain and hail have done in some areas has been more than compensated for by the good it has worked in others, where it has given such an impetus to the growth of fodder the cattle are fine and fat, the cows affording more than the usual amount of milk. This has been made into butter and cheese and large quantities of cheeses have lately appeared on the market at a price that called for a drop of from \$1 to \$1.25 per hundredweight. Besides, the attractive prices beef and mutton fetched last winter have induced the cattlemen to increase and preserve their herds, with the result that all meat prices, with the exception of pork, have taken a downward trend.

Even the constant requisitioning of cattle by the French government has not affected the herds, as may be seen from the fact that the government not only promised to suspend the meatless days on October 15, but the police are now tolerating the open sale of meat on the two so-called "meatless days" in restaurants and hotels. In most any restaurant in France at least three meat dishes may be observed on the menu in the "meatless days." One restaurant in a popular quarter brazenly posted its menu on its window, as is the custom, advertising "Meatless day special! Beef à la mode, calf's head, mutton stew," thereby calling down upon itself a commentary from one of the newspapers, but no action by the police.

Before the war France's annual consumption of wheat was 228,000,000 bushels. The annual production was 260,000,000 bushels, leaving a deficit of 32,000,000 bushels, imported from the United States and other wheat-growing countries. Three years of war have reduced the average production to 176,000,000 bushels, or a deficit of 114,000,000 bushels. With the rationing of the population the government experts estimate they will effect a saving of at least 21,000,000 bushels. The law fixing the percentage of white flour that may be used in the baking of bread and the decree requiring the immixture of oatmeal, rye, barley or buckwheat in the loaf have cut another 5 per cent at least off the consumption.

Deficit Is Reduced. Thus subtracting the saving of 35,000,000 bushels, the deficit is reduced to 79,000,000 bushels. This deficit may be even further reduced by a voluntary rationing of the population. The bread cards provide an allowance of a pound a day for each adult. This may be increased upon simple demand and the statement of the consumer that bread constitutes his principal article of diet.

On the other hand, those outside the peasant and laboring classes are asked to accept an allowance of a trifling amount of a pound a day, which both doctors and experts in dietetics have pronounced sufficient to supply the necessary amount of albumen without en-

gendering hardship or in any manner endangering health.

With the United States' declaration that its food supplies will go to its allies, one-half of its annual export crop of 150,000,000 bushels will more than satisfy any need of France. Not including Russia and Roumania, both great wheat-growing countries, the surplus wheat from allied countries and colonies alone is sufficient to satisfy the combined needs of France, England and Italy. The average exportations from the United States, Canada, British India, Algeria and Australia, if applied to the needs of France, England and Italy, would give those countries within 8,000,000 bushels of their average consumption in peace times.

The question of tonnage, of bottoms in which to ship the grain, is the most serious problem for the allies, but without entering into the submarine question, the English authorities have figured with the tonnage now being turned out by the United States and the shipyards of England working under government supervision, they can maintain a daily sailing average of 88,383 tons, the amount necessary to transport the wheat required.

Barley Crop Is Large. In his official report to the government, the president of the agricultural commission has stated that the barley crop in France is one of the largest in years, while great quantities of this cereal are also available from the French colonies in Africa. The rye crop has also been a bumper one, while the buckwheat yield in the northern provinces surpasses that of last year.

Despite the long and cold winter, the winter wheat throughout the republic has given an excellent yield. Instead of being frozen it was protected by the snow from the cold. The oat crop, from the latest official figures, has surpassed that of last year, while the statistics give the barley crop as actually 33.90 per cent better than the preceding 12 months.

In the Gernigny valley, one of the most important cattle centers, for example, the herds show an increase of 25 per cent over last year. During 1916 the herd counted 20,000 calves out of 75,000 head of cows, and 40,000 steers. This year there are 25,152 calves. These conditions prevail all over France. The best proof is the latest shipments arriving in the market places of Paris. Beef fell from \$2 to \$4 the hundredweight, depending on the animal, while veal took a drop of \$3 the hundredweight.

In the famous potato district of La Creuse hopes are held out that the yield this year will be considerably in excess of last year's. In 1916 La Creuse alone shipped 1,050,000 bushels of potatoes. Because of the tripling in price of the tubers, 72,000 acres in the vicinity of Gueret have been given over to this precious article of food, and the minister of food has already begun to arrange for cars to transport the crop. The food ministry also introduced a new law making speculation in potatoes, wheat and other necessities a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment and the confiscation of whatever supplies the offender may have dealt in.

Apples in Abundance. In order to encourage the preserving and drying of fruits, particularly of apples, which are in such abundance they fetch only \$1 a barrel in Normandy, the government has announced it will requisition all alcoholic liquors made from the fruits. The same rains that have aided the fruits have also caused an abundance of forage for the cattle, increasing the supply of milk, which in turn has been made into butter and cheese. Because of the enormous quantities of green vegetables, however, the combination farmers actually find their products in competition with each other in the markets, the green stuffs and fruits forcing down the prices of their cheeses.

Merely as a preventive measure the government has ordered the establishment of a milk card for the ensuing winter and has decreed that no milk may be sold with tea, coffee or chocolate after nine o'clock in the morning, beginning on October 1. Precaution is taken at a time when the arrival of milk in Paris is far beyond the normal and when no actual shortage is looked for; but the difficulty in transport when the winter snows come, it is feared, will interrupt the distribution.

Even fish, the price of which went soaring last winter, both for fresh and dried varieties, has gone down because of the enormous catch, a great part of which is being pickled, preserved and salted for the coming winter. In one day the quantity of fish arriving at the Paris central markets alone was 156,000 pounds.

An adequate supply of coffee is assured the nation, which takes coffee with each of its three meals. On August 31 there were warehouses in Havre 1,990,575 sacks of coffee, enough to last the whole of France for 11 months without importing another bean.

Precautionary measures have also caused the food minister to order that all stocks of macaroni, spaghetti and pastes be declared. This has been done simply to check the speculation in this food product, of which no one has the right to possess over 20 pounds unless engaged in its handling either as a bona fide dealer in food imports or grocer.

France Needs Sugar. There is one article which France does stand in need of and which threatens to disappear entirely the coming winter. That is sugar. Before the war the country consumed 700,000 tons of sugar per annum. That is approximately 84 pounds per person. With the sugar card this consumption has been reduced by fully 50 per cent. At present the food minister figures that 400,000 tons are necessary to supply the most urgent needs. Of the 210 sugar

refining plants that were operative in France before the war only 65 are working at the present time, a large number having been destroyed by the invading Germans, as fully 50 per cent are in the north of the country. The remaining 65 are capable of turning out 200,000 tons, only half of what is absolutely necessary.

In order to try and increase the production this year at least 25 per cent the government has turned over 4,200 German prisoners to the refiners to do the work in the beet fields, and part of the mechanical work around the factories; has repaired the machinery; has seen that the refiners are stocked with the best coal and released a number of "sugar specialists" from the army to speed up the work.

Coal may be one of the determining factors of the war, but France will have plenty of it this winter. There is at this moment plenty of coal in France, sufficient to guarantee Paris and the whole country against being deprived of motive power, of heat, or light for the coming winter.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS POPULAR IN FRANCE



American Sammys chatting and making friends with a French family in their garden. Nothing is too good for the visiting Americans.

NEW LAWS ARE AID TO LAND ENTRY MEN

All Serving in Army Exempt From Old Rules—Mining Claims Go Free.

Various kinds of exemptions from the regular requirements imposed on public land claimants were made on account of the war in the legislation enacted at the recent session of congress.

First of all congress suspended the time-honored requirement that all homestead settlers shall reside on their claims before acquiring title, and changed the law so that the time served in any military branch of the government shall be counted at a full value as part of the three years.

The requirement that certain improvements should be made within a given period were suspended for the duration of the war. The law requiring desert land entrymen to irrigate a certain amount of his lands was held in abeyance, and other requirements suspended. All these are for men engaged in the war.

Another new law provides that affidavits as to public land matters that ordinarily have to be made before local land officials may be made by those serving abroad before their commanding officers, United States commissioners or American consuls.

A separate bill which became a law, involving part of the principle of the civil rights moratorium bill, which is full of enactment, exempted soldiers and sailors, marines and others in war service from paying assessments on their claims and protected their mining improvements during their military service.

Then, after conferences between Secretary Lane, Senator Shafroth and Representative Taylor, the Taylor-Shafroth bill was evolved and enacted in the closing hours of the session, whose effect is to suspend the mining assessment law for two years on every mining claim, except as to old lands, without regard to whether the claimants are in military service or not. Under this law every placer or lode claim, except oil, will be relieved of federal assessment for two years, in the interest of development of Western mining.

Two Cows Foster Litter of Pigs.

R. W. Denner of near Sellersville, Pa., was perplexed because two of his cows gave such a small quantity of milk until he found a litter of small pigs taking milk from the cows and the cows apparently suckling in the theft.

DAWES HEAD OF PURCHASING BODY

To Buy Supplies for Our Troops in France.

SUCCESS OF PLAN ASSURED

Tackle Huge Task of Accumulating Supplies in Europe to Save Tonnage for Other Products—Board is Considering Plan of Pooling All Supplies.

The newest adjunct of the United States purchasing board, which was created several weeks ago on the initiative of General Pershing, is an auxiliary civilian advisory council, composed of five or six American business men resident in France.

These men, whose names have not yet been made public, have been asked to lend their assistance to the board in its gigantic work and to facilitate its operation by advice on conditions and prices in France, and by giving the board the benefit of their expert knowledge whenever it may be needed.

The decision to create this auxiliary council is only one of the strides the board has made in the few weeks of its existence.

Dawes at the Head. Its chief, Col. Charles G. Dawes of Chicago, a former controller of the currency and president of the Central Trust Company of Illinois, has already surrounded himself with nearly a dozen expert quartermaster officers, who are purchasing officers also of their respective branches of service, and is rapidly coordinating the work of purchasing supplies for the present as well as prospective armies in France.

The success of the original Pershing idea has been assured because the French from the outset co-operated to their utmost in the plan. They have detailed officers to Colonel Dawes' staff who are commissioned to help him in every possible way.

The task with which the purchasing board is confronted and on which it is now working about sixteen hours a day is the accumulation in Europe of all supplies of every nature that may be available. Thus tonnage will be saved, for ships will not be loaded with material already purchased when they can bring other materials. Also, the scheme seeks to prevent duplication in buying.

In accordance with this plan the entente countries are being and will be secured for every kind of war material that may be available, from food of all kinds to airplane parts and from iron piping to woolen blankets. It is to assist in turning up all such supplies and in gauging correctly what they should cost that the civilian auxiliary council has been planned.

May Pool Supplies.

The purchasing board is considering a plan of pooling all supplies that may be procured. Thus all meat supplies arriving from America for the American troops may be thrown in with French supplies procured by the board, and the two armies fed from the Joint stock. The board likewise has charge of purchasing for the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A., both organizations having representatives under Colonel Dawes, who assist him, as do the quartermasters.

Even the brief preliminary work of the board has revealed what General Pershing realized when recommending its establishment, namely, that vast results could be obtained by buying in Europe what can be bought, and by devoting the tonnage that would have been required in its transportation to something else.

The board is working with the co-operation of both the French and the British army authorities. It expects to be able to import, and probably will itself transport, from England the coal supplies that are needed during the coming winter, though this will necessarily be in conjunction with the French, since the latter control storage quarters.

PROXY MARRIAGE URGED

English Newspapers Recommend Adoption of Plan.

The question, should marriage by proxy be legalized in Great Britain for the special benefit of men at the front? is being discussed at great length in the newspapers. France has made this war time concession, and the Australian government has called a conference of churchmen and others to consider the adoption of a proxy form of marriage between Australians at the front and women in Australia.

While soldiers from England generally have a chance of returning on leave for the purpose of marriage, there are frequently difficulties in the way and marriage by proxy would probably be frequently employed if the laws permitted, especially in the case of a man severely wounded or stricken with serious illness at the front.

FAMINE KILLING 1,000 A DAY

Population of 350,000 in Lebanon Mountains is Rapidly Reduced. A thousand deaths a day from starvation out of a population of 350,000 in the Lebanon mountains near Beirut, Syria, is the toll of famine conditions there resulting from the war, it is said by Rev. William H. Hall of the Syrian Protestant college, who recently returned to this country from relief work in that district.

HUSBAND TAKES NAME OF BRIDE



Friends of the former Miss Holla F. Bernays, a niece of Prof. Sigmund Freud, the celebrated psychologist of Vienna, were considerably surprised to receive an announcement card reading that she had married and that her husband had by judicial process taken her family name.

It was learned that the change of the name of the bridegroom to that of the bride was in deference to their mutual desire to keep alive her family name. She is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ely Bernays of New York city, and has three sisters and a brother, Edward L. Bernays, who has expressed his intention never to marry.

ROADS CONFRONTED BY GRAVE PROBLEMS

Handicapped in Efforts to Handle Traffic Because of War Conditions.

How the railroads are handicapped in their efforts to handle the enormous increase in traffic of all kinds because of war conditions is explained by Fairfax Harrison, chairman of the railroads' war board, in replying to an inquiry by Senator Newlands, chairman of the congressional joint committee on interstate commerce.

Mr. Harrison says in part:

"The capacity of all the steel-plate mills in the United States is 1,500,000 tons annually. We are advised that the government's program for the coming year will require about 1,600,000 tons of such plates. The needs of the railroads in plates merely for repairs to locomotives and cars during the coming year will be 275,000 tons. Orders for new locomotives, rail and other railroad equipment for use abroad by the United States and the allies, which have been given preference to the needs of our railroads at home, are also delaying the delivery of our orders. This presents one of our most serious problems in the outlook for the next twelve months.

"The continued increase in the efficiency of the railroads depends largely upon the delivery of the cars and locomotives now on order, to replace those worn out or destroyed from time to time, and the regular receipt of rail and steel products for repair purposes."

After citing official statistics showing a decline of \$2,129,242 in the net earnings from railway operations for the six months ended June, 1917, as compared with the corresponding period of 1916, Mr. Harrison says:

"If the prospects are, as railroad managers believe them to be, that this tendency may increase, then, to the extent that it does, it will increasingly limit the ability of the railroads out of income to maintain and develop their facilities for transportation service."

"This current tendency to establish expenses on a higher level than ever before is what gives railroad managers their highest concern at the moment. The present large volume of revenues may not always obtain; when it drops the ability to curtail expenses proportionately is limited by conditions over which the railway manager has no longer any vestige of economic control.

"Furthermore, these special conditions, taken in connection with the general conditions affecting the money markets of the country, with which you are familiar, have made it today difficult, if not impossible, for even the most favored railroads to raise new capital; the sale of long-term bonds is apparently out of the question excepting at heavier discount than prudence will permit, and the issue of new stock upon any reasonable terms is not within the power of any railroad company."

Somnambulist Not Exempted.

The claim of Abraham S. Bronwasser of New York city for exemption from the National army on the ground that he is a somnambulist has been denied. Bronwasser expressed a dread of walking into a German trench in his pajamas some night.

DRAFT CLASSES GIVEN IN DETAIL

Order in Which Registered Men Will Be Called.

HOME SLACKERS ARE FIRST

United States Government Puts Men Who Are Supported by Their Wives in First Class to Be Made Soldiers—Married Men With Dependents Come in the Fourth Class.

The five classifications into which men awaiting draft will be divided under the new regulations approved by President Wilson, and which show every registered man to which class he belongs and in what order the different classifications will be called to service, follow:

- CLASS I.**
- 1—Single man without dependent relatives.
 - 2—Married man (or widower with children) who habitually fails to support his family.
 - 3—Married man dependent on wife for support.
 - 4—Married man (or widower with children) not usefully engaged, family supported by income independent of his labor.
 - 5—Man not included in any other description of this or other classes.
 - 6—Unskilled laborer.

- CLASS II.**
- 1—Married man or father of motherless children, usefully engaged, his family has sufficient income apart from his daily labor to afford reasonably adequate support during his absence.
 - 2—Married man—no children—will can support himself decently and without hardship.
 - 3—Skilled industrial laborer engaged in necessary industrial enterprise.
 - 4—Skilled farm laborer engaged in necessary agricultural enterprise.

- CLASS III.**
- 1—Man with foster children dependent on daily labor for support.
 - 2—Man with aged, infirm or invalid parents or grandparents dependent on daily labor for support.
 - 3—Man with brothers or sisters incompetent to support themselves, dependent on daily labor for support.
 - 4—County or municipal officer.
 - 5—Fireman or policeman.
 - 6—Necessary artificer or workman in arsenal, armory and navy yards.
 - 7—Necessary customhouse clerk.
 - 8—Persons necessary in transmission of mails.
 - 9—Necessary employees in service of United States.
 - 10—Highly specialized administrative experts.
 - 11—Technical or mechanical experts in industrial enterprises.
 - 12—Highly specialized agricultural expert in agricultural bureau of state or nation.
 - 13—Assistant or associate manager of necessary industrial enterprise.
 - 14—Assistant or associate manager of necessary agricultural enterprise.
 - 15—Assistant or associate manager of necessary agricultural enterprise.

- CLASS IV.**
- 1—Married man with wife (and of children (or widower with children) dependent on daily labor for support and no other reasonably adequate support available.
 - 2—Mariners in sea service of merchant or citizens in United States.
 - 3—Heads of necessary industrial enterprises.
 - 4—Heads of necessary agricultural enterprises.

- CLASS V.**
- 1—Officers of states or of the United States.
 - 2—Regularly or duly ordained ministers.
 - 3—Students of divinity.
 - 4—Persons in military or naval service.
 - 5—Aliens.
 - 6—Alien enemies.
 - 7—Persons morally unfit.
 - 8—Persons physically, permanently, or mentally unfit.
 - 9—Dismissed aliens.

ARABS LOOT WRECKED SHIP

English Party Escape, 300 Armed Desert Famine.

Sergt. J. Harts of the inland water transport recently had a narrow escape from being murdered by Arabs after he and some companions were shipwrecked. In toy of a fog the party was proceeding from Aden to Mombasa on a barge when the fog foundered in a hurricane. The barge was driven ashore on the Arabian coast and the Arabs, armed with knives, surrounded the crew with death.

On the following day the Arabs began to fight among themselves. When the guard left the prisoners to join in the fight they crawled away and escaped over the mountains into the desert, over which they tramped for several days, practically without food or water. Eventually they arrived at a place where friendly natives lent them a scow of about 250 tons. After eight days of further privations, they were taken on board a warship which had been dispatched to the scene of the wreck.

One Potato Yielded a Bushel.

Without Ortoppen of Danzig, Wis., has harvested 300 potatoes from 25 plants in the seed lot which was obtained from one big potato. The crop stood 12 inches high.