

BELGIANS FORCED TO AID GERMANS

Kaiser's Officers Showed Open Disregard of International Law.

WORKMEN SEIZED AS SLAVES

Cardinal Mercier Moved to Bitter Condemnation of Acts of German Authorities Which Aroused Detestation of Christendom.

Contrary to rules laid down by the Hague convention, and all principles of civilized warfare, German authorities forced Belgians to aid them in the prosecution of the war.

October 12, 1915, the German authorities took a long step in the development of their policy of forcing the Belgians to aid them in prosecuting the war.

"Article 1. Whoever, without reason, refuses to undertake or to continue work suitable to his occupation, and in the execution of which the military administration is interested, such work being ordered by one or more of the military commanders, will be liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year.

"In violating Belgian laws or even international conventions to the contrary, can, in no case, justify the refusal to work.

"Article 2. Any person who by force, threats, persuasion, or other means attempts to influence another to refuse work as pointed out in Article 1, is liable to the punishment of imprisonment not exceeding five years.

"Article 3. Whoever knowingly by means of aid given or in any other way abets a punishable refusal to work, will be liable to a maximum fine of 10,000 marks, and in addition may be condemned to a year's imprisonment.

"Article 4. In addition to the penalties stated in Articles 1 and 3, the German authorities may, in case of need, impose on communes, where without reason, work has been refused, a fine or other coercive police measures.

"This present decree comes into force immediately.

"Der Etappenspektator, 'VON UNGER, 'Generalleutnant.

"Ghent, October 12, 1915."

"Slavery," Said Cardinal Mercier.

Cardinal Mercier's brief comment is as follows: "The injustice and arbitrariness of this decree exceed all that could be imagined. Forced labor, collective penalties and arbitrary punishments, all are there. It is slavery, neither more nor less."

Cardinal Mercier was in error, for the German authorities were able to imagine a much more terrible measure. In October, 1916, when the need for an additional labor supply in Germany had become urgent, the German government established the system of forced labor and deportation which has aroused the detestation of Christendom.

"I. People able to work may be compelled to work even outside the place where they live, in case they have to apply to the charity of others for the support of themselves or their dependents on account of gambling, drunkenness, loafing, unemployment or idleness.

"II. Every inhabitant of the country is bound to render assistance in case of accident or general danger, and also to give help in case of public calamities as far as he can, even outside the place where he lives; in case of refusal he may be compelled by force.

"III. Anyone called upon to work, under Articles I or II, who shall refuse the work, or to continue at the work assigned him, will incur the penalty of imprisonment up to three years and of a fine up to 10,000 marks, or one or other of these penalties, unless a severer penalty is provided for by the laws in force.

"IV. The German military authorities and military courts will enforce the proper execution of this decree.

"THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, SAUBERZWEIG, 'Great Headquarters, 3d October, 1916."

Military Rulers Responsible. The responsibility for this atrocious program rests upon the military rulers of Germany, who had labored so zealously to infect the army and the people with the principles of ruthlessness.

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says: (On file in state department.) "Then, in August, Von Hindenburg was appointed to the supreme command. He is said to have criticized Von Bissing's policy as too mild; there was a quarrel; Von Bissing went to Berlin to protest, threatened to resign, but did not. He returned, and a German official here said that Belgium would now be subjected to a more terrible regime—would learn what war was. The prophecy has been vindicated. Recently I was told that the drastic measures are really of Ludendorff's inspiration; I do not know. Many German officers say so."

If Von Bissing had opposed the policy of deportation when his own judgment was overruled, he consented to become the "devil's advocate" and defended the system in public. Especially instructive is the following conversation reported by Mr. F. C. Walcott:

"I went to Belgium to investigate conditions, and while there I had opportunity . . . to talk one day with Governor General Von Bissing, who died three or four weeks ago, a man seventy-two or seventy-three years old, a man steeped in the 'system,' born and bred to the hardening of the heart which that philosophy develops. There ought to be some new word coined for the process that a man's heart undergoes when it becomes steeped in that system.

"I said to him, 'Governor, what are you going to do if England and France stop giving them money to purchase food?'"

"Von Bissing relied on starvation. 'He said, 'We have got that all worked out and have had it worked out for weeks, because we have expected this system to break down at any time.'"

"He went on to say, 'Starvation will grip these people in thirty to sixty days. Starvation is a compelling force, and we would use that force to compel the Belgian workmen, many of them very skilled, to go to Germany to replace the Germans, so that they could go to the front and fight against the English and the French.'"

"As fast as our railway transportation could carry them, we would transport thousands of others that would be fit for agricultural work, across Europe down into southern Europe, into Mesopotamia, where we have huge, splendid irrigation works. All that land needs is water and it will blossom like the rose.

"The weak remaining, the old and the young, we would concentrate opposite the firing line, and put firing squads back of them, and force them through that line, so that the English and French could take care of their own people."

"It was a perfectly simple, direct, frank reasoning. It meant that the German government would use any force in the destruction of any people not its own to further its own ends."—Frederick C. Walcott, in National Geographic Magazine, May, 1917.

A brief general view of the character of the deportations can perhaps be gained best from the report of Minister Whitlock.

"The deportations began in October in the Etape, at Ghent, and at Bruges, as my brief telegrams indicated. The policy spread; the rich industrial districts of Hainault, the mines and steel works about Charleroi were next attacked; now they are seizing men in Brabant, even in Brussels, despite some indications and even predictions of the civil authorities that the policy was about to be abandoned.

[The etapes were the parts of Belgium under martial law, and included the province of western Flanders, part of eastern Flanders, and the region of Tournai. The remainder of the occupied part of Belgium was under civil government.]

Pitiable and Distressing Scene. "During the last fortnight men have been impressed here in Brussels, but their seizures here are made evidently with much greater care than in the provinces, with more regard for the appearance. There was no public announcement of the intention to deport, but suddenly about ten days ago certain men in towns whose names are on the list of chomeurs received summons notifying them to report at one of the railway stations on a given day; penalties were fixed for failure to respond to the summons and there was printed on the card an offer of employment by the German government, either in Germany or Belgium. On the first day out of about 1,500 men ordered to present themselves at the Gare du Midi about 750 responded. These were examined by German physicians and 300 were taken. There was no disorder, a large force of mounted Uhlans keeping back the crowds and barring access to the station to all but those who had been summoned to appear. The commission for relief in Belgium had secured permission to give to each deported man a loaf of bread, and some of the communes provided warm clothing for those who had none and in addition a small financial allowance. As by one of the ironies of life the winter has been more excessively cold than Belgium has ever known it, and while many of those who presented themselves were adequately protected against the cold, many of them were without overcoats. The men shivering from cold and fear, the parting from weeping wives and children, the barriers of brutal Uhlans, all this made the scene a pitiable and distressing one.

"It was understood that the seizures would continue here in Brussels, but on Thursday last, a bitter cold day, those that had been convoked were sent home without examination. It is supposed that the severe weather has moved the Germans to postpone the deportation."

One of the first things local exemption boards will do when they start classifying registered men will be to look for all the bricklayers in their divisions. Nebraska has been asked to provide thirty-five bricklayers as soon as possible.

In order that no unauthorized agencies may be at work collecting funds for carrying on war activities, the state council of defense has prepared a list of worthy causes, and has put it in the hands of each of the county councils.

A new rule in effect at state institutions provides that hereafter all persons visiting inmates or employes shall pay 25 cents for each meal or night's lodging during their visit. It is thought the state will save between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year by the enforcement of this rule.

Governor Neville has issued a proclamation asking for aid from the citizens of Nebraska in behalf of the suffering people of downtrodden Armenia. Donations may be sent to H. H. Baldrige, at Omaha, who will see that they are properly handled.

A special course for farmers, to be held from January 21 to February 15, has been arranged by the school of agriculture. Practically every course at the state farm will be open to those who wish to take advantage of the four weeks of study.

WEEK OF AGRICULTURE

Strong Character of Meeting Indexed in Summary of Programs

Plans for even a bigger "organized agriculture" week than last year, when 16,000 Nebraskans attended, in all the different departments, are under way. The extension department of the university, which has the program for the week of January 14 to 19 in charge, announces programs for nearly a score of allied but distinctive associations with common agricultural interests, to be held during the week.

Features made prominent by the war, including many war time problems which have entered into the management and conduct of the farms of the state, are being emphasized in the programs of the various departments. Ross Hammond of Fremont is to speak on Friday of that week on his recent trip to the battlefield in France and Belgium.

Friday and Saturday are to be special war days, and people representing the United States government, including probably a member of the cabinet, are expected to be present and make addresses on those days. County agent and home demonstration work, a part of the government war program, is given a prominent place on many of the programs.

A corn, apple, potato and conservation show will be staged daily at the Auditorium, and it is announced by Prof. C. W. Pugsley, secretary of Organized Agriculture, that he will send detailed programs upon request to him at the university farm at Lincoln.

Summary of Program. Following is a synopsis of the programs for the different meetings of the week, starting Tuesday, January 15, and continuing through Friday, January 19:

TUESDAY. Board of Agriculture—Business meeting. Corn Improvers' Association—Grain versus Live Stock in "Factors Influencing Yield of Corn." C. G. Williams, Ohio; Seed Corn Situation; Policy for Future Corn Shows; Corn Show.

State, County and District Fair Association—Round Table Discussions; Banquet. Florists' Society—Florists' Problems; Banquet. Home Economics Association—Butter Substitutes; Women in the War. Horticultural Society—Horticultural Problems.

Ice Cream Manufacturers—Ice Cream Problems. Sheep Breeders' Association—Sheep Management; Management of Sheep. J. F. Jones, Iowa; "Buying Sheep." W. C. Coffey, Illinois.

WEDNESDAY. Board of Agriculture—Election of Officers. Bee Keepers' Association—Business Meeting. Corn Improvers' Association—Land Problems; "Relation of Climate to Crops." J. Warren Smith, United States Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C.; Corn Show. Dairywomen's Association—Dairying versus Beef Feeding; "Dairy Problems." C. L. Burlington, Wisconsin.

Home Economics Association—"Food Conservation." G. W. Wattle, State Food Administrator; "Women and War." Emma Reed Davidson, Washington, D. C.; Horticultural Society—"Selling Apples." Albert Dickens, Kansas; the Vegetable Garden; Apple Show. Ice Cream Manufacturers—Business Meeting. Live Stock Improvers—Banquet; War speaker from Canada.

Swine Breeders' Association—Producing More Pork for War; "Pork and Patriotism." Wyman Lovejoy, Illinois; Hogs and Community Building; Hugh McVey, Kansas. THURSDAY. War Talk, Citizens of Canada. Dairywomen's Association—"Raising Dairy Heifer Calves." R. I. Hulce, Illinois; "Nebraska and Milk Production." J. H. Bain, Washington, D. C.; "Cost of Milk Production." J. B. Irwin, Minnesota; Banquet. Engineering Association—Agricultural Engineers' Problems.

Home Economics Associations—Marketing; Clothing. Horticultural Society—Horticultural Problems; Women in the War. Potato Growers' Association—Potato Problems; Potato Show. Rural School Patrons—Rural School Problems. Stock Feeders' Association—Cattle Judging Contest; Cattle Feeders' Problems; "Cattle Conditions in Britain." Kenneth C. Ikeler, Iowa.

FRIDAY. "My Visit to Issoudun's Battlefield." Ross Hammond, Fremont, Neb. Dairywomen's Association—Dairy and State Fair; Butter Scores and Awards; Cow Judging Contest. Extension Federation—Extension Problems. Farm Bureau Association—County Agent Problems. Horse Breeders' Association—"The Draft Horse." Charles Irvine, Iowa; "Judging the Horse." William Cronover, Iowa; Horse Judging Contest.

It is expected that a number of the officers of the Seventh will go to military training camps during the spring and summer, with a view to fitting themselves fully for active war duty. This will augment the regiment's chances of being called into the federal service, especially if the war promises to last for another year.

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ATTENTION! Sick Women. To do your duty during these trying times your health should be your first consideration. These two women tell how they found health. HELLAM, Pa.—"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for female troubles and a displacement. I felt all run down and was very weak. I had been treated by a physician without results, so decided to give Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound a trial, and felt better right away. I am keeping house since last April and doing all my housework, where before I was unable to do any work. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is certainly the best medicine a woman can take when in this condition. I give you permission to publish this letter."—Mrs. E. R. CRUMLING, R. No. 1, Hellam, Pa. Lowell, Mich.—"I suffered from cramps and dragging down pains, was irregular and had female weakness and displacement. I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound which gave me relief at once and restored my health. I should like to recommend Lydia E. Pinkham's remedies to all suffering women who are troubled in a similar way."—Mrs. ELISE HEIM, R. No. 6, Box 83, Lowell, Mich. Why Not Try LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND. LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO. LYNN, MASS.

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A Big Darning Bill. In 1901, when the French government set out to have its state tapestries mended, it was estimated that the cost would be equivalent to \$150,000. The tapestries in question numbered 90.

A Tart Reply. "I hope you never deceive your wife," said the middle-aged man, with a look of pious concern.

"I'd like to know what business it is of yours to hope that I never deceive my wife," snapped the irascible citizen. "Do you think I'm going to let her find out how ornery I am, just to please you?"

Modern Warfare. "Every man should be sufficiently trained to fight for his country if the need should ever arise," said the advocate of preparedness.

"Just what do you mean by that?" asked the expert squirrel shooter. "He should be physically fit and able to handle a gun."

"I can fill those requirements all right, but I would have to have a little instruction before I could spray liquid fire and send over waves of poison gas."

A Genuine Patriot. The school teachers on the East side in New York are finding some interesting material in the manner in which alien parents are saving to aid in the war. One little girl told her teacher how "the folks at home" are going to help. "My father and mother and me," she said, "we made it on a piece of paper last night. My father has makes \$18 the week, and he pays for the rent \$18 the month, \$2 for coal, \$3 for milk for the baby, \$7 a week for cats. Then he gets left \$4 the week. He gives my mother \$2 for clothes, he keeps \$1 the week and puts \$1 the week for the war savings. He does that so long as the war should last."

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Not Possible. "The architect spoiled that new police court." "Couldn't be spoiled. A police court is, of necessity, a fine building."

The Chase as an Exercise. The chase as an exercise for the ruling caste in Germany has survived into our own time, states a writer. Every Prussian officer had to spend part of his time hunting, not foxes merely, but deer and boar as well. Royalty still went in state to the boar-seeking, and stag hunt, with hundreds of beaters and a tremendous retinue. The slaughter still mounted into the hundreds.

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A Cheering Word. If somebody tells you that the average life of an officer in the trenches is nine days and that if your boy gets into the front line he is certain to be killed within two weeks, don't believe him, says Milestones. He probably got his "information" from German propaganda, since our Teuton friends seem bent on trying to frighten us out of this war. No losses were more excessive than those among the British infantry officers during the first year of the war, when they fought a losing fight, without artillery support, and insisted on exposing themselves in conspicuous uniforms. The percentage of casualties among them for the first year was 18.3, according to the official figures.

The percentage of casualties among our allies has been decreasing. The proportion for the entire French army was 5.41 per cent in 1914, 4 per cent in 1915 and 2.75 per cent for 1916. The total for 20 months was a little over 12 per cent. Adversity tries some men and police justices try others.

Nebraska Directory

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