

WHITLOCK DEPICTS BELGIANS' MISERY

Calls Deportation of Natives "One of the Foulest Deeds That History Records."

VON HINDENBURG IS BLAMED

Marshal Quarreled With Von Bissing Because Latter's Policy Was Mild—Says German Capacity for Blundering Equals That for Cruelty.

Washington.—The state department made public a report from Brand Whitlock, written at Brussels in January, when he was the American minister to Belgium, in which he describes the terrible effects of the German policy of deporting Belgians to Germany to compel them to work there. Since the beginning of the war in Europe, this is the first report from Mr. Whitlock that the state department has permitted to reach the American people. Allowing for all exaggeration, Mr. Whitlock says there remains enough "to stamp this deed as one of the foulest that history records."

Statements made by Minister Whitlock suggest that Field Marshal von Hindenburg was responsible for the deportation policy. He was said to have criticized as too mild the rule of General von Bissing, the military governor of Belgium, and sent Von Bissing to Berlin with the intention of resigning. When Von Bissing returned the reign of terror in Belgium began.

The report from Mr. Whitlock reads as follows: "In order to fully understand the situation, it is necessary to go back to the autumn of 1914. At the time we were organizing the relief work, the Comité National—Belgian relief organization that collaborates with the commission for relief in Belgium—proposed an arrangement by which the Belgian government should pay its own employees left in Belgium, and other unemployed men besides, the wages they had been accustomed to receive.

"The Belgians wished to do this for humanitarian and patriotic purposes; they wished to provide the unemployed with the means of livelihood, and, at the same time, to prevent their working for the Germans.

Tempted German Cupidity. "The policy was adopted and has been continued in practice and on the rolls of the Comité National have been borne the names of hundreds of thousands—some 700,000, I believe—of idle men receiving this dole, distributed through the communes.

"The presence of these unemployed, however, was a constant temptation to German cupidity. Many times they sought to obtain the lists of the chomeurs (unemployed), but were always foiled by the claim that under the guarantees covering the relief work the records of the Comité National and its various sub-organizations were immune. Rather than risk any interruptions of the ravitaillment, for which, while loath to own any obligation to America, the Germans have always been grateful, since it has had the effect of keeping the population calm, the authorities never pressed the point other than with the burgomasters of the communes. Finally, however, the military party, always brutal and with an astounding ignorance of public opinion and of moral sentiment, determined to put these idle men to work.

"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.

"The deportations began in October in the etape, at Ghent and at Bruges. The policy spread; the rich industrial districts of Hainaut, 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.

Heavy Penalties Fixed. "During the last fortnight men have been impressed here in Brussels, but their seizures here are made evidently

FOUGHT TYPHUS IN SERBIA



Dr. Edward W. Ryan, holder of the cross of the Legion of Honor (shown pinned on his coat), and many Serbian decorations, has returned to Serbia to organize the sanitary and relief work in that country. He goes at the special request of the Serbian government. This doctor is the idol of all Serbia. When the typhus plague broke out in that country at the beginning of the war, he was left to take care of 2,000 patients all alone, the other doctors and nurses being sick with the disease. Doctor Ryan himself fell a victim to the dread disease shortly after the recovery of some of the other physicians. For his great work during this terrible time he was decorated by the French government with the cross of the Legion of Honor, and also honored by the Serbian government.

with much greater care than in the provinces, with more regard for the appearances. 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 receiving 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 uhlan 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 some 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 uhlan, all this made the scene a pitiable and distressing one.

Rage and Despair. "The rage, the terror, and the despair excited by this measure all over Belgium were beyond anything we had witnessed since the day the Germans poured into Brussels. The delegates of the commission for relief in Belgium, returning to Brussels, told the most distressing stories of the scenes of cruelty and sorrow attending the seizures. And daily, hourly, almost, since that time, appalling stories have been related by Belgians coming to the legation. It is impossible for us to verify them, first because it is necessary for us to exercise all possible fact in dealing with the subject at all, and, secondly, because there is no means of communication between the Occupations Gebiet and the Etappen Gebiet.

"Transportation everywhere in Belgium is difficult, the vicinal railways scarcely operating any more because of the lack of oil, while all the horses have been taken. The people who are forced to go from one village to another must do so on foot or in vans drawn by the few miserable horses that are left. The wagons of the breweries, the one institution that the Germans have scrupulously respected, are hauled by oxen.

"The well-known tendency of sensa-

tional reports to exaggerate themselves, especially in time of war, and in a situation like that existing here, with no newspapers to serve as a daily clearing house for all the rumors that are as avidly believed as they are eagerly repeated, should, of course, be considered, but even if a modicum of all that is told is true, there still remains enough to stamp this deed as one of the foulest that history records.

"I am constantly in receipt of reports from all over Belgium that tend to bear out the stories one constantly hears of brutality and cruelty. A number of men sent back to Mons are said to be in a dying condition, many of them tubercular. At Malines and at Antwerp returned men have died, their friends asserting that they have been victims of neglect and cruelty, of cold, of exposure, of hunger.

Promises Are Not Kept. "I have had requests from the burgomasters of ten communes from La Louviere, asking that permission be obtained to send to the deported men in Germany packages of food similar to those that are being sent to prisoners of war. Thus far the German authorities have refused to permit this except in special instances, and returning Belgians claim that even when such packages are received they are used by the camp authorities only as another means of coercing them to sign the agreements to work.

"It is said that in spite of the liberal salary promised those who would sign voluntarily no money has as yet been received in Belgium from workmen in Germany.

"One interesting result of the deportations remains to be noted, a result that once more places in relief the German capacity for blundering almost as great as the German capacity for cruelty.

"They have dealt a mortal blow to any prospect they may ever have had of being tolerated by the population of Flanders; in tearing away from nearly every humble home in the land a husband and a father or a son and brother they have lighted a fire of hatred that will never go out; they have brought home to every heart in the land, in a way that will impress its horror indelibly on the memory of three generations, a realization of what German methods mean, not, as with the early atrocities in the heat of passion and the first lust of war, but by one of those deeds that make one despair of the future of the human race, a deed coldly planned, studiously matured, and deliberately and systematically executed, a deed so cruel that German soldiers are said to have kept in its execution, and so monstrous that even German officers are now said to be ashamed."

IS CURED OF BROKEN BACK

Remarkable Surgical Operation Saves the Life of Victim of Automobile Accident.

Wilmington, Del.—Robert Baldwin, twenty-one, of Bellevue, whose back was broken on February 2 when an automobile he was driving turned over on him, has been released from the Delaware hospital as cured, after one of the most delicate and remarkable operations ever performed at that institution.

As soon as he had been admitted to the hospital he was placed on the operating table and the tenth vertebra removed from his spine. This bone was broken, and in addition three other vertebrae were dislocated.

Dr. Harold Springer of this city performed the operation, which is said to be one of the most difficult and rarely successful. A recent morning Baldwin walked a distance of a city block with the aid of crutches. His legs were weak, but he found no trouble in getting around with the crutches. He is arranging to be exhibited before surgical clinics in several cities.

FISH STORY SEASON OPENS

How Will This Little Yarn From Wyoming Do for a Starter?

Sundance, Wyoming.—The opening of the fishing season brings the story of a man who caught an aquarium with his first cast. Fishing in Sand creek, a small stream near this place, from which no fish weighing more than two pounds before had ever been taken, John Guidinger captured a trout weighing 13 pounds ten ounces and measuring 22 inches long. He was amazed, but was more amazed when he opened the catch to discover a 12-inch trout in its stomach. In the smaller trout he found a 7-inch horned dace and inside the dace a three-inch sucker. In the sucker were a grasshopper, three flies and a rusty fishhook.

PORTLAND MAN INVENTS MARVELOUS TORPEDO

Portland, Ore.—Frank E. Kenney of this city has invented a new type of torpedo, designed to travel in the air or through the water. He is declared to have received an offer for the device from the English government, but refused it to give it to the United States government.

Tests of the torpedo have been made at Pacific coast naval stations. It is declared that when tested, the torpedo, after traveling more than five miles through the air, dropped into the water, righted itself, plunged through steel nets and struck a target at which it had been aimed.

NEWS and GOSSIP of WASHINGTON



Washington Woman's Idea of a "Simple Dinner"

WASHINGTON.—More than a score of prominent women of Washington have signed a pledge which binds them to serve no meal of more than three courses, to have one meatless day a week, and to simplicity in dress and entertaining. One of the number recently inaugurated the "simple-dinner" era by serving a three-course repast to 18 guests, with less elaborate adjuncts in the way of decorations, favors, etc. The menu, as published, could hardly be termed economical; it included fillet of beef, one of the most expensive cuts, fresh asparagus, peas and strawberries. To defeat the purpose of a pledge to simplicity by serving fewer courses but of more costly viands is observing the letter while

violating the spirit of the vow. After all, simplicity and economy never serve as synonyms each for the other, and every woman is aware that an "elegant simplicity" is invariably appallingly costly. A deeper meaning may well be read into the provisions of the pledge, and Economy made the handmaid of Simplicity.

The intention of the women of the capital is most praiseworthy; women of other cities may emulate them, sure of the approbation of the nation. We cannot foretell the length of the struggle in which we have taken a hand; we do know it will lay a heavy burden of taxation upon us and that there will be exceptional demands for self-restraint and sacrifice—and labor. We should waste neither food nor money.

Boy Scout Gets Reptile as Trophy of Chase

SCORE one for Young America! The hands that once twisted the lion's tail, the hands that in '61 and '65 twisted the Adam's apple of the Copperhead, have worthy successors in the small but capable hands that gripped with a red-tumbled water snake, fighting for its life.

A khaki-clad youngster of twelve, bearing the name of Courtland Ogden and wearing the uniform of Boy Scout Troop seven did the trick. It was the best "get" of the day for the Reptile Study society.

The encounter took place in the marshy meadows adjacent to the quiet waters of the Potomac river. With his senior partner in the craft of serpent sniping, Director Allen S. Williams of the Reptile Study society, Ogden was beating the bushes and leaving no stone unturned in the hope of uncovering one of the possum-playing wrigglers. Suddenly Mr. Williams let out a shout.

"There's one now, Courtland," he exclaimed. "Head him off!" Mr. Williams lunged at the crawler, but the bushes were in his way. Courtland, who being built a bit nearer the ground was in better form for instantaneous action, dived under the bushes from the other side. One grab and the snake was his. The creature, enraged, turned and wrapped itself around Courtland's forearm, but with the dexterity of a professional, he clapped the thumb and forefinger of his free hand over the head of his quarry and by the time re-enforcements came up he was nursing tenderly in his arm one of the finest specimens of a red and old-gold reptile that ever infested the jungles of the District.

Capital All Ready for Confederate Veterans

THE fierce "rebel yell," blending in cadence with the inspiring strains of "The Star-Spangled Banner," will awaken the echoes and arouse patriotic enthusiasm at the twenty-seventh annual reunion of the United Confederate Veterans to be held at Washington the week beginning June 4.

Veterans to be held at Washington the week beginning June 4. As the men in gray parade over the wide stretches of Pennsylvania avenue, sometimes termed the "national boulevard," the impulse will come to sound their battle cry of more than 50 years ago, when this country was engaged in a great internecine war. At this time when the United States is at war with a great foreign power, the picture of the parading units of the armies of Lee, worth while. The venerable veterans of Dixie will be participants in the making of moving pictures of a past age on the nation's screen at Washington.

Col. Robert N. Harper, chairman of the general committee of citizens in charge of the reunion, announces that plans for the great gathering are progressing notwithstanding the patriotic activities incident to the declaration of war against Germany. It has been definitely decided that the big parade shall take place Thursday, June 7, at 11 o'clock a. m. By direction of Gen. George P. Harrison, commanding the United Confederate Veterans, the business sessions of that organization, including the annual election of officers, will be held June 5, 6 and 7.

Other events in the same week will be the conventions of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Daughters of the Confederacy and the Confederated Southern Memorial association, besides regimental reunions, and the social functions which always are elaborate features of the reunions. The citizens of Washington are responding liberally to the call of H. F. Cary, chairman of the finance committee, for funds to entertain and care for their guests from the Sunny Southland.

Inspection Has No Terrors for Girl Rookies

THERE was a slickin' and a shinin' and a general tidying-up about the camp of the girl rookies on Conduit road one morning last week. Tents were made spick-and-span, dusty boots were shined till they glistened in the sun, and shaken until every particle of Conduit road and drillfield was flung therefrom—for it was inspection day at the National Service school, second encampment.

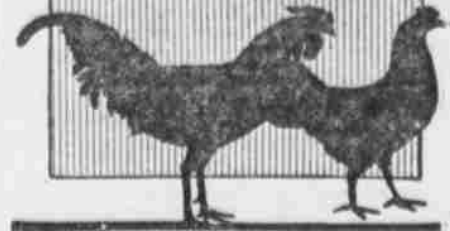
Commandant Elizabeth Poe and Lieut. Miriam Hubbard, officer of the day, made the rounds of the tents. The girl soldiers stood at attention outside their canvas homes as the inspecting officers, faces stern and shoulders squared, made their tour. Here and there was a word of advice, commendation, or reprimand. For girl rookies, though very good soldiers, still have things to learn about camp life. A week ago they were just beginning.

At the end of the inspection tour the officers said they were pleased. The officer of the day, unofficially, of course, made the announcement that everything was perfectly lovely.

Following inspection many of the girl soldiers obtained leave and visited relatives and friends back home—in Washington. Discipline was relaxed and the girls roamed about the camp or received congratulating hosts of friends and relatives.

Just outside the entrance to the camp there is a confectionery shop, which sells ice cream cones, candy, popcorn, cake, and picture postcards, but no cigarettes. It's amazing, the amount of ice cream a girl rookie, following a hard march, can consume. When the drill hour is over in the morning dusty rookies flock to the ice cream cone dispensary, and the cones which are bought would come near weighing, in the aggregate, as much as a six-inch shell.

POULTRY

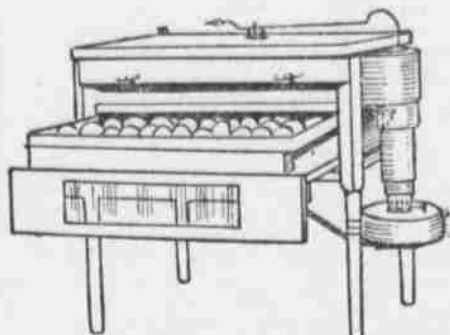


IMPROVED QUALITY OF EGGS

This May Be Brought About by Careful Selection for Incubation—Use Old Hens.

(By T. E. QUISENBERRY, Missouri.)
How are we to breed so that we may improve the quality of the eggs? We know it to be a fact that a hen lays essentially the same color and shape egg year in and year out. Of course we know that the first eggs of a pullet are small and will gradually increase in size until they reach their normal state. We also know that in varieties of poultry which lay brown eggs the last eggs of a "litter" will be somewhat lighter in color than will the first eggs laid, so we can see that the shape and color of an egg changes slightly.

In attempting to breed to improve the quality of eggs, we advise the selection of eggs for incubation only of



Incubator With Removable Nursery Underneath Egg Tray.

the kind which you wish to produce. If you want dead-white eggs, do not incubate any that are tinted in the least. If you want a pure, uniform brown egg, then select only that kind. See that none of them weigh less than two ounces and are of the perfect shape which you desire, and all of sound, smooth shell. Use males for mating with these selected hens that were hatched from hens that lay the same kind of an egg. Use the same process of selection the following year, and in a short period of time you will find that the number of eggs which will have to be culled out will grow gradually less and less. A much larger percentage of your eggs will grade as firsts.

It is advisable to use hens for breeding purposes because they lay a larger egg than the pullets, and they lay fewer eggs in the fall and winter and are in much better condition for breeding purposes in the spring months than are the pullets.

SMALL EGGS LACK VITALITY

Reject All Those Weighing Less Than Two Ounces for Hatching—Also Those Misshapen.

There is good reason to believe that small eggs and lack of vitality go together. Reject for setting purposes all eggs that weigh less than two ounces each, for small eggs produce small chicks.

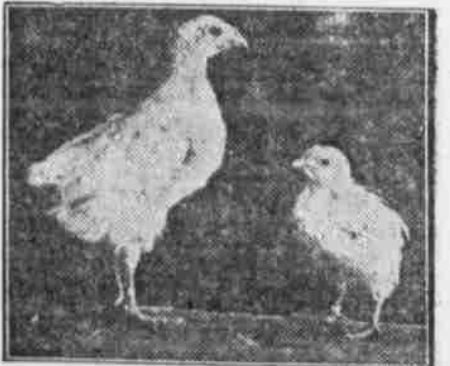
A breeder has no business to send out small, misshapen eggs and if such are received the buyer has good cause to expect poor results.

YOUNG CHICKS NEED WARMTH

Be Careful in Removing Little Fellows From Incubator—Prevent Chilling Is Main Thing.

In removing chicks from the incubator to the brooder great care must be taken to prevent them from being chilled. This can well be accomplished by placing them in a basket and covering them with a woolen cloth laid lightly over the chicks or with burlap or cotton cloth laid over the basket. A shallow wooden box having a muslin cover makes a very convenient chick carrier.

The main thing to do is to prevent chilling. Care should be taken to have the temperature of the brooder about the same as that of the incubator, that



Two White Wyandottes, Both Same Age and Raised and Fed in Same Way—An Example of Proper and Improper Methods of Selection and Breeding.

is, at 98 degrees to 100 degrees Fahrenheit under the hover. The temperature should be lowered gradually about five degrees per week until during the fourth week it is running at 85 degrees. If very high temperatures are maintained for long periods it lowers the vitality of the brood and many deaths are sure to result.

SOUTH TO DO ITS PART IN RAISING MORE FOOD

Dallas, Tex.—Southwestern farmers are bending every energy to plant food and feed crops. Spurred on by better prices than ever known to prevail in the Southwest for foodstuffs and alarmed by the government that unless extraordinary efforts are made by the farmers this season the country will face a serious food shortage, the farmers are planting a great deal of land to those crops which will help feed the nation. In the northern part of the great Southwest, where winter wheat was killed by an unfavorable winter, some farmers have planted spring wheat.

"The well-known tendency of sensa-