

SOCIALISTS SAW GERMANY'S ERROR

Urged That Inhuman Deportations Be Stopped Because of Effect on Neutrals.

GERARD SUMS UP SITUATION

"Germans Will Stop at Nothing, and the Only Thing They Respect is Force" — Hun's Capacity for Cruelty Told by Whitlock.

Aroused by the indignation shown by the whole world over the ruthless deportations of the people in Belgium and France, socialist deputies in the reichstag protested against the continuance of the practice. Ambassador Gerard's evidence shows the extent of the horror.

In the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung of December 2, 1916, the following protests against the deportation of Belgians to work in Germany, appeared, made, respectively, by Socialist Deputy Haase and Deputy Dittmann, members of the reichstag:

"Thousands of workmen in the occupied territory have been compelled to forced labor; we earnestly ask the government to restore to these workmen their liberty, especially in Belgium. In truth, we (the Germans) find no sympathy, in neutral countries; even the pope has made a protest against this procedure, and several neutral states have done the same. Common sense itself demands that we abandon this procedure which moreover is in opposition to the Hague convention to which we have agreed."

"In opposition to the secretary of state, I must recall that when formerly the Belgian workmen who had fled to Holland returned to Belgium, Governor General von Bissing promised that these Belgian workmen would under no circumstances be deported to Germany. This reassuring promise has not been kept."

Ambassador Gerard's interesting testimony appears in his recent book:

Ambassador Gerard's Evidence.

"The president (during my visit to America in 1916) impressed upon me his great interest in the Belgians deported to Germany. The action of Germany in thus carrying a great part of the male population of Belgium into virtual slavery had roused great indignation in America. As the revered Cardinal Farley said to me a few days before my departure, 'You have to go back to the times of the Medes and the Persians to find a like example of a whole people carried into bondage.'"

"Mr. Grew had made representations about this to the chancellor and, on my return, I immediately took up the question."

"I was informed that it was a military measure, that Ludendorff had feared that the British would break through and overrun Belgium and that the military did not propose to have a hostile population at their backs who might cut the rail lines of communication, telephones and telegraphs, and that for this reason the deportation had been decided on. I was, however, told I would be given permission to visit these Belgians. The passage, nevertheless, which alone made such visiting possible were not delivered until a few days before I left Germany."

Belgians Forced to Make Munitions.

"Several of these Belgians who were put to work in Berlin managed to get away and come to see me. They gave me a harrowing account of how they had been seized in Belgium and made to work in Germany at making munitions to be used probably against their own friends."

"I said to the chancellor, 'There are Belgians employed in making shells contrary to all rules of war and the Hague conventions.' He said, 'I do not believe it.' I said, 'My automobile is at the door. I can take you, in four minutes, to where 30 Belgians are working on the manufacture of shells.' But he did not find time to go."

"Americans must understand that the Germans will stop at nothing to win this war, and that the only thing they respect is force."—James W. Gerard, My Four Years in Germany, 1911, pp. 3651-52.

A similar point of view is expressed in an article entitled "Vae Victis" from the Hungarian newspaper News-sawa of Budapest (quoted in K. G. Ossannilsson, Militarism at Work in Belgium and Germany, 1917, pp. 53-54.)

Mixed Hungarian Opinion.

"Mechanical skill, and especially qualified mechanical skill, is for the moment a more important factor than usual, and as it must be obtained where it can be obtained, Belgium has had to suffer in accordance with the old saying which always holds good: Vae victis (woe to the vanquished). In Poland mechanical skill and the arms which exist there are mobilized under the glorious and fortunate banners of Poland; in Belgium under the banner of necessity."

"... The question remains: for what kind of work will the Germans use the Belgians? ... every kind of work in Germany is war work, whether it is called agricultural or industrial work. As the deported Belgians have not given their consent, their use is contrary to international law, and the policy of the Germans in Belgium and Poland is equally to be deplored. Instead of aiming at bringing us nearer peace, it serves to embitter our opponents and to arouse more hatred to-

ward us amongst the neutrals. Many times and more and more we have had occasion to observe that the neutrals show more sympathy for Belgium than for any other belligerent."

Old Men and Boys Taken.

The news dispatches indicate that the deportation and forced labor of Belgians still continue. In a dispatch from Havre (New York Evening Post, September 13, 1917) it is stated: "The removal of the civilian population of Belgium continues, according to advices received here. The town of Roulers, immediately behind the battle line in Flanders, has been evacuated completely. Ostend is being emptied gradually, and two thousand persons already have been sent from Courtrai." In another dispatch from Havre (Washington Post, September 24, 1917) it is stated that "the German military authorities at Bruges, Belgium, are conscripting forcibly all the boys and men of that city between the ages of fourteen and sixty to work in munition factories and shipyards. The rich and poor, shopkeepers and workmen, all are being taken, only the school teachers, doctors, and priests escaping."

German Officer Rebuked Men.

The following "Order of the Day" shows how the town of Huy escaped the fate of so many Belgium and French towns. Drunken German soldiers were frightened and began to shoot men and burn houses. The commanding officer condemned this because it was not done by his order and because two German soldiers were wounded. It is evident that massacres and arson were permitted only when commanded by the officers.

"Last night a shooting affray took place. There is no evidence that the inhabitants of the towns had any arms in their houses, nor is there evidence that the people took part in the shooting; on the contrary, it seems that the soldiers were under the influence of alcohol, and began to shoot in a senseless fear of a hostile attack."

"The behavior of the soldiers during the night, with very few exceptions, makes a scandalous impression."

"It is highly deplorable when officers or noncommissioned officers set houses on fire without permission or order of the commanding officer, or as the case may be, the senior officer, or when by their attitude they encourage the rank and file to burn and plunder."

"The miserable behavior of the men caused a noncommissioned officer and a private to be seriously wounded by German bullets."

"MAJOR VON BASSEWITZ."

Report of Minister Whitlock.

"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. Until the deportations were begun there was no intense hatred on the part of the lower classes, i. e., the workmen and the peasants. The old Germans of the Landstrum had been quartered in Flemish homes; they and the inmates spoke nearly the same language; they got along fairly well; they helped the women with the work, the poor and the humble having none of those hatreds of patriotism that are among the privileges of the upper classes. It is conceivable that the Flemish population might have existed under German rule; it was Teutonic in its origin and anti-French always. But now the Germans have changed all that."

"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 wept in its execution, and so monstrous that even German officers are now said to be ashamed."

"WHITLOCK."

Mr. Hoover's Conclusions.

Mr. Hoover's mature conclusions on the German practices in Belgium, which he wrote for the pamphlet issued by the committee on public information, reinforce the detailed evidence already presented:

September, 1917.

I have been often called upon for a statement of my observation of German rule in Belgium and northern France.

I have neither the desire nor the adequate pen to picture the scenes which have heated my blood through the two and a half years that I have spent in work for the relief of these 10,000,000 people.

The sight of the destroyed homes and cities, the widowed and fatherless, the destitute, the physical misery of a people but partially nourished at best, the deportation of men by tens of thousands to slavery in German mines and factories, the execution of men and women for paltry effusions of their loyalty to their country, the sacking of every resource through financial robbery, the battering of armies on the slender produce of the country, the denudation of the country of cattle, horses, and textiles; all these things we had to witness, dumb to help other than by protest and sympathy, during this long and terrible time, and still these are not the events of battle heat, but the effects of a grinding heel of a race demanding the mass-ruin of the world.

NEBRASKA HAPPENINGS DURING THE PAST WEEK

Brief Outline of Important Events Throughout the State of Interest to the General Reader.

Young people of Bostwick, Nuckolls county, gave a dance following a sale for the Red Cross. Membership fees, proceeds from sale and dance and recent contributions total \$2,000. Bostwick claims the honor of having raised more money for the Red Cross than any other town of its size in the state. The 1910 census gave the town a population of 125.

Farmers in Richardson county are being organized for the purpose of securing a county agricultural agent.

Kimball has a new bank, the American State bank having opened for business a few days ago. It has a capital stock of \$25,000.

At a public auction held at Bennett over \$615 was realized. Seventy-three dollars of the proceeds were used for the adoption of two Belgian children, and the remainder was donated to the Red Cross.

Nebraska representatives cast a solid six votes for the federal suffrage constitutional amendment when the house adopted the votes for women resolution by a narrow margin at Washington.

General Blockson, commander at Camp Cody, N. M., has recommended that members of the Seventh Nebraska regiment, which has been disbanded, be allowed to enlist in the Thirty-fourth division.

Four business stores on the main street of Sutton were given daubs of yellow paint for alleged violation of the 6:30 o'clock closing rule promulgated by the fuel administration.

County Agent Stewart is introducing pure bred cattle into Kimball county. Seven head, purchased for \$2,100, have just been shipped into the county.

Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska says President Wilson's address to congress outlining America's peace terms is a definite start toward ending the world war.

Bohemian lodge No. 101, L. C. B. J., of Du Bois, gave an entertainment and dance, the proceeds of which went to the Red Cross. Gross receipts were \$205.

When Superior finishes paving on Kansas street and Commercial avenue it will have more pavement for its size than any other town in Nebraska.

State Red Cross officials believe it is possible, when all reports are in, that Nebraska will have the largest membership, population considered, of any state in the union.

Weekly meetings are being held by the Saunders County Council of Defense for the purpose of hearing cases of persons charged with being disloyal.

Thirty thousand dollars in fines was collected in Nebraska for violations of the prohibition law between May 1, 1917, and January 1, 1918.

More live stock is being fed by farmers of Buffalo county this winter than ever before in the history of the county.

The sum of \$3,076.56 was raised by the Webster county chapter of the Red Cross at an auction sale at Red Cloud.

Holt county produced more wild hay in 1917 than any county in this state. The county exported 206,305 tons outside that fed to stock.

Eustis citizens are jubilant over the success of the first war savings certificate drive. A total of \$5,000 worth of the baby bonds were sold.

Kimball is organizing a "100 per cent American Society." The purpose is to develop whole hearted Americanism in the community.

Four parochial schools in Gage county have eliminated the teaching of the German language.

The County Treasurers' association of the state will hold its annual meeting at Omaha February 25, 26 and 27.

Farmers in the vicinity of Edgar have lost a large number of hogs lately from cholera.

Since the outbreak of the war 900 students of the University of Nebraska have joined the colors.

At a patriotic rally held at Hebron a total of \$20,130 worth of war savings certificates were sold.

A German farmer, charged with making seditious utterances, was called to the platform during a patriotic meeting at Emerson and forced to buy a picture of the Kaiser, which he had in his home. Most of those at the meeting were Germans.

Madison county has adopted the food card system, the first county in the state to take such action. It is practically the same card used in Germany, England, France, Italy and other countries in the actual fighting zone.

Shortage of coal is still apparent in Superior. The school board was forced to get fuel from the city to heat the school buildings. A long cold spell will bring a coal famine to the town.

Wheeler county is to have a new court house, the sum of \$5,000 having been voted to rebuild the court house at Bartlett, which was destroyed by fire some time ago.

Nebraska has raised more than \$400,000 of its \$500,000 fund for superannuated Methodist ministers and their families.

Scenes from entertainments, officers training camps, aviation schools, ship building industry, navy yards, submarines, parts of munitions factories and some views from the American expeditionary force in France are to be shown in moving picture theaters over Nebraska and other states in the near future and the proceeds applied to patriotic purposes. The idea originated in Washington.

Following the arrest of a farmer, his two sons and a brother near Belgrade for disloyalty, a promise was made by the farmer to buy \$1,200 worth of Liberty bonds, and he agreed to donate \$250 to both the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. One son bought bonds and donated to war activities. The other two men are to be investigated.

Nebraska exemption officials express the opinion that Omaha and Lincoln will furnish practically the entire state's quota when the next call is made. The assumption is based on the provost marshal's announcement that men of Class One will make up America's new armies.

A home economics course is to begin at once in the school at Alvo, Cass county. The school has met all requirements necessary for participation in the benefits of the Smith-Hughes fund for the teaching of the course.

Many complaints are reaching the state food administrator because of the high price of cornmeal. Mr. Wattles told a delegation of Nebraska millers the other day at Omaha that the price of cornmeal in this state must be lowered.

Congressman Reavis of Nebraska introduced a resolution in the house at Washington, authorizing a committee to design a new service flag, and severely criticized the inventor of the present service flag for claiming a royalty on his patent.

Thousands of Nebraska school children will take part in the nation wide "tag a shovel day" drive Jan. 30. The object is the saving of a shovel of coal a day by every family in the United States.

At the suggestion of Editor Seely of the Rising City Independent an enthusiastic mass meeting was held in the town and a company of home guards organized.

Ten thousand bushels of wheat, oats and corn which farmers in Gage county desire to sell was refused by a Rockford grain buyer because of car shortage.

M. O. McLaughlin, president of the York college, has entered the race for the nomination for congressman in the Fourth district on the republican ticket.

In the drive for Armenian and Syrian relief, Weeping Water and vicinity raised \$700, which is more than double the minimum quota appointed.

The Lewiston consolidated school, representing six districts and a total valuation of \$471,000, was opened last week. There are forty-eight other such schools in the state.

An effort is being made to have National Food Administrator Horbert Hoover speak in Omaha during the Nebraska Retailers' War conference, which meets January 21-24.

The annual state meeting of county assessors will take place in Lincoln January 29 and 30, to discuss plans for a uniform assessment of property throughout the state.

By unanimous vote the congregation of the Zion Lutheran church at Hastings decided to drop the teaching of German in the parish school.

A plan is under way at Hastings to close the schools of the city two weeks earlier than usual the coming spring.

Saunders county Red Cross war fund is now well near the \$100,000 mark. The county was asked to raise \$23,500.

Every alternate meeting of the Ladies Aid societies of the various North Platte churches will be devoted to aiding the Red Cross.

A most successful campaign for war savings certificates is being carried on over Thayer county.

Valuable deposits of potash have been found in the salt basin north of Lincoln.

The teaching of German has been dropped in the Holy Family school at Lindsay for the duration of the war.

City officials of Omaha estimate the population of the Nebraska metropolis is 225,000.

The teaching of the English language has taken the place of German in the parochial schools of Fremont.

The sale of horse meat at Grand Island is apparently proving a success, and there is some talk of establishing a packing house in the city to be devoted exclusively to the preparing of horses for market. It would be the only establishment of its kind in the country.

Food Administrator Wattles has sent orders to Nebraska millers to begin at once to grind "war flour" only from wheat. He declared that the dark variety is more healthful than the white brand.

The Aurora home guard company is developing into an efficient military organization having been equipped with guns, ammunition and uniforms. Squad drills are being held almost every night.

A "Two-bit" club has been organized by the Alliance Community club, each member pledging himself to purchase a thrift stamp every day for three months.

Four thousand pounds of horse meat were sold in Hall county during the first ten days operation of the Grand Island market.

WANTS SHIPBUILDERS

WILL TAKE CENSUS TO FIND AVAILABLE MEN

NEWS FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Varied Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources at the State House

To assist in government contracts connected with the war and in the production of foodstuffs and raw materials under governmental supervision, the United States public service reserve of the United States Department of Labor has been created to enroll men for this work.

State Commissioner of Labor Geo. E. Norman has been appointed director of Nebraska, and has been asked to perfect a statewide organization to conduct a vigorous campaign beginning January 21 to enroll men for the most urgent work. Thirteen of the Northwestern states are asked to enlist 20,000 men for the Puget Sound navy yards. Many of the men are wanted at once, and others will be desired in the near future.

Local labor bureaus throughout the state, and where there is no local bureau, others will be asked to carry out this work. County councils of defense will be asked to take charge in their respective counties.

A Chance to Qualify

Men who have served as officers in the national guard and have not yet passed the age of 47 are to have an opportunity to join the army and receive training which will qualify them for commissions later on. Heretofore, anyone over 40 years of age has been barred by war department regulations.

A telegram received by Adjutant General Clapp of the Nebraska national guard from the militia affairs bureau at Washington, brings word that officers and ex-officers of the national guard between the ages of 23 and 47, inclusive, may enlist as privates of the first class for training camps in the southern states and southern California, to open January 15. They must, however, prove themselves efficient and physically fit for service. Only a limited number will be accepted.

Application for enlistments under this order will be taken by Adjutant General Clapp. They must be approved in each instance by the division of militia affairs, which in turn will be guided by the adjutant general's recommendations.

There are a great many men in Nebraska who were officers in the Spanish-American and Philippine wars of eighteen and nineteen years ago who have been unable to enlist now because of the 40 year age limit. The new regulations will probably result in a number of them offering their services.

Children Contribute Liberally

Over \$100,000 worth of produce and livestock has been the contribution of Nebraska boys and girls to Uncle Sam's war production campaign, according to a report of activities of the agricultural extension service of the state university, since the war began. More than \$50,000 worth of garden products alone, without the help of the grown-ups. From reports received, each child's garden, where records were kept, netted about \$8.

Nebraska boys rallied to the meat production campaign by turning out 178,800 pounds of pork, valued at \$30,000. This was the work of 450 boys who became members of the pig-raising project, each boy agreeing to raise at least one pig to maturity.

Two thousand boys and girls took up chicken raising under the instructions furnished them, agreeing to raise fifteen chickens, and produced \$20,000 worth of poultry.

Nor were the grown-ups forgotten in the campaign for increased production. Three thousand meetings, with an aggregate attendance of 300,000 people, have been held under the auspices of the service, since the United States entered the war.

B. R. B. Weber, formerly of Wahoo, for the last three years foreman of the orchard at the state farm, has been elected secretary of the state horticultural society to succeed Grove Porter, who will enter an officers' training camp at Fort Riley.

May Bring Mandamus Suit

The state insurance board has rejected the application of the Iowa A. O. U. W. to do business in Nebraska. The Iowa lodge contemplated taking over the business of four Omaha and one Fremont lodges. The state board took the position that the Nebraska board is now getting on its feet financially, and permission to the Iowa board to do business here would give the Nebraska lodge a serious setback. The Iowa lodge is expected to bring a mandamus suit to settle the controversy finally.

Says Stories are False

Will M. Maupin, director of the state bureau of publicity, fortified with a letter from Governor Neville to the commanding officers at Camp Funston, spent several days of last week inspecting the camps and the hospitals at Fort Riley. In his report made to the governor, he says that the 45,000 men at the camp are better fed, better housed and better clothed than the same 45,000 men on the average are when at home. All these stories about the men suffering from lack of clothing and bedding are false.

SCHOOL FOR THE DRAFTED MEN

University to Establish Course for Free Training of Conscripts

State Superintendent W. H. Clemmens is co-operating with the government in the attempt to obtain skilled workmen and experts in various trades for the army. As an emergency measure the university of Nebraska is to establish a course of study for the free training of men. The government needs 79,200 skilled men for work during the war. The state superintendent has outlined the state organization for such emergency work as follows:

1. Conscripted men of each county available for school.
2. Course of study, weeks or months, including all lines of mechanical and industrial instruction.
3. Each conscripted man must have at the close of his training a certificate bearing the name of the dean, the chancellor and the secretary of the state board.
4. Conscripted men, if not recently examined, must be examined before entrance to the school.
5. If a conscripted man is found unable to do the work, he must be notified at once.
6. All instruction must be free.
7. Classes may be conducted daily or in the evening as the case permits.
8. An exact record must be made of each conscripted man, and the same must be reported to the state federal board.

Praise for Council of Defense

Work of the Nebraska state defense council was highly praised by Attorney General Gregory at Washington in a conference which the latter had with Senator Hitchcock and George Coupland, vice chairman of that body.

"Please tell Governor Neville and the members that we are impressed with their efforts. They have done a great work and I want you to thank them all when you return to Nebraska," the head of the department of justice said to Mr. Coupland. The attorney general then went on to relate some of the difficulties which his branch is having with its added war responsibilities. "I must depend upon the state defense councils in each state. Your Nebraska body has worked with extraordinary zeal and with commendable fairness, it seems to me, in view of some of the very perplexing problems you had there," he added.

Seventh Regiment to Disband

Governor Neville has announced that the Seventh Nebraska regiment, of which he is colonel, is to be disbanded.

Major Ray Abbott of the second battalion received the orders from Governor Neville disbanding the regiment, and directing him to prepare to turn over what state property he has and disband the companies. Headquarters will be closed, the state property shipped to Lincoln and the band instruments returned to the Commercial club, which donated them. The three companies of the defunct regiment are E F and G. In taking up the status of the Seventh with the war department, Governor Neville insisted that the Seventh regiment be recognized and receive early service. Failing to get satisfaction on these two points, he decided to disband the regiment.

As a result of his personal investigations into the bootlegging traffic, Attorney General Reed has secured affidavits and other evidence, proving the violation of federal laws in the bringing of liquor into Nebraska from Missouri. He is placing the facts in possession of United States District Attorney T. S. Allen as a basis for federal prosecution. This is being done because some of the principal offenders are not in Nebraska and cannot be prosecuted.

Answering to a Telegraphic Inquiry.

Attorney General Reed today gave out an opinion that German language instruction in parochial schools could be legally stopped. The inquiry came from W. C. Johnson of Scotia. Mr. Reed did not specify what legal provisions could be employed to prevent German language instruction. It has generally been accepted heretofore that the state's council of defense could do no more than request its discontinuance, which has already been done.

The state banking board, as a measure of conservation, has directed Secretary Tooley not to publish an annual report this year, but in lieu to publish a biennial report next year.

Gets Copy of Amendment

An official copy of the proposed constitutional amendment for national prohibition, which has been submitted to the states by action of congress, has reached Governor Neville with a letter from Secretary of State Lansing. The secretary of state asks that it be brought to the attention of the next legislature and that his department be advised of whatever action may be taken thereon. Governor Neville will file the letter and the amendment away, to be incorporated in his message to the legislature a year hence.

Charging that the Grainger and Stacy wholesale houses of Lincoln are in an unlawful combination to fix and control the prices of fruit and produce in Lancaster county and the state of Nebraska, Attorney General Reed has commenced prosecution against those firms and their principal officers. A joint complaint naming the Grainger Bros. Co., Stacy Bros. Fruit Company, Joseph Grainger, George Burt, Edwin T. Scott, Arthur P. Stacy, Harold B. Stacy and Clinton J. Stacy as defendants was filed in the county court.