

Wealthy Titled American Women in the German "Bread Line"

Vanderbilt, Iselin and Other Heiresses Given Bread and Potato Tickets by the Government

Countess Ferdinand Colloredo-Mannfeld, formerly Nora Iselin of the Well Known New York Millionaire Family.



The Countess Schonborn-Buchheim, of Vienna. Formerly Mrs. Dandridge Spotswood, of Virginia, Once Called the Most Perfect Blonde Beauty in American Society.

AMERICAN girls, possessors of millions and reared in every conceivable luxury, are "standing in the bread line."

This is one of the oddest consequences of the great war, which has upset all social order and all the normal conditions of life.

Nearly all the American girls who have married German and Austrian noblemen are now suffering from the shortage of food and especially the lack of bread, which the war has caused in their adopted countries.

Among these women are representatives of the richest and most fashionable families at America. There is, for instance, the Countess Laszlo Szechenyi, who was formerly Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York.

She is probably the richest American heiress who has ever married a foreign nobleman. Her husband is a leading nobleman of Hungary and a subject of the Emperor of Austria, whose dominions are suffering more severely than any other country in the war.

According to last reports the Countess Szechenyi was on her husband's estates at Oermeszog, in Hungary. Communication between her and her American friends has been infrequent and it is only reasonable to believe that the region where she is living is terribly disorganized. Hungary is the portion of the Austrian monarchy which now seems in most danger of a Russian invasion, especially as it borders on Roumania, whose people are expected to combine with the Russians and attack Hungary.

All the men from the Countess's estate and the surrounding country have been summoned to the army, the oldest classes of the reserves having been called out. It is impossible to get ordinary work done and supplies of food and all kinds of necessities are lacking.

One report cabled indirectly from Hungary stated that the Countess was suffering from smallpox. This came with some other details concerning the condition of Hungary, the spread of sickness owing to the lack of sanitation, proper food and medical supplies. The Vanderbilt family positively denied the statement about the Countess's illness, but the other facts concerning the shortage of food and the disorganization of society in Hungary were apparently correct.

It is, of course, impossible to say just how much each of these American women is suffering from privation, but we know officially that even the Kaiser's own family is on short rations and that the richest people in Berlin are compelled to satisfy themselves with the four and a quarter pounds of bread per week allowed by law.

The Kaiser's wife and family could, of course, have all the food they wished but they are setting an example of economy in order to reconcile all classes of the country to the privations which have been enforced upon them.

The dispatches have described how the Kaiser's family were living in war times. The dinner consists of a thin soup, a slice of meat or fish, two vegetables and some stewed fruit. Only war bread, which must contain not less than one-third potato flour and not more than one-third wheat is put on the palace table. Some correspondents have described this bread as one



The Former Miss Elizabeth Reid Rogers, Who Married Prince Christian of Hesse, a Member of a German Royal Family.

of the horrors of war, but the Kaiser is said to have eaten it with much gusto and exclaimed:

"That is the stuff to make us fight!" It is well known that the Kaiser was very fond of rich game soups and these used to be served with nearly every dinner at the palace before the war. Since the shortage of food began they have been replaced by thin, watery vegetable soups on the imperial table. Only on the rare occasions when the Kaiser has made a hasty visit to his family from the trenches have his favorite thick soups been served, in order to stamp the dinner as a great festivity.

Although the making and distribution of bread have been strictly regulated by the Government, it appears that in some places rich people have been able to purchase wheat flour for the making of cakes and pastry. This has aroused great indignation among people who were unable to afford the luxury or believe in sticking to war-bread for patriotic reasons.

An American titled woman living in Berlin was the object of a hostile demonstration because she gratified her natural taste for pastry too liberally. The conduct of those who eat cake and pastry has been scolded in a popular German song entitled "The German Soldier's Cake Song." A battle-scarred soldier is supposed to sing the verses. Here is one of them:

"Under the enemy's shot and shell I lie, 'I suffer, I bleed, I starve, I die. 'And you!—you eat cake!" This song is said to have achieved a popularity only second to that of Ernest Lissauer's celebrated "Hate-Song against England."

Evidently the upper classes are expected by the Government and the rest of the



The Great American Heiress in Hungary, the Countess Laszlo Szechenyi, Formerly Gladys Vanderbilt.

country to economize in the use of all food. This applies to the American wives of the aristocracy as much as to the native noblewomen.

A few months ago Miss Elizabeth Reid Rogers, a very handsome and talented Washington girl married Prince Christian of Hesse, who is a member of a reigning family and a nephew of the German Emperor. The marriage was regarded with great interest, because she is the only American girl married to a member of a ruling house.

Now the poor bride, with all her rank and envied position, must eat the horrid war bread and repress her natural inclina-

tions for cake and pastry. Her husband is in the navy and her position must be a very anxious and trying one.

Another prominent American woman of the younger generation now prominent in German society is the Countess Scherr. Those, who was Miss Muriel White, daughter of Henry White the former American Ambassador to France. Her husband is an officer of the cavalry of the Kaiser's bodyguard and is now on active service. Of course, she is expected to conform to the laws and patriotic sentiments regarding food consumption.

Countess Anton Sigray, who is married to a prominent subject of the Emperor of



Countess Kalman de Czaky, a Brilliant American

Woman whose Husband is a First Cousin of Gladys Vanderbilt's Husband.

ly referred to as the most exquisite blonde beauty in American society. The luxuries of life must seem necessary to such a dainty creature. Her home is in Vienna.

The Countess Kalman de Czaky is an American woman married to a Hungarian nobleman who is a first cousin of Count Laszlo Szechenyi, Gladys Vanderbilt's husband. The Countess Cal was Mrs. Maud Howard Bryan, a wealthy and attractive widow from Portland, Ore.

An even more cruel ordeal than any which has yet afflicted the spoiled darlings of American society may yet await them in Germany. It is said that the supply of sugar is likely to be seized by the Government and that the girls will not be able to get any candy. Sugar is of vital importance to the army, but it is a great heat and energy producing food.

Just how severe is the famine of food in the two Germanic empires is a matter of some uncertainty and of great threat to the outside world. Even the British Government, which is seeking to avert the Germans out is believed to be uncertain about the conditions in the enemy's territory.

It is, therefore, very interesting to read this passage from a recent article by William H. H. in which he deals with the food problem in Germany:

"Our foes," he writes, "in East and West are drunk with joy—in Germany the food stuffs have been placed under Government control, that is the beginning of the end." We reply, "It is the end of beginning of which we at home disapproved mightily. It means divesting ourselves of all shares, whose reign could continue without woeful harm."

"Do our enemies rejoice that we have taken this step? They may rest assured we have desired it for a long, long time. Government supervision of supplies is a necessity. It cannot be sufficiently severe where the mere possibility of eventual dearth exists. We do not complain because every man, woman and child is meted out an iron portion of provisions, of meat, eggs, butter, bread. No one knows how long the war may continue. And the fear of starvation must not be allowed to curtail the war by the fraction of a day. That is the business of those that rule. It is their duty to see that the nationalarder remains replete."

These are the words of a patriotic journalist trying to make the best of things. They prove that conditions must be mighty uncomfortable and that worse may yet be in store for those American girls who once lived on the choicest produce of the earth. "An iron portion of provisions" for Mrs. Vanderbilt's daughter must seem pretty hard.

Countess Anton Sigray of Hungary, Formerly Miss Harriot Daly, Daughter of Marcus Daly, the Western Mining Magnate.

Austria, was Miss Harriot Daly, daughter of Marcus Daly, the Western mining magnate. The Countess's sister is Mrs. James W. Gerard, wife of the American Ambassador at Berlin. It is a curious fact that Mrs. Gerard, as an Ambassador's wife, is entitled to buy all the bread she likes, while her sister is expected to content herself with the allowance of war bread permitted in Austria.

It is dreadful to think of the dainty Countess Ferdinand Colloredo-Mannfeld being subjected to the horrors of war diet. She was Miss Nora Iselin, daughter of C. Oliver Iselin, of New York, the millionaire yachtsman who has helped to build most of the America's cup defenders. Of course, she was brought up in the luxurious manner to which the most favored daughters of New York are accustomed. She is now a subject of the distracted Austrian Emperor.

Many people will feel more distressed about the fate of the beautiful Countess Schonborn-Buchheim than of any other American woman in the Germanic countries. She was formerly Mrs. Dandridge Spotswood, of Virginia, and was frequent-

Why "Open Winters" Are Not Good for Agriculture

WHEN there has been a winter with very little snow on the ground, such as the winter just passed, the land under cultivation suffers through lack of proper enrichment, according to the authority of agricultural experts. When the snow covers the ground it preserves vegetable life without developing it. Snow is only a third as powerful as rain as a conductor of heat, and for this reason when snow covers the ground it prevents the heat of the earth from escaping three times as much rain would do.

drop in temperature if a little snow falls first than they can if there is no snow. Wheat planted in the fall will go through zero weather if the ground is well covered with snow, but an open winter with low temperatures alternating with rain instead of snow will do great damage to it.

Rain enriches the soil, it is true, bringing to the ground azote in the form of ammonia or nitric acid, but snow enriches the soil in a much greater proportion. An inch of rain water contains much less fertilizing material than an inch of water caused by melting snow, and so the wise farmer generally increases the amount of fertilizer he uses in the spring when it has been an open winter