

WAR BRINGS ABOUT INCREASE IN WAGES

While Laboring Men of England Are Getting More Pay for Their Services Cost of Living Has Advanced.

PAUPER POPULATION IS LESS

(Correspondence Associated Press.)

LONDON, May 2.—War as a wage raiser has brought to a considerable proportion of the laboring classes in England some compensation for the increased cost of living. Social workers estimate that the increased cost of living averages at least 10 per cent, while the average increase in wages is not over 5 per cent. The plentiful supply of overtime work available in most trades makes it easy for most workmen to more than even matters.

The upward tendency of the English workingman's wages was very marked in March. According to the official Board of Trade reports the increases granted during the month reached a total of nearly \$365,000. The number of work people who shared the increases was 440,000.

Increased wages in some of the leading branches of industry are summed up briefly as follows:

Increase for These.

Railwaymen—All round increase of 75 cents a week.

Longshoremen—Increase varying from 25 cents to \$2 a week.

Policemen—War bonus of 75 cents a week and upwards.

Carpenters—War bonus of \$1 to \$1.50 a week.

General Laborers—Increases of 75 cents to \$1.50 a week.

Miners—Employers generally offer 10 per cent advance in pay; miners demand 20 per cent.

Postal Employees, including telephone and telegraph workers—Increase of \$1 a week has been demanded.

Gas Workers—Increases averaging \$1 a week.

Bakers—Increase of \$1.25 a week asked, but employers' offer of 75 cents accepted pending negotiations.

Textile Workers—Bonus for overtime work in factories doing work on army clothing.

Boot and Shoe Workers—War bonus of 5 to 10 per cent granted in some places.

Coopersmiths—Average wage before war \$9; now \$12.50.

Clerks—Some increases; 180,000 grocers' assistants have asked readjustment of wages; similar movements pending in other branches.

Engineering and Building Trades Workers—Some sections have secured substantial increases.

Number of Unemployed Decreases. The number of unemployed in Great Britain shows a large falling off the last February and March, as compared with the corresponding months of last year. The Board of Trade's labor gazette prints statistics from the government's 48 labor exchanges, according to which there were 3,004 names on the register last month; as against 10,615 for February and 12,374 for March of the last year.

The number of vacancies in employment reported to the exchange also show an increase over the late winter of 1914, having a daily average of 5,746, or 10 more than the average for February, and 1,600 more than the average for March of last year.

London passed through the winter with fewer cases of destitution demanding relief from the poor funds than any winter within the memory of the present poor law officials.

Pauper Population Less. The war, in fact, has enabled many thousands of people belonging to the classes which usually must be helped, to dispense with this kind of relief, and has even put them in possession of funds more than sufficient to meet their needs. London's pauper population has decreased steadily during the last three months.

The London *Guardian*, at the beginning of 1915, was providing for 10,000 paupers. This was a decrease of 2,500 from the corresponding date a year before. April 1 showed the total decrease by a further 3,000.

It is evident, however, that these decreases are but part, at least, deceptive, being accounted for, not by improved conditions, but by the fact that a great deal of relief is being administered by new agencies, such as the special war relief funds and the old age pensions.

Bremen Building Up Up a City for the Laboring People

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

BREMEN, May 10.—To keep down the cost of living for the workingman in Bremen, the city is building homes in the outlying districts for which the laborer pays 500 marks (\$125) a year, and owns when he has paid from 2,000 to 3,000 marks.

On the assumption that the workingman rarely has an automobile, they have reduced the width of the streets in the little colony where the experiment is being tried to about ten feet, perfectly paved, and, because of the low buildings, without at all giving the appearance of alleys.

The houses contain three and four rooms, with a washroom that is about as big as the average American kitchenette. The houses are of uniform construction and color, being a tasteful brown cement. Each has a tiny grass plot or garden in front and a garden plot in the rear.

The effect of the experiment is the foundation of a city in miniature, which, because of German cleanliness and care, is comfortable and cozy, rather than squat and cramped. The majority of the workmen who have taken up with the plan are employed in the gigantic elevator nearby, where supplies are being stored from all over Germany.

Nearer the business center of the city are larger and somewhat more pretentious buildings—mostly two-family houses—where laboring men can live with surprising cheapness. Like the smaller places they eventually become the property of the families who live in them.

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RELIEF FUND UP FOR PROBE

Criticism Heard Over Administration of Prince of Wales Fund of \$25,000,000.

ASK FOR A FULL STATEMENT

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) LONDON, April 25.—Widespread criticism is heard in England over the administration of the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund, which now amounts to £25,000,000. About a third of this has been expended thus far.

The criticism comes from two sides. The Workers' National committee complains that £7,000,000 has been spent in relieving dependents of soldiers and sailors, and only £1,000,000 for the relief of civil distress, which the committee declares was the principal object of the fund. On the other hand, families of soldiers and sailors complain that there are unreasonable delays in making allowances and payments, and that the administrators of the fund have taken no notice of many cases of genuine distress.

The Workers' National committee, which is understood to have the backing of the trade unions, has asked the executive committee of the fund for a "full statement of receipts and expenditures, together with an explanation of the policy which has been pursued in the administration of the fund."

In Glasgow a serious situation has arisen through a notice circulated a few days ago by the local branch of the relief fund executive committee, stating that the fund would not continue to pay the weekly rent of 9,000 dependents. The Glasgow secretary at the same time stated that this action was taken against the wish of the local committee, which had in good faith made promises to the soldiers' relatives which it was now unable to fulfill.

"Substantial sums have been granted

FALLEN GERMAN "TAUBE"—This one, carrying two passengers, made a recent attempt to reach Paris, with the result seen in the photo, which was taken near the French capital.



FALLEN GERMAN "TAUBE"

PHOTO BY LEADER

The defense of the general executive committee is thus given in the Times: "The committee admits that the local administrative machinery for the payment of allotments and allowances is not yet working smoothly. But this work was undertaken only to relieve the unprecedented strain which the war had imposed upon the army pay department, and the committee hopes that before long the fund will be entirely relieved of this charge upon it."

"At the beginning of the war the army pay office had on its books only 1,500 soldiers' wives. The number entitled to separate allowances is now close to 1,000,000 and they are paid weekly. The number of households granted relief by the fund has been over 500,000. So far as practicable the money thus expended is being recovered from the war office."

"Substantial sums have been granted

for the temporary relief of wounded soldiers and sailors, and for the provision of employment and training for the partially disabled.

"Grants from the fund for the relief of the civil population are made solely on the recommendation of the government committee on the prevention and relief of distress, of which the president is Herbert Samuel, president of the local government board."

"Unemployment, as everyone knows, is much less serious than was anticipated, and it has not been necessary to make any very heavy demands on the fund for the assistance of cases of distress among the civil population. So long as the government's demand for labor on government work remains unsatisfied, it would be impossible to regard without grave anxiety the continued reliance of men and women on relief funds. The

committee, therefore, urges its local committees to scrutinize carefully the circumstances of all applicants for relief."

LONDON, May 16.—The British naval losses in the entire war up to April 1, are given as follows in an official statement:

	Officers.	Men.
Killed	207	4,611
Wounded	61	560
Interned	41	1,324
Missing	7	72
Prisoners	11	24
Totals	452	8,141

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ABLE-BODIED MEN SCORNED

Youth of France Who is Not at the Front Fighting Meets with Little Consideration.

IGNORED EVEN BY WOMEN

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) PARIS, May 2.—Few young or middle-aged men are to be seen in the provinces of France now, but there are enough of them promenading the Paris boulevards to excite mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts of soldiers.

"Why isn't he at the front?" has been a constantly growing question, generally followed by a denunciation, and sometimes resulting in deplored incidents.

A young actor was hissed at Lyons when someone in the audience put the foregoing question. He asked for a hearing and in a choked voice said that he was obliged to speak of something that he had tried for a long time to ignore himself. "It makes no difference now, though," he said.

The doctors give me only six months more to suffer. It would be a great consolation if I could spend that time fighting for France, but in spite of my supplications, they won't have me."

Many incurables have been obliged in this way to disclose their secret sufferings. Many foreigners also, who passed through France, have declared they were Russian, English or Belgian. Deputy Henri Galli of Paris asked why they were not serving their respective countries. The reply was that the Russians were mostly political refugees who would be put into prison instead of the army if they returned, while England has no obligatory service, and many Belgians benefited from the old law under which circumlocution was by lot.

Some men having served in the civic

guard, or being married, are exempt under existing laws. Galli remarked that there was nothing to prevent the English and Belgians from enlisting in their own armies, and as for the Russians, there was room for them in the foreign legion.

The Belgian army has been refusing to volunteers the privilege of choosing their regiments and this is supposed to confirm the report that the government intends by decree to modify the existing recruiting laws and call out all physically fit men between the ages of 19 and 25, married as well as single. No more passports for Holland are delivered to men in this category wishing to return to Belgium.

EXPLODING SHELL TAKES BODY TO CHURCH TOWER

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, British Army, France, May 2.—One of the huge German 42-centimeter shells opened a grave in the little cemetery in the village of Richebourg St. Vaast recently and, exploding, lifted a coffin and the skeleton therein, fifty feet in the air, where bones and splintered wood caught and hung on the side of the church tower. Wind and rain came, but part of the skeleton still depends from the tower, rattling and swaying in the breeze.

BERLIN MUSEUM COLLECTS LETTERS FOR SOLDIERS

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.) AMSTERDAM, May 1.—The Markish museum in Berlin is collecting letters from soldiers who are considered worthy of permanent preservation. The collection already numbers 700.

The Bavarian Military museum has decided to install a hall of fame, in which will be kept busts of all the great German army leaders in the present war, with memorial tablets commemorating the names of all Bavarians who have fallen.

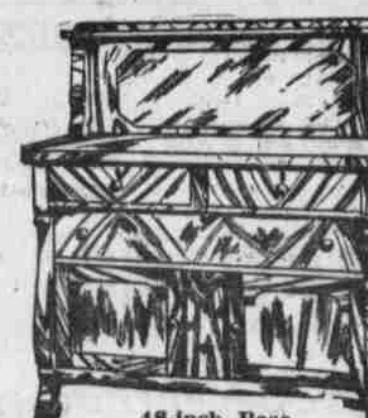
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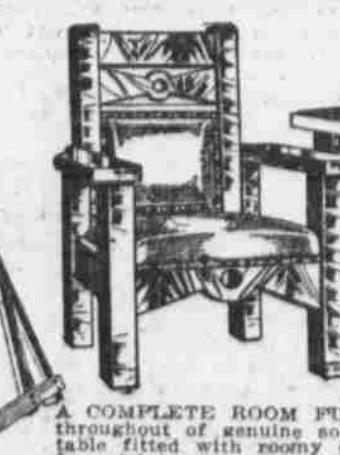
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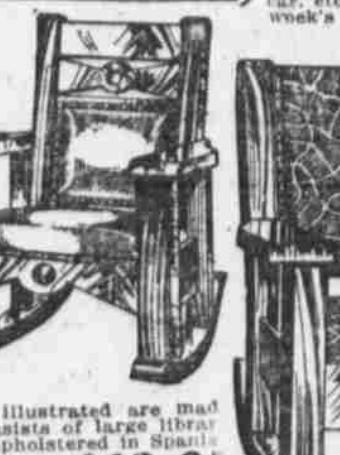
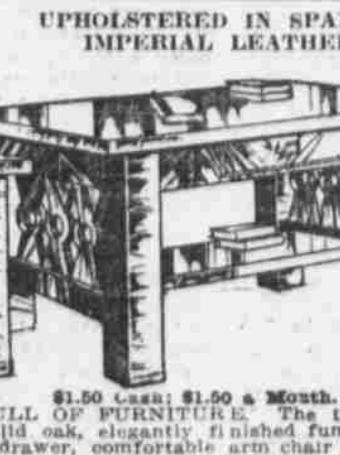
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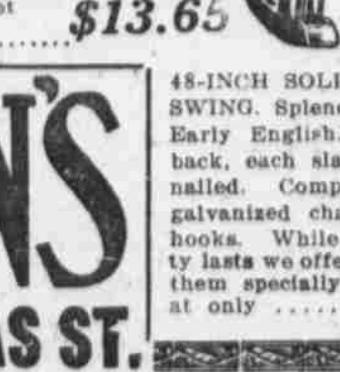
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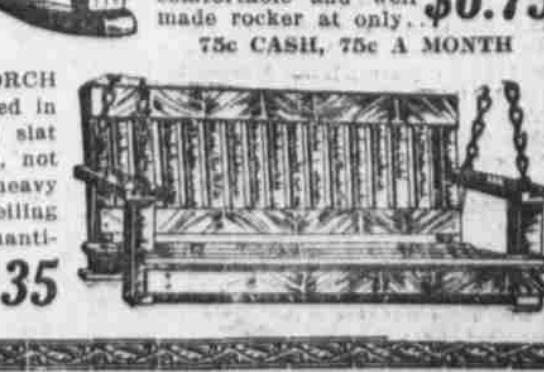


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