

GERMANY DEFENDS MOVING BELGIANS

Official Statement Says Idleness Due to Blockade Was Weakening Moral Fibre.

DEPORTED PAID WAGES

Washington, Jan. 20.—Deportation and compulsory employment of Belgian workmen is vigorously defended by the German government in a memorial presented to the State department today by the German embassy. The text of the document, which also has been delivered to the foreign offices of other neutral governments, follows:

"The compulsory employment of Belgian workmen in German establishments is being seized upon by our enemies as a welcome opportunity for inflaming public opinion in the neutral and hostile countries against this alleged last violation of the Belgian people. This effort at arousing sentiment against Germany is threatening to assume considerable proportions, and it may even be considered probable that the entente will attempt to move neutral governments or high personages in neutral countries to make a formal protest. It seems therefore necessary, to prevent a one-sided judgment on this question from being formed, to elucidate the causes and the effects of the measures to which exception is being taken.

Blockade Closes Factories.

"Those who are far removed from the war theaters and can therefore form only a superficial opinion of the conditions obtaining in the occupied territories in the west, may not, perhaps, readily understand that the measures which have been adopted are not only in no wise detrimental to the population from an economic point of view, but they have become, as it were, a social necessity in view of the peculiar conditions which prevail there. Those who wish to comprehend these facts will first of all have to gain a clear conception of the extent of unemployment in Belgium and its consequences. The principal cause for this unemployment is to be found in the ruthless application of the British blockade even as against Belgium. Belgian industries are dependent on the importation of raw materials and the exportation of manufactured goods to such an extent that the almost complete throttling of Belgium's trade by England was bound to lead automatically to the closing down of by far the greater part of the Belgian factories. This is especially true of the important iron and steel industry, the textile and clothing industries, the ceramic and glass industries, which altogether employ over half a million workmen in peace times; it is also true of the leather, tobacco, paper and chemical industries. The fishing industry also has ceased completely as a result of

the blockade. A number of other enterprises had to close down because the materials employed, as well as their transportation, had become so dear that they were working at a loss; this happened, for example, in the building industry (which in peace time employs 95,000 workers), and in the wood and furniture industry (which normally employs 80,000 workers). That the important mining industry is still able to employ nine-tenths of its 145,000 workers is due solely to the extensive coal exports to Germany; similarly the quarries employ one-third of their former working force of 35,000, chiefly in order to fill German orders.

"It is frequently asserted in Belgium that German requisitions of raw materials and machinery had considerably increased the lack of employment. This assertion is not in accordance with the facts because these requisitions were made chiefly in such factories as, for one or another of the reasons enumerated, were unable to continue at work.

Over Half Million Idle.

"Due to the above mentioned causes it has come about that out of 1,200,000 men and women who, before the war, were working in Belgian industrial establishments, comprising approximately one-half of the total population of Belgium engaged in gainful pursuits, 505,000 people (including 158,000 women) are totally unemployed, while 150,000 (including 46,000 women) are only partially employed. Thus in all 655,000 persons who formerly were earning their living as industrial workers are now dependent on public charity. If, moreover, 293,000 wives and 612,000 children of the unemployed are added the figure rises to 1,560,000 people in need of assistance—approximately one-fifth of the total Belgian population.

"It is obvious that in a highly developed industrial country like Belgium the conditions described, which are without parallel in history, must of necessity lead to the gravest economic and social evils. The sums so far expended in procuring the minimum of subsistence for the unemployed and their dependents reach a total of 300,000,000 francs, and they promise in future to amount to no less than 20,000,000 francs monthly. And, although foreign countries undertake to finance this relief work, in the last analysis the burden must be born by the national economy of Belgium. Not only are the values thus unproductively expended a total loss to Belgium's economic life, but they also do it much harm. Owing to the relief granted them the workers are tempted into continued idleness, with the result that today Belgian employers are with difficulty able to obtain the workmen necessary to keep their concerns going.

Moral Fibre Weakened.

"In view of the great number of the unemployed, this fact throws into strong relief the economic evils which have arisen in Belgium because of unemployment. But from the social point of view the present state of affairs must be characterized as absolutely intolerable, if the consequences are considered which permanent idleness is bound to produce among the laboring people them-

selves. It is self-evident that the skilled worker will in course of years lose his skill through lack of practice and his usefulness to Belgian industry after the war will therefore be considerably diminished. Likewise, the unskilled worker, accustomed to a regular expenditure of energy, will deteriorate physically through prolonged idleness. Morally, the continuation of present conditions would have truly disastrous results. The laboring classes would end by losing entirely the sense of humiliation which all morally sound people feel when they are obliged to appeal to the charity of strangers for their sustenance; they would lose their pride in being able to support their families by their own efforts. The old proverb that idleness is the fruitful mother of vice is being confirmed to an unusual degree in the Belgian workman, who is inclined to consider life from the materialistic aspect. In wide circles of these classes of the population idleness is resulting in drunkenness and moral abandonment, which engender manifold dangers to the family life.

"To all these circumstances must be added the ever-increasing misery of the working class families, who have used up their last savings and are now granted the means for no more than the satisfaction of the barest material necessities. Such conditions cannot but lead to a weakening of the fiber, material and moral, of the Belgian people.

The governor-general of Belgium, Baron von Bissing, realized at an early date the grave importance of this question for the population of the territory under his administration and turned his entire attention to it from the beginning of his tenure of office.

"So far as the demands of a state of war permitted, he promoted the revival of trade and industry and favored all such importation and exportation as had not been rendered impossible by the British blockade. He also urged the Belgian municipalities to undertake emergency works of public utility, insofar as this could be done without overburdening the municipal finances. The ever-growing dimensions which relief for the unemployed was assuming was of constant concern to him, for he had long since recognized that this dependence upon charity was bound to encourage laziness and increase the number of unemployed. Consequently he took occasion again and again to remind the authorities subordinate to him to take care that he did not grant to the unemployed that not militate

against the resumption of work, and he also urged the heads of the relief committees to bear this in mind:

Order Against Idleness.

"By means of all these measures the evil could be restricted, but it could not be eliminated, for the deepening cause of it, the British blockade, was making itself felt more and more as time went on. Hence the governor-general was obliged in the preceding year to resort to more effective means in order to check the idleness which was increasing among the population. At the initiative of clear-sighted Belgians and with the co-operation of the competent Belgian ministry he issued in August, 1915, an ordinance against idleness, which was supplemented and made more rigorous in March, 1916. These ordinances provided for the compulsory removal of workers to places of work only in those cases in which the unemployed person, refuses, without satisfactory reason, to perform work of which he is capable and for which he is offered adequate remuneration; every reason for refusal based on international law is regarded as satisfactory. A laborer cannot therefore be forced to participate in work of a military character. The ordinances are directed in the first place against certain organized influences that are trying to keep the laborers from voluntarily accepting remunerative work for no other reason than that it is offered by the Germans. The ordinances are based on the sound legislative consideration that the liberty of the individual should be restricted in the interest of the common weal.

German Wages Are Paid.

"Now that the evils which gave rise to these ordinances have developed absolutely intolerable conditions, the ordinances have to be carried into effect on a larger scale than heretofore. Before they are applied the unemployed are given opportunity to enter of their own will into remunerative labor contracts, and only in cases of obstinate refusal, which in most instances are found to be the result of instigation. The unemployed who are sent to Germany are placed there on the same footing with the German laborers and are receiving higher wages than were ever given in Belgium. Provision has been made that a part of these wages be turned over to the relatives who have remained at home. The laborers are also permitted to correspond with their families, and they are granted home leave at regular inter-

vals. On request they may even take their families with them to Germany. Religious services are provided in their native tongue.

"The great advantages which accrue to the Belgian laborers from this opportunity to work thus granted them, in contrast to their previous lamentable condition, are so obvious that for a long time past thousands of them have voluntarily made use of the offer and have found profitable work in Germany. Happy to have escaped the misery resulting from the many months of unemployment and the humiliation of public support, they have been able to regain their physical and moral strength through their return to their normal occupation. They are enabled to better their economic condition and provide for their families by the labor of their own hands, and once more to lay by savings for the future. Their temporary transplantation to another country does not frighten them; Belgian laborers are accustomed to travel from place to place, and in time of peace they were wont to hire themselves out, frequently for many months, to employers in the southern industrial districts of their country or in those of northern France, for a far smaller increase in wage than is offered them today."

Man Responsible for Big Per Cent of All Accidents

The meeting of the Omaha branch of the National Council of Safety Friday night in the conference rooms in the Union Pacific building brought out an attendance of close to 300, and it was enthusiastic from start to finish. Representatives of all of the thirty-one manufacturing and industrial concerns that are members were present, and in addition there was a great number of the employes in attendance.

At the meeting there were two addresses, one by Ballard Dunn, the special representative of the Association of Western Railways, he discussing the "Need of Educating the Workmen Along Lines of Safety."

In his address Mr. Dunn cited that out of 100 accidents that occur 10 per cent are due to machine failure, while the remaining 90 per cent are brought about by reason of man fail-

ure. He produced data showing that last year automobiles were responsible for more deaths and injuries than all the railroads in the United States. Dr. W. H. Taylor, surgeon for the American Smelting and Refining company, talked particularly to employes, pointing out the necessity of becoming familiar with the application of first aid methods and urging that ever the slightest wounds be given prompt attention, to thus prevent infection and subsequent blood poisoning.

Following the addresses there was a round table talk in which a large number took part, asking questions and making suggestions along the line of safety first.

Ten-Year-Old Lad Blows Cornet in Boys' Mundy Band

De Loss Thompson, 10-year-old pupil of Miller Park school, is the youngest player in the boys' municipal band, which is rehearsing Tuesday and Friday evenings at Monmouth Park school, under the leadership of Gerlacus Bouricuis.

Master Thompson is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin W. Thompson of 3810 North Twenty-seventh street. He is a cornetist and has ambitions to be heard in the world of music.

This juvenile organization is being fostered by the Board of Public Recreation. The personnel of the band follows:

- CORNET**
 Thomas Burdick, William Isom, Edward Ebberson, William Cusick, Clare Goodsell, Carl Mattox, Marion Howell, Carl Endre, Darwin Paul, Carl Martin, De Loss Thompson, W. K. Guyer.
- TRUMPET**
 Leonard Kelley, H. W. Wengel, Walter Smith, Rodney Eelman, Ralph Waldum, Eugene Sorenson, Robert Winter, Kinley Keebler, D. S. Guyer, Earl Graham.
- ALTO**
 Alex Ebbeson, Virgil Smith, Melvin Lowery, Walter Herock.
- French-Horn**
 Paul Gilbert.
- Bass-Douglas**
 Conner.
- Tenor**
 Howard Mitchell.
- Baritone**
 August Burdin.
- Drums**
 Lylo King, Clyde Michaelis and Ed Kerrigan.
- Peace Terms.**
 "How did you become involved in a fight with that little Jones boy?" demanded the stern father.
 "Why, we had a small argument," responded youthful Thomas, "and then I told him if he did not accept my terms of peace I was going to black his other eye."
 Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Three Suits for Eighty Thousand Against Railroad

Three damage suits against the Burlington railroad, totaling \$80,645, have been filed by the administrators of the estates of Nelson B. Mercure, James P. and Edward F. Sweeney. The suit in behalf of the Mercure estate asks \$50,000, and the other two petitioners seek \$15,000 apiece. Mercure and the two Sweeney men were killed August 23 at Camp Creek crossing, near Greenwood, Neb., when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a train. The administrators ask \$645 for the auto, that was demolished. Mercure is survived by a widow and one child.

Don't Suffer From Piles

Send For Free Trial Treatment. No matter how long or how bad—go to your druggist today and get a 50 cent box of Pyramid Pile Treatment. It will



The Pyramid Pile Treatment from a Single Trial, give relief, and a single box often cures. A trial package mailed free in plain wrapper if you send us coupon below.

FREE SAMPLE COUPON
 PYRAMID DRUG COMPANY,
 533 Pyramid Bldg., Marshall, Mich.
 Kindly send me a Free sample of Pyramid Pile Treatment, in plain wrapper.

Name.....
 Street.....
 City..... State.....

NINE SPECIALTY SHOPS

BENSON AND THORNE CO.



Bewitching Styles in Dresses

—the favored models of the last month or so are surpassed in grace and charm by these latest arrivals. They have all that is best in the simple styles so popular just now, with many added touches that enhance.

New Wool Crepe Frocks

This material lends itself to very graceful, draping lines, while the colorings are soft and rich; indeed a very satisfactory fabric. Styles are simple, with just a touch of bright yarn embroidery discreetly introduced.

Two Wonderful Values—

975 1350

Charmeuse and Taffeta Dresses

Also Taffeta with Georgette Sleeves, Collar and Vestee. Bead trims and ornaments enrich these beautiful Frocks. You will find very becoming shades of Peacock, Midnight Blue, Copen, Sage, Pearl, Navy, Purple and Black—

1475 1650 2950

Serge Dresses

Mostly one-piece pleated effects, but the many styles of pleating and the arrangement and spacing of the pleats constitutes a wide assortment from which you can make selection. Colors, Navy and Black. Trims are aptly called chic.

875 1195 1475 2250

New Spring Suits

They arrive daily and each new shipment is indicative of better tailoring and smarter styles—truly the Spring of 1917 will see Omaha women beautifully habited. A few models are shown in our 16th Street window, but on the Second Floor a wide range awaits you.

Millinery For Spring Just Arrived

—lighter, brighter, softer colors complimentary to the new Suits and Dresses; in Straw and Satin are now to be seen in our millinery shop. Styles for both the miss and matron.

From 5.00

Clearance of all Coats

- for Women and Girls
- Lot No. 1—WOMEN'S CLOTH COATS—formerly \$19.75 to \$25.00, now **10.00**
 - Lot No. 2—WOMEN'S CLOTH COATS—formerly \$25.00 to \$55.00, now **1/2 PRICE**
 - Lot No. 3—GIRLS' COATS—formerly sold to \$10.75, now **5.00**
 - Lot No. 4—GIRLS' COATS—formerly sold to \$18.50, now **7.50**

Sale Prices on Broken Assortments of FASHION FOOTWEAR

Desirable Shoes worth up to \$9.00, but the lines are broken and hence the reduced price. The lot includes Patent and Kid Vamps, with white or ivory tops, all-over gray styles, all ivory kids; also black or brown vamps with ivory buck or kid tops. Heels are Wood or Leather Louis styles, with turned and welt soles. We have also included in this line about 20 pairs of English tan walking Boots, with low or medium heels.

4.95



ORCHARD & WILHELM CO.

Annual January Sale

FURNITURE RUGS DRAPERIES

There are so many pieces of drop patterns and broken furniture, rugs and draperies to be shown that it has been impossible to show the entire lot at one time, consequently it has been necessary for us to add to this sale as we find room for display. Many new items are added daily.

- Upholstered Furniture**
- Regular Price. \$119.00 Upholstered Davenport, made abundantly luxurious, great pillow seats, covered with rich fabrics. \$89.00
 - 29.80 Another, somewhat cheaper. 70.00
 - 64.00 Chairs to match. 45.00
 - 47.00 Wing-back Chairs or Rockers, covered in tapestry, to match davenport. 35.00
 - 40.00 Solid Mahogany Wing-back Chairs, covered with velvet or tapestry to match davenport. 29.50
 - 25.00 Mahogany Bench, style and covers to match chairs or rockers. 18.75
 - 15.00 Foot Stools to match. 11.00
 - 22.00 Solid Mahogany Library Table. 25.00
 - 22.00 Perfed Style Chair or Rocker. 24.50



Bedroom Furniture That Is Up-to-Date 25% Under True Value

- Regular Price. \$47.00 Dresser, like illustration, either brown mahogany or American walnut. \$35.00
- January Sale Price. \$47.00 Chiffonier to match dresser. \$35.00
- \$45.00 Dressing Table (like illustration), triple mirror. \$31.50
- \$45.00 Full Size Bed to match above pieces. \$31.50

Handsome Bedroom Suite, Adam Style, in Mahogany, American Walnut or Old Ivory

- Regular Price. \$45.00 Dresser, 44 inches long, large mirror, American walnut or mahogany. \$33.50
- Price in old ivory finish. \$35.00
- \$45.00 Chiffonette to match, mahogany or American Walnut. \$33.50
- Price in old ivory. \$35.00
- \$40.00 Dressing Table to match, American walnut or mahogany. \$30.00
- \$40.00 Bed to match, American walnut or mahogany. \$30.00

These few items on which we are offering reductions of as much as 1/4, are of excellent quality and type.

- Regular Price. \$22.50 Ivory Dressing Table. \$12.75
- Jan. Sale Price. \$27.00 Ivory Dresser. \$37.00
- \$17.50 Ivory Chiffonier to match. \$26.00
- \$14.00 Ivory Mirror to match. \$7.00
- \$43.00 Ivory Dressing Table to match. \$31.50
- Regular Price. \$78.00 Reversible Kilmarnock. \$69.00
- Jan. Sale Price. \$77.00 Solid Mahogany Dressing Table. \$35.00
- \$35.00
- \$58.00 Solid Mahog. Chest of Drawers. \$48.00
- \$68.00 Solid Mahogany Bed to Match. \$48.00
- \$73.00 Solid Mahog. Chest of Drawers. \$36.50

- Regular Price. \$119.00 Upholstered Davenport, made abundantly luxurious, great pillow seats, covered with rich fabrics. \$89.00
- 29.80 Another, somewhat cheaper. 70.00
- 64.00 Chairs to match. 45.00
- 47.00 Wing-back Chairs or Rockers, covered in tapestry, to match davenport. 35.00
- 40.00 Solid Mahogany Wing-back Chairs, covered with velvet or tapestry to match davenport. 29.50
- 25.00 Mahogany Bench, style and covers to match chairs or rockers. 18.75
- 15.00 Foot Stools to match. 11.00
- 22.00 Solid Mahogany Library Table. 25.00
- 22.00 Perfed Style Chair or Rocker. 24.50

- Interesting Specials From Our House Furnishing Section**
- The Saving is Considerable—The Items Are Very Useful
- 35c Potato Ricers or Hand Press. 25c
 - 75c Combination Grater, Slicer and Vegetable Cutter, heavy tin. 49c
 - 25c Aluminum Sink Strainer. 18c
 - \$1.50 Punch Oil Mops for floors, large size. \$1.00
 - Nickel-Plated Tumbler Holder, special. 39c
 - Nickel-Plated Combination Tooth Brush Holder, special. 39c
 - Nickel-Plated Soap Dish, fits on tub, special. 39c
 - 85c 2-qt. Oval Baking Dish. 69c
 - 60c 1 1/2-qt. Round Baking Dish. 49c
 - Assorted Polished Bamboo Japanese Baskets, at. 39c
 - \$1.75 Glass-Lined Serving Trays, rosewood finish frames. 98c
 - \$1.00 Wool Wall Brushes. 79c
 - \$1.25 Wool Wall Brushes. 98c
 - Ekko Alarm Clocks, 79c
 - \$1.00 values, for...
 - Gilbert Alarm Clocks, \$2.25
 - \$3.00 values, for...

Our January Clearance Sale Offers Many REAL Bargains in Lace Curtains, Portieres and Yard Goods.

- LACE CURTAINS**
- Odd pairs Lace Curtains at one-half regular price.
 - Odd 2-pair lots Lace Curtains at one-half to one-third off regular price.
 - Others, from 3 to 6 pairs of a kind, 25% to 40% discount.
 - Values \$1.50 to \$32.50 pair, on sale at 75c to \$16.25 pair.
- PORTIERES**
- 18 pairs, slightly soiled, values \$7.85 to \$40.00 pair, at—
 - \$4.25 to \$13.95 Pair
- CRETONNES**
- 25 different patterns, assortment of colors; values 30c to 50c yard; lengths up to 36 yards—
 - 18c Yard
- REMNANTS**
- Nets; Scrims, Cretonnes 9c, 19c, 39c.

Orchard & Wilhelm Co.

414-416-418 SOUTH 16th St.