

FOOD PROBLEMS IN VIENNA ARE VEXING

Appointment of Minister of Public Subsistence Expected to Relieve Situation.

RICH GET WHAT THEY WANT

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Vienna, Feb. 26.—The recent appointment by Emperor Charles of a minister of public subsistence in the person of Major General Anton Hofer, formerly a member of the general staff and known as an expert in army subsistence matters, has, so is the universal belief here, been the best measure yet adopted to meet the constantly increasing food problems. Though already in the care of a central food bureau and subject to many government regulations, public subsistence in Austria threatened to become a hopeless chaos because the men charged with its administration lacked the necessary ability.

The new powers charged with public subsistence matters have set up, and in part already enforced, a new program, most of whose aspects are decidedly military, as was suggested by the training and experience of Major General Hofer. It is felt that the food problems will be near final solution on the day on which it will be possible to suppress all private sales to consumers, transactions carried on in defiance of the law and total disregard of maximum price regulations. Persons willing to buy at a rate far above the maximum price have been able to get food in unlimited quantities, at the expense of the small consumer who must look upon maximum prices as the sole means of getting food at reasonable cost under present conditions. The effect of this has been that the consumer willing to pay the price has been able to get all the food he wanted, while the poor man, often after standing in line for hours, has been turned away empty-handed, because private sales on the "speakeasy" plan had depleted the stores on hand, the private purchaser buying more than the law allows at a price far above the maximum set by the government.

To Protect the Poorer.

It is the plan of the new food administration to proceed against this practice with all the severity the law permits. In the past this has not been possible. The Vienna public is extremely good-natured and averse to the role of informer or police spy, a fact which has been exploited by those with means and the storekeepers. But even the patience of the small consumer in Austria has a limit it seems, and court records of recent weeks show that a greater number of food law transgressions are being reported. In disposing of these cases the courts have shown no mercy and an appeal has generally had the surprising result of punishments being increased. Thus a dealer in foodstuffs, sentenced to imprisonment for three weeks and a fine of 200 Crowns, augmented his punishment to imprisonment for three months and a fine of 2,000 Crowns by having his case reviewed by the appeal senate, which found that the lower court had been altogether too lenient.

Despite this, usury in food prices continues, evidence of the fact that defying food regulations is, highly profitable. So great seems to be the lure of making money of a general misfortune that nothing suffices to check it, as was shown already over a century ago when the French revolutionary government made usury in food sales a capital crime and was obliged to execute a goodly number of shopkeepers.

Much Food Stored.

Much of the food bought at private sales and delivered clandestinely is not intended for immediate consumption. It is stored. There are thousands of families in Vienna who have on hand, stored in cellar and garret, lockers and chests, food staples for two years. For the sake of appearances, and in order not to use up their hoard, the same families meet their present daily need in the open market, increasing in this manner the daily consumption to the extent in which they buy for hoarding. Only those with means enough can afford this, so that the shortage due to the practice falls altogether upon the poorer classes.

Rapacious storekeepers favor this course, because it nets them prices often 200 per cent above the maximum price set by the government. Whether the store be large or small makes no difference. Each has its private buyers, to whom food is sold at any price and in any quantity, regardless of regulations. While thousands are unable to get butter and fat in the quantities prescribed by the government cards, other thousands buy as much as they want and when they want. The households which as yet have been without meat on a meatless day are few indeed, provided the family treasury can bear the strain. While the bulk of the population eats a very poor sort of black bread, many enjoy full wheat bread, as before the war, because they have the price and money still buys anything in Austria. The storekeeper recognizes in the present situation a fine opportunity to make money and is not letting the chance go by.

In the end the retailer is little more than the agent of the wholesaler in this mulling of a war-worn public. Not so long ago a shipment of more than a million eggs spoiled in a Vienna railroad yard because the prevailing price did not suit the owners. Today it is impossible to get eggs at even 60 hellers apiece. But this is merely one instance of illicit price promotion, as the practice is called here.

War Is Blamed.

There are a number of excuses to delay shipments and keep food out of the larger centers. Always the war is blamed. The excuse for every tactical move to cause artificial shortages—situations which do not affect maximum prices, but force up food at the private sales. The immediate result of such a shortage is that the cost of living, which in reality moves beyond the sphere of maximum prices altogether, goes up another 10 in a large population center either meets his household's food demands at a private sale or sticks to the maximum prices and goes hungry. While maximum prices allow an increase in



the cost of living of about 40 per cent, living is about 250 per cent more expensive than before the war.

It is known that the large Vienna banks are not interested in this practice. Much of the capital needed to make the cornering and holding food possible is supplied by them at a suitable rate, of course. During the war these banks have become almost omnipotent for the reason that the government needs them. It is said Major General Hofer will meet in them an antagonist worthy of his best efforts.

On the whole food in Austria is not scarce. Most of the rural districts do not know as yet what government regulation of one's bill of fare is. While bread, butter and fat cards have been introduced everywhere, the country population pays on the whole little attention to them.

Wants Higher Price.

The farmer also is averse to selling at maximum prices. He will hold his products for an opportunity to make a private sale. He can afford to do this, because if ultimately part of his foodstuffs be requisitioned by the government he will get the maximum price anyway. In certain districts in Bohemia and the Salzburg country food conditions are nearly normal, though in adjacent mountainous parts, which must import some of this food, the situation resembles those in the cities and larger towns.

Austria's food problems have been aggravated by the attitude of the Hungarian government. Austria is largely industrial, while Hungary is essentially an agricultural state. In the past the two have exchanged manufactured for soil products. Anxious, however, that its own stomach might suffer Hungary has enforced a number of export prohibitions which have not bettered the situation in Austria. While the Hungarian government has given as its excuse that the recent crops have not been good, it is understood that pure selfishness is the actual reason for this somewhat unbrotherly conduct. Hungary at any rate has more food than its population needs, though Budapest is suffering from the same hardships as is Vienna. The food merchants of both make all the money they can, and so far neither government has been able to frighten them into a more reasonable attitude.

Meanwhile the situation in Vienna cannot become much worse than it is, without the government being obliged to adopt the drastic measure of confiscation. Sanction for this already exists and, except dealers in foodstuffs decide to be reasonable, paragraph fourteen of the Austrian constitution may find application here.

With certain classes the war and its appeal to patriotism have lost all novelty. They have decided to become rich while they have the opportunity under a set of conditions which has eliminated competition and reduced the entire country to a state of commercial vassalage. Some of the examples of this are shocking. In a certain Vienna cafe, appendage of a well-known hotel, the management had the courage to charge 70 hellers for a piece of rice cake worth one American cent. The protest of the customers has since then caused the cake to be sold at 40 hellers—after the portion had been cut nearly in half. For a pair of shoes 80 crowns was asked today, on the plea that there is no leather—a fictitious claim which is all the more absurd since the uppers of such a pair of shoes are made of a textile fabric.

Propose to Simplify Plans—Of Mexican Law Palace

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Mexico City, March 30.—Plans are now under consideration for simplifying and cutting down the plans of the new legislative palace. Work on this great building which is intended to house the Mexican congress and which, as projected, would have been the largest legislative building in the world, was begun under President Diaz. The steel framework of the building was completed, but no work has been done on the building since 1910. It is estimated that it would cost \$32,000,000 to complete the building under the original plans and it is proposed to simplify these plans and utilize the work already done to form part of a less pretentious structure.

OLD GLORY, NESTOR OF NATIONAL FLAGS

Years of Service and Achievement on Many Lands and Seas.

WASHINGTON'S DISPLAY

American flags are flying in every city, town and hamlet in the United States. The token is spontaneously flung to the breeze and means that the loyalty of the nation is back of the north or to the east. Thus, if Washington street in Boston is to be hung across with flags, the stars should be placed on the side toward the harbor. Much erroneous history has been written of the American flag and it has been one of the tasks of the United States National Museum to collect samples of flags from the earliest days and to display them where the visitor may learn the story of the national emblem.

When the Flag Was Established.

Naturally, there were many forms of early flags, especially colonial types used by the individual colonies, and militia regiments, before the flag of the United States was established by our Continental congress on July 4, 1777, now celebrated as Flag day. This act required that the flag of the United States be of thirteen alternate red and white stripes and that the union be thirteen white stars on a blue field, representing a new constellation, but it did not define how many points the stars should have, how they should be arranged, nor make provision for additional ones. At the time of the adoption of this resolution, Washington is said to have observed, "We take the star from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

First Flown Over Fort Schuyler.

The first display of the "Stars and Stripes" is believed to have been on August 6, 1777, when the new flag was hoisted over the troops at Fort Schuyler, Rome, N. Y. John Paul Jones is said to have been the first to fly the Stars and Stripes over the high seas on the Ranger in November, 1777. The National Museum has an early naval twelve-star type flag said to have been flown by John Paul Jones during the War of the Revolution.

It has been well said that our national emblem stands for American ideals and ideas—it is not the flag of a family or a house, but the flag of the whole people. It is the emblem of liberty and freedom, being indicative of individual independence and yet symbolic of a united and closely bonded people. Far from being merely painted and dyed cloth, it represents the constitution and government of 100,000,000 free people, it stands for the people themselves and records the history of their nation.

Oldest of National Flags.

In the National Museum at Washington, among the many other patriotic relics and emblems, are displayed thirteen historic American flags. On the labels the history of each is recorded. Some came from the field of battle, a number from famous sea fights, and others were flown over garrisons or forts by distinguished American officers. The series of flags shows very well the periodic changes which have taken place in our flag. From the time of the revolution the stars and stripes in the flag have varied. There were thirteen stars during the revolution, fifteen in the war of 1812, twenty-nine in the Mexican war, thirty-three to thirty-five in the civil war, forty-five in the Spanish war and there are forty-eight today. The stripes were changed first from thirteen to fifteen and then back again to thirteen. It may be surprising to

know that our national flag is among the oldest flags of the nations, being older than the present British Jack, the French Tricolor and the flag of Spain, and many years older than the flags of Germany and Italy, some of which are either personal flags or those of the reigning families.

Original "Star Spangled Banner."

The flag of the highest historic and sentimental value to the whole country is in the National museum collections. It is the original "Star Spangled Banner," which flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor, during the bombardment on September 13-14, 1814, and was the inspiration of Francis Scott Key's immortal poem, now sung as our national anthem. This flag, exhibited in the Museum Arts and Industries building, also known as the "Fort McHenry flag," is of the fifteen-star-and-stripe type, adopted after the admission of Vermont and Kentucky by an act approved by President Washington, January 13, 1794. The "Star Spangled Banner" measures about thirty feet square, although it was probably somewhat longer, and is much battered and torn, with one star missing, possibly shot away. This great historic souvenir of the War of 1812 has lately been preserved by quilting on heavy linen, and will ever remain one of the country's most precious relics. From 1795 this form continued as the standard flag until President Monroe's administration, when congress enacted that it should hereafter be of thirteen stripes, with the addition of a star for each new state, commencing July 4, 1818.

Formerly Not Carried by Army.

It seems that for many years the army did not carry the Stars and Stripes in battle, though it had been in general use as a garrison flag. The land forces during this period and before it carried what was known as national colors or standards, of blue with the arms of the United States emblazoned thereon, comprising an eagle surmounted by a number of stars, with the designation of the body of troops. In 1834 War department regulations gave the artillery the right to carry the Stars and Stripes, the infantry and cavalry still using the national standards, and the remainder the colors of the infantry until 1841, and of the cavalry until 1887, when that branch of the army was ordered to employ the Stars and Stripes. From its adoption in 1777, however, naval vessels universally displayed the national flag.

Many Styles and Forms of the Stars and Stripes.

Many styles and forms of the Stars and Stripes flag were in existence up to 1842, and it was not until during President Taft's administration that definite specifications were drawn up. An executive order dated October 29, 1912, tended to standardize the "Stars and Stripes," and yet further specifications in sizes were found necessary by President Wilson, only last year.—Washington Letter in Boston Transcript.

Cut Off From the World, Iceland Nears Starvation

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Copenhagen, March 20.—Iceland, which has been cut off from shipping connections with Europe and the United States for nearly six weeks, is facing starvation, owing to its small supply of foodstuffs and the failure of ships to arrive with expected supplies. As a result there is strong sentiment here that a Danish warship loaded with supplies be dispatched to the island country.

The submarine menace is, of course, responsible for the suspension of shipping to Iceland. There are more than 100 Icelandic merchants now in Copenhagen who are unable to return home.

Rhodes Trust Man to Visit Schools in This Country

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Oxford, England, March 31.—Dr. G. R. Parkin, general secretary to the Rhodes trust, will make an extended visit to the United States and Canada within the next few months, mainly to investigate secondary school and college teaching there as a preparation for courses at Oxford. He is convinced that such teaching must be deficient in some respects, since so many American applicants for Rhodes scholarships fail to pass the Oxford entrance examinations.

BUSINESS BOOMS IN TINY DOMINICA

United States Trade Swells Receipts at Santo Domingo—Porto Ricans Active.

SAY YANKEES DID IT ALL

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Santo Domingo City, Dominican Republic, Feb. 20.—Despite four changes in government within the year the receipts from customs duties during 1916 amounted to \$4,300,000, the largest sum collected during a single year since the establishment of the customs receivership under the American-Dominican convention, according to C. H. Baxter, the general receiver. The customs receipts during the current year in all probability will exceed this amount, in his opinion, due to the fact that order in the republic has been established through the temporary military occupation by the United States. Already this occupation is being followed by a business expansion never before known in the country, and apparently adds weight to this opinion.

Most of this increased business is being obtained by the United States, recent trade figures showing that about 80 per cent of the island's business is now carried with the United States. Prior to the war, Germany had about 20 per cent of the island's trade. This has now dwindled to almost nothing, while the trade of other European countries has been considerably reduced. There has been a great increase in trade development with Porto Rico, and Dominican merchants have found their nearest and quickest source of supplies. Porto Rico now ranks third in the trade list of the republic. Porto Rican merchants are taking advantage of their opening and are sending representatives here to canvass almost every line of trade. A new weekly steamship service between the two islands, starting two months ago, is now bringing cargoes of increasing size. The most direct mail and passenger service between New York and the southern ports of the island is now via San Juan.

The customs receivership has long been looked upon by Dominicans as the most substantial and enduring institution established in connection with the government finances. Although importers frequently complain because of the heavy import duties, these have been fixed by the Dominican congress and are merely administered by the receivership. There is much more complaint about the customs than the administration of the collection of revenue for the government. There is at present no form of property tax in the republic, owners of land or improved properties either in the cities or in the country paying nothing therefor in the form of taxes to the government. There is much serious discussion regarding the possible changing of this condition while the temporary American government is in force. Dominicans in the past have generally agreed that they could not impose a property tax without serious opposition. There seems to be a willingness, however, to have the American government handle this problem.

There is very general complaint against the customs burden. None of the necessities of life come into the country duty free. At foodstuffs, clothing and shoes pay heavy duties. The average duty imposed by the federal government is approximately 40 per cent of the value of the article imported, while each port also levies a second and sometimes a third import tax for municipal or special purposes. The secondary duties imposed by the different ports are not uniform and may vary at each port. The general duty on flour is \$4.50 for 100 kilograms. The average duty on shoes is \$1.50 a pair for adult sizes. Clothing pays different rates according to materials. Gasoline retails in the neighborhood of 55 cents a gallon, 20 cents of which is duty.

Chinese Government to Take Over Copper Mines

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Yunnan, Yunnan Province, China, Feb. 20.—General Tang, the military governor of Yunnan province, has been instructed by the ministry of agriculture and commerce to take over the copper mines at Tungchuan, that the government may develop them to meet the urgent needs of the country. It 1916 these mines produced more than 7,000 tons of copper.

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Neutrality Has Proven—Costly for Switzerland

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Bern, Switzerland, April 2.—Switzerland's extraordinary expenses that have grown out of the war will amount, by the end of this year, to about 700,000,000 francs, it is estimated. That figure, however, covers only the cost of maintaining Swiss neutrality, guarding the boundaries, etc. There must be raised in addition from 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 francs annually to pay the interest on other debts. In all it is reckoned that for interest charges and sinking funds the state is going to have to produce an even 100,000,000 francs above what it ordinarily raises. Thus far only about one-third of this sum has been assured. The tobacco monopoly proposed by the Bundesrat is but one of a number of measures that will be necessary in the immediate future. And the monopoly proposition is already meeting with strong opposition.

Though Bern has the reputation of being a less expensive residence city than Zurich or Geneva, it has been hit very hard by the war. The cost of food has risen on the average 48.9 per cent above the figures that prevailed before the war. Clothing and other commodities probably have exceeded this figure. The figures have been compiled and published to show how urgently necessary are advances in salary for government officials.

Book to Contain Everything Said Concerning the War

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) London, March 5.—A committee of librarians here is preparing a bibliography of war books, their aim being to make it eventually nothing less than a complete catalogue of everything published anywhere in the world on the subject of the war. Only seven sets of the complete catalogue are to be made, one of which will go to

the congressional library in Washington.

The same committee has a plan for establishing after the war a library and museum devoted entirely to the war, and so far as possible containing all the books, pamphlets and papers listed in the catalogue.

Australia Fixes the Price At Which Milk Shall Be Sold

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Melbourne, Australia, April 2.—The price of milk in Australia has been fixed by law at 9 cents a quart at the dairy, or 11 cents if delivered.

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CHOICE OF Boiled Ox Tongue with Spinach
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Stuffed Young Duck, Apple Sauce
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With Dressing, Cranberry Sauce
Prime Rib of Beef, au Jus
Mashed or Boiled Potatoes
Succotash Fruit Salad
Apple, Logberry or Lemon Pie
Strawberry Shortcake
Vanilla Ice Cream
Tea Coffee Milk

"It's Only Catarrh"

How often people delude themselves with the idea that catarrh isn't serious! They regard it as a local disease, annoying but not dangerous. As pointed out in our free book, "Health and How to Have It," catarrh spreads. It weakens the resistance to severe diseases, and it prepares an inviting field for them. After it becomes systemic, in itself it is likely to bring on asthma, indigestion, constipation, and impure blood, until the sufferer endures great distress. That's all unnecessary, too, because in thousands of cases it has been found that

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Mr. M. Van Buren, an engineer on the G. R. & I. railway, at Grand Rapids, found catarrh most distressing. He says: "I have tried and again been compelled to take to my bed for days. The first bottle of Peruna gave relief, and while I always keep it in the house for emergencies, I consider myself entirely free from fear of the stomach, the trouble from which I suffered for so long before taking this remedy."

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