

Downers Grove Reporter

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BREATHING SPELL ON WORLD DEBTS A NEED: COPLEY

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All other prices were in the same ratio.

All foreign buyers are being chased out of Germany. Colonel Copley said. The Germans do not want the buyers to come into their country where the currency value has been constantly depreciating.

Contracts are now being made. Colonel Copley said, "with 50 per cent down on the orders, the remaining 50 per cent to be paid upon the delivery of the goods. If the German manufacturer wants to cancel these orders he can do so, but the contractor cannot. As an example, if several weeks ago I had bought \$100,000 worth of goods, I would have had to pay \$50,000 down. In three weeks they could pay back my money in paper marks and refuse to fill my order.

"I saw the official figures for the Galley TWO. First three months of this year which showed that Germany had exported 3,700,000,000 more in paper marks than they had imported. At the present time that would probably be three times the amount in paper marks."

"One of the things in which I was particularly interested and which I went over to find out, was how German labor could live on the 30 cents a day in gold which it is being paid in wages. I found that they were not only living on it, but that they were living well.

"One of the reasons for this is that

there is no rented property in Germany. The government has practically confiscated all rented property by fixing the rents. The rates for rent vary in different cities, but the amount is governed by the city itself.

"Before the war a building which rented for 100 marks now rents for 220 marks, although the present value of those 220 marks is now but 72 cents. Consequently there is very little building going on and none of it for renting purposes.

"Utilities have been confiscated in the same way, as have the rented property. I traveled from Frankfurt to Cologne, a distance of 120 miles, for a little less than 30 cents. Telegrams can be sent across the entire nation for six or seven cents. Postage is correspondingly low in American money, as are tram cars, telephone service and water and gas rates.

Marking Up Barred.

"There is a rigid supervision of retail prices, and the retailers are making a very small percentage of profit. This supervision will not allow an article which has been placed on exhibition for one price, to be marked up to correspond to an increase in price of the article from the manufacturer. The similar article can be raised in price but the one which was purchased by the retailer at the cheaper price must be sold at the old figure.

"All vegetables in Germany are ridiculously cheap. Large bunches of asparagus sell for a little less than three cents. Carrots, beans, peas, and other vegetables which are rather high here can be bought for almost nothing there. For this reason the people are eating very little meat, not having it with their meals more than two times a week at most.

"Butter costs about 15 cents a pound, potatoes are about the same price they are here. Strawberries, great luscious berries they are, bring from 10 to 11 cents for a box about ten inches long and six inches wide. Bread is not more than five cents for a pound loaf. Milk sold for six cents a quart in Berlin.

No Fat Germans.

"According to my best judgment I saw very little poverty in Vienna and Berlin. The people looked prosperous, and there were no children who looked undernourished. However, I do not remember seeing a fat person in Germany. They have made a study of the number of calories which the body requires and are getting that amount and no more or less. They are living scientifically. These calories are of course gotten from the

cheaper foods. They might not taste as well as things they might prefer to eat, but they are getting the food value their bodies require and are perhaps more healthy for it.

"At the Adlon hotel, the best hotel in Berlin I paid 16 cents for having a dish of strawberries served in the restaurant which in the best hotels of Paris or London or New York would cost you about a dollar. In Vienna it cost only \$2.35 a day for a party of three of us. In their paper money it was 28,000 kronen.

"There is only one way in which the rest of the world will ever be able to compete with the Germans industrially. That is to lower the living standard as they have done or remove the pressure on them and allow them to improve their standard. Either we must come down or they must come up.

"I believe that Germany could pay her indemnity. Naturally she does not want to pay it, but she can. If she is compelled to pay it, however, she will also be compelled to go on living on her present standard and the standard of the other nations will have to be lowered correspondingly.

"God makes our economic laws. All the economist can hope to do is codify them. Every man wants to do the best for himself that he can. Men don't want to live on a poorer scale than they have to and it is a good thing that they don't. The people of Germany won't live on peas and turnips if they can get the things they like better. They can live on that standard, however, and the more we press them the more we are going to pay by having our own men out of work because of our inability to compete with them industrially. England has known this for some time.

Take England's Trade.

"Cotton materials form about 40 per cent of England's exports. Until recently she has practically had control of the cotton glove industry. Germany is now purchasing cotton thread spun in English mills, making gloves and shipping them back to England at less cost than England can make them in her own mills. The first four months of this year she sent three and one-fourth times as many gloves back to England than she did last year.

"The allies have put a 25 per cent export duty on German goods. As a consequence Germany is selling her goods to blind agents in London, Paris, and other cities far below what it actually costs to make the articles. The agents sell to other buyers at a little below the producing cost of the country where they are stationed for that country's money and they make an immense profit when the money is changed to paper marks.

"I see but one salvation for the industrial world today, and that is to relieve the Germans of the pressure placed upon them and to give them an opportunity to live as well as heretofore. If not we will have to go down to meet their present standards. Before the war American ma-

W C T U ENJOYED PICNIC HERE

Friday, June 21, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Downers Grove, enjoyed its annual picnic luncheon and program at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Parkey.

Mr. Parkey had previously decorated the lawn with the American flag and many interesting banners. Tables and seats had been arranged under the shade trees and all that remained to be done by the ladies was the removing of the viands from well filled baskets to the tables.

Mr. Gates, of Chicago, a lifelong friend of Mr. and Mrs. Parkey, contributed toward the hospitality.

At one o'clock all partook of a bountiful luncheon consisting of appetizing food and cooling drinks.

At two-thirty all adjourned to the house to listen to the program. Mr.

chianists were getting about 37 1/2 cents an hour, while in Germany they were getting about 12 cents. By a moderate tariff such a spread could be equalized. Our machinists are now getting about 80 cents and the Germans are lower than ever before. Such a difference cannot be absorbed by a tariff.

"I believe that at the present time France is on the brink of as bad a financial volcano as Germany. When Germany shot down the value recently of the paper mark it was only a warning to France to shove her own currency down or Germany would flood her markets.

Moratorium Necessary.

"I am convinced that a moratorium for two or three years is the only hope the nations have for stabilization of industrial conditions. During this period the international debts and interest would be forgotten. People would have a chance to get on their feet. If at the end of that time it was considered the better policy to extend the period for another two years it could be done. I do not believe that the debt should be cancelled. Anyone who says that reparations should not be made to France is without a sense of justice. Germany would be willing to restore the devastated areas if she could do it with German labor, but she does not propose to do so at the cost of French labor, which is two dollars a day, making her pay seven times as much as it would cost her with German labor. Germany estimates that she could restore the entire devastated area with her own labor for a cost of one and one-half billion dollars."—Amora Beacon-News

Parkey first entertained the gathering with pictures and reminiscences, also reading two selections of his own composition.

The Misses Dorothy and Ruth Hunt and Wilma VanValen each recited two selections. Miss Hazel Easley sang two songs accompanied by Mrs. Easley and Virginia Lacey rendered a violin solo accompanied by Miss Geraldine Lacey. Other articles of interest were read by members of the Union.

Altogether it was an ideal day and all went home feeling happier and with a great appreciation of the hospitality shown by the host and hostess.

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