

Germany Cannot Stand It.

Boston Transcript.

These seven days arrives cameo of German conditions, observations of Dutch merchant, years long familiar with German Rhine provinces. This neutral writes:

"In the last three months I have visited such centers as Dusseldorf, Iserlohn, Elberfeld, Barmen, Cologne, Bonn and Buchum, and have listened to and observed people in every station in life.

"I can honestly come to only one conclusion. Germany cannot stand it much longer. People are at their wits' end and at the end of their courage. If there is no peace by Christmas I cannot see how a revolution can be avoided, at any rate in western Germany.

"I have not seen a person, not even a child, laugh or smile all the time I was in Germany. People go about the streets evidently physically weakened. All of them without exception look pale and haggard. There are no more fat Germans, except, I understand, in Bavaria. Everyone looks sick, slovenly and almost ready for suicide. Germany is the most melancholy place under the sun. If civilians are sick of the war, what must one think of the countless stories one hears, even from soldiers on leave, about war-sickness at the front.

"At all points of the German western front one hears of officers suddenly disappearing. For some of them, and practically all the soldiers, are kept without furloughs for the minimum of one year. Many will not put up with this, and simply run away to see their wives and children. They would be shot in normal times—now they are hardly reprimanded, for they are needed.

"The feeling of solidarity among men in the same armies and in the same ranks is stronger now than ever, not for the common cause, but always against their commanding officers. The discipline of the German army—once the pride of Germania—is now sinking to a low degree. The feeling, formerly so strong and admirable in the German soldier, has now practically vanished, as has also the desire for promotion.

"What will surely bring about 'break' is the fact, now generally admitted, that the soldiers do not receive one-third of their usual rations. Complaints from starving soldiers at the front are received everywhere, while military censors destroy thousands of letters and erase passages

where reference is made to insufficient food at the front, but the people know that their children are dying for the Kaiser and dying on empty stomachs.

German Army Unrecognizable.

"Soldiers returned from the front I have seen by thousands and they are pitiable sights—thin, tired, and ill, wearing uniforms that are often in shreds, or with caps that do not belong to them. The German army is unrecognizable. And yet the soldiers are suffering nothing compared with the civilians. Under the card system it may be said for western Germany that a fortnight's ration might suffice a man with a delicate appetite for two days. People either suffer hunger or try to get food of some kind by swindling or stealing. I know two brothers at Iserlohn who married the two ugly daughters of a local baker that they could thus get bread.

"The bread, however, is terrible. There are two kinds—war bread and gray bread. The latter is the better of the two, but people prefer to eat the former because it 'fills.' It includes large quantities of gelatine, it sticks to the knife and tastes like anything but bread.

Hindenburg's Halo Dims.

"I found the Kaiser's popularity has remained unaffected and as has the Crown Prince's unpopularity. The Crown Prince was at first called 'poor devil.' Now the rudest language is frequently used about him. The German people are very well informed about the Crown Prince's military failures. There was a great laugh last week when the Crown Prince's troops managed to gain a small trench near Verdun, at the very moment when the prince was in Berlin. When I was in Cologne it was said openly 'If only he remained in Berlin we might advance a little.' The hope was speedily crushed for the prince returned to the front and the German advance immediately stopped. The popularity of Hindenburg is declining slowly because there are no victories. In spite of submarine fever here and there, the hope of crushing England has vanished. The people say, with a sigh: 'If it had not been for England we should have won the war easily, but we will never get even with the damned English.' America's intervention is quickly dismissed. 'They can do nothing. They have no ships.'

"These seven days Germans who die in bed are ordered to be wrapped in paper winding sheets. Smart Rhenish women are wearing paper blouses and paper underwear. They adorn their

rooms with paper carpet; the workmen wear paper overalls—costing seven times what cotton overalls cost in 1913. Women, even workers, wear silk dresses—for decent silk costs \$1 a yard, woolen cloth \$10 a yard. Textile industries are dead. In Barmen two large factories which cost about a million to equip for munition making, remained idle seven months for want of raw material. Thousands of workers, mostly war cripples, women, many boys and girls of even thirteen and fourteen years, were thus out of employment and many of them had to beg in the streets."

Keep Up the Roads.

The Ohio Good Roads Trustees in their July conference were in full agreement that public improvements should go forward as usual. They resolved that "commercial and agricultural activities should not be lessened or handicapped by war hysteria." They declared:

"Our financial resources are in healthy condition, no stringency in the money market exists; there is ample employment at good wages for all labor; the agricultural districts promise an unusual acreage and harvest yield; every pound of meat and bushel of grain the farm produces can be sold at profit prices. To sum up, none of the factors that usually contribute to business depression now exist."

Such conclusions are sound and apply to the whole country, with the possible exception that they did not emphasize the shortage of labor for harvest. Road-commissioners in most communities have released their men to help the farmers during this critical period of labor shortage.

There have been many radical suggestions for the purpose of promoting road building, such as the scheme to bring German prisoners over here, the use of all convicts, and the importation of Chinese and Mexicans. Whatever the method employed, the necessity of road improvement is more vital than ever before.

Good roads will go a long way toward answering that vexing question: Now that we have grown the food, what shall we do with it?—Country Gentleman.

Family Repartee.

He—You haven't a thought above a new hat.
She—And you haven't a thought worth mentioning under your old one.—Boston Transcript.

Center Brick Warehouse

POOL & LASSITER, Owners and Proprietors
SMITHFIELD, N. C.

We Announce Our Opening Sale on

Tuesday, Aug. 21

If you have any ready for sale bring it to us and we will do as we have in the past, give you the very best sale possible to be made.

Do not sell your tobacco to pinhookers—Bring it to a good Market and put it on our floor. We are here to protect your interests and see you get what belongs to you.

We have just installed the finest pair of scales that could be bought.

We Invite Your Inspection

Your friends,

POOL & LASSITER

SMITHFIELD, N. C.

SPIERS' BIG CLEARANCE SALE!!

Beginning Tuesday, Aug. 21st

Closing Saturday, September 1st

We Mention a Few of the Hundreds of Items That We Have To Offer:

<p>Dress Ginghams, Oil Cloth, Ticking and Hose</p> <p>Good Dress Ginghams..... 10c Better Dress Ginghams..... 12½c Better Dress Ginghams, extra wide..... 15c Best Fancy Table Oil Cloth..... 19c Best White Table Oil Cloth..... 21c Good Feather Ticking, worth 35c..... 29c Good Black Hose for Ladies..... 10c Good Black Hose for Children..... 10c</p> <hr/> <p>CORSETS</p> <p>50-Cent Corsets..... .39 \$1.00 Corsets..... .79 \$1.50 Corsets..... \$1.19 \$2.00 Corsets..... \$1.59 \$2.50 Corsets..... \$1.98 \$3.00 Corsets..... \$2.39</p> <hr/> <p>SPECIALS</p> <p>Good stock of Bleachings, Cambrics, Long Cloths, Sea Island Sheetings and Pajama Cloth—We are offering less than we can buy them.</p>	<p>SHIRTTWAISTS</p> <p>50-Cent Shirtwaists..... .39 \$1.00 Shirtwaists..... .79 \$2.00 Shirtwaists..... \$1.59 \$2.50 Shirtwaists..... \$1.98 \$3.00 Shirtwaists..... \$2.39 \$4.00 Shirtwaists..... \$3.19 \$5.00 Shirtwaists..... \$3.98</p> <hr/> <p>LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S DRESSES</p> <p>\$1.00 Ladies' Dresses..... 79c \$1.25 Ladies' Dresses..... 98c 50-Cent Children's Dresses..... 39c \$1.00 Children's Dresses..... 79c 50-Cent Middy Blouses..... 39c \$1.00 Middy Blouses..... 79c</p> <hr/> <p>SKIRTS AND DRESSES</p> <p>\$1.00 White and Fancy Skirts..... 89c \$1.19 White and Fancy Skirts..... 98c \$1.50 White and Fancy Skirts..... \$1.33 \$2.00 White and Fancy Skirts..... \$1.69 \$6.95 or \$7.50 Taffeta Skirts..... \$5.00 Few Silk Dresses left will sell..... Less than Cost</p>	<p>SILKS</p> <p>Fine Silk Poplin, \$1.00 to \$1.25 value..... 89c All Taffeta Silks..... 10 per cent discount All Crepe de Chines..... 10 per cent discount All Fancy Silks..... 10 per cent discount</p> <hr/> <p>BOYS' BLOUSE SUITS</p> <p>\$1.69 Quality..... \$1.39 \$1.48 Quality..... \$1.29 \$1.19 Quality..... .98 98-Cent Quality..... .89 48-Cent Quality..... .43</p> <hr/> <p>LAWNS AND VOILES</p> <p>10-Cent Fancy Lawns..... 8c 12½-Cent Fancy Lawns..... 10c 15-Cent Fancy Lawns..... 12c 20-Cent Fancy Lawns..... 16c 25-Cent Fancy Lawns..... 19c 20-Cent Fancy Voiles..... 16c 25-Cent Fancy Voiles..... 19c 33-Cent Fancy Voiles..... 27c 39-Cent Fancy Voiles..... 32c</p>
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Goods are advancing rapidly. This is an opportunity that we cannot offer again until conditions change. We can only offer at these prices for the reason that we had big stocks bought up.

SPIERS BROS.,

Smithfield, N. C.