

## REVIEW OF CRIMES OF THE GERMANS IN WAR

Hoover, Whitlock and Others Offer Testimony on Barbarity in Belgium and France—Government Reports

Some of the blackest pages in all history, comprising a documentary record of "deeds that make one despair of the future of the human race," are found in a book named "German War Practices," which has just been issued at the government printing office by the committee on public information for free distribution. It is edited by Prof. D. C. Munro of Princeton and other scholars.

The dumbfounding evidence which this book presents to the jury of mankind is drawn mainly from German and American sources, and includes official proclamations and utterances of the responsible heads of the imperial German government, letters and diaries of German soldiers, quotations from German newspapers, and material drawn from the archives of the state department which lay bare the story of inconceivable German atrocities.

The purpose of the book is to show that the system of frightfulness, itself the greatest atrocity, is the definite policy of the German government, so sinister that German soldiers have themselves at times revolted. Individual acts of wanton cruelty and barbaric destruction are cited only to illustrate the operation of the remorseless system.

The book supplements the Bryce report which was the first official survey of the path of horror, ruin and death left by the German army on the lands of innocent and defenseless people. The book is supplemental also to the official reports by the Belgian commission and the French minister of foreign affairs, and it reveals more of the damning German war philosophy as expressed in the German White Book and various official utterances, extenuating revolting crimes on the grounds of expediency and the advancement of that "Kultur" which now mocks its own name throughout the civilized world. The humanity of German soldiers was so torn by the system of brutality that they cried out in letters to Ambassador Gerard, one expressing his protest against the slaughter of the Russians in the Masurian lakes and swamps by saying, "There is no God, there is no morality, and no ethics any more; there are no human beings any more, but only beasts."

The illuminating reports of Brand Whitlock, minister to Belgium, tell of miseries inflicted upon the Belgian people, Mr. Whitlock saying: "One is so overwhelmed with the horror of the thing itself that it has been, and even now is, difficult to write calmly and justly about it."

Herbert Hoover, writing for this book of his experiences in Belgium, says: "The sight of the destroyed homes and cities, the widowed and fatherless, the destitute, the physical misery of the people but partially nourished at best, the deportation of men by tens of thousands to slavery in German mines and factories, the execution of men and women for pal-

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## ONE OF HEAVIEST DECEMBER SNOWFALLS IN HISTORY

Virginia, North and South Carolina and northeast Georgia were covered yesterday by one of the heaviest December snowfalls in history.

From the mountains to tidewater in the Old Dominion snow which began falling early Tuesday night is reported to have reached a depth of from eight to ten inches. Newport News had the heaviest precipitation in nineteen years, according to official accounts, a ten-inch fall accompanying severe cold weather and high winds virtually tying up shipping at the Hampton Roads port. Roanoke reported a fall of eight inches.

In North Carolina also the snow-fall was the heaviest near the coast. Raleigh reported seven inches, while in the mountain city of Asheville the depth was only four inches.

Columbia was barely covered under an inch of snow, but in the northern and western sections of South Carolina from three to four inches of snow were reported.

From northeastern Georgia came reports of snow to a depth of three inches.

## MR. E. MURRAY BRUNER MAY GO TO FRANCE

Work Progressing Splendidly in Porto Rico—Porto Rican Troops to Columbia, S. C.—Praise for Battery E

Uncle Sam's call for men in the forest service has been nobly responded to. Entire regiments of men from this service have joined the colors. They are needed for important and particular work in France to help carry on the war of democracy.

From Porto Rico Mr. E. Murray Bruner writes The News that when his special mission is completed there the next place will probably be France. While in Porto Rico Mr. Bruner keeps an eye on Caldwell and is interested in every progressive move the county makes. He spent two years here in forestry work and he realizes the importance of a system of roads connecting this forest with the outside. This is even more important now than when Mr. Bruner was here. The establishment of the Grandfather National Park makes this so, for at no great distant date, after the war is over, the Grandfather National Park will be one of the most important tourist attractions of the South. Mr. Bruner's letter reads:

"Rio Piedras, P. R.,  
"Dec. 1, 1917.

"My work is coming on splendidly here in Porto Rico. In fact, I guess the most important part is done, for the legislature has just passed the best forestry law I know of for the creation of a first-class forest service in Porto Rico to take up the work of reforestation. My next task is to get our own national forest here—the Luquillo national forest—under regular organization and administration, and after that I suppose I will go to France.

"I read with great delight the big part Caldwell is playing in the organization of Battery E, etc. It is also a great pleasure to know that so much good work has been done will not let up on the campaign for a real system of roads for the county.

"One hundred and eighty officers have just been commissioned from the Porto Rico training camp. Twelve thousand men will be drafted here in the first call. The present plan is to send the officers and the 8,000 of the drafted men who are white to the cantonment at Columbia, S. C. Just how they will handle the 4,000 colored men is not yet determined. Of the 180 officers about 25 are from the States and the rest are native white Porto Ricans. They are a splendid appearing and carefully selected bunch of fellows and no doubt will hold their own all right wherever they are sent. Very sincerely yours,  
E. MURRAY BRUNER."

## GOLDEST WEATHER HERE IN NINETEEN YEARS

Mercury Stood at 6 1/2 Below Yesterday Morning—Was 9 in 1898—13 Below Zero at Blowing Rock

The cold wave that has been coming out of the west since last Saturday has held the whole country in the grip of snow and ice. The mercury here yesterday morning reached the lowest point since 1898—nineteen years ago. The government thermometer registered 6 1/2 below zero, and at no time during the day did it get far above that point. Monday and Tuesday mornings it registered 8 above zero. During the night Tuesday snow began falling, and Wednesday morning had reached a depth of about eight inches. Again yesterday for a short time fine snow fell, but it was almost too cold, weather observers say, for it to continue falling.

The streams have been frozen over all the week, according to people coming to town. John's river, Wilson's creek and Buffalo were frozen over for the first time in years. Ice on the pond at Patterson was four inches thick.

A telephone message from Blowing Rock yesterday said that the thermometer there registered 13 degrees below zero.

## WAR SAVINGS SOCIETY IN EVERY SCHOOL ROOM

A Call to Duty of North Carolina's Fifteen Thousand Public School Teachers

The hour is at hand when every patriotic American citizen, whether at home or on the far-flung battle front, must do, not his bit, but his utmost to help win the war. To the fifteen thousand public school teachers of North Carolina comes the call to help win the war by organizing war savings societies in every school room in the state and in encouraging their pupils and patrons to do their utmost by leading the government money with which to feed, clothe and equip the soldiers in training at the front.

On Patriotic Day, which is soon to be observed in every schoolhouse in the state, the patriotic fervor of the children and patrons will be aroused to the kindling point. What a loss it will be if this unkindled patriotism is allowed to subside without being converted into energy with which to help win the war!

Every school teacher in the state is asked to give a practical turn to Patriotic Day by organizing a war savings society in his or her school room. One of these societies may be organized as soon as ten persons become war-savers by purchasing one or more thrift stamps according to the plan of the national war savings committee.

The teachers are also urged to stimulate patriotic rivalry among the children by encouraging them to enter training for the army of thrift. As soon as a child becomes a war-saver and joins the war savings society he is eligible to strive to enter the army of thrift. When he gets ten other persons to purchase a \$100 war savings certificate each he becomes a soldier of thrift and receives from the government an appropriate badge; when he gets twenty-five persons to purchase a \$100 war savings certificate each he becomes a captain of thrift; one hundred certificates, a colonel of thrift, and when he has caused the purchase of two hundred certificates he will be made a general of thrift and his name will be entered in a permanent register in the office of the secretary of the treasury in Washington and he will be immortalized as a soldier of thrift.

The wonderful opportunity both for patriotic service and for self-help in the war savings plan must be apparent. Every time a child buys a thrift stamp he is lending twenty-five cents to his government, which will give a meal to a soldier. Twenty-five cents may not be much, but remember that just one thrift stamp purchased by each citizen of the United States will amount to \$25,000,000. Every time he purchases sixteen thrift stamps and, with the addition of a few cents, converts them into a war savings stamp, he invests money which will bear him a per cent interest, compounded quarterly, to be paid to him, principal and interest, in five years.

The savings of the child, small as they may be, may give him a start with which to complete his education, or with which to go into business for himself. More than that and better than that, the habit of saving inculcated by this campaign may check his tendency to be a spendthrift and make him appreciate the moral value of economy and thrift.

F. H. FRIES,

State Director National War Savings Committee.

## MANY GERMANS ARE ARRESTED AT HALIFAX

Wholesale arrests of German residents of Halifax were begun by the police this week. This action was taken under the instructions from the military authorities.

Sixteen Germans were taken into custody within a short time. Military officers after a short inquiry released a few of them. The others are held in the county jail.

The authorities refused to disclose whether they had evidence against the Germans.

## SIBERIA HAS CUT OFF FOOD TO RUSSIA

The provisional government of Siberia has ordered the stoppage of food supplies for European Russia, particularly Petrograd, on the ground that it may assist Germany.

## INQUIRY INTO VARIOUS WAR ACTIVITIES BEGUN

The Senate Orders a Probe of the Alleged Army Clothing Shortage and Other Matters—To Put Punch in Work

Steps were initiated in Congress this week to obtain fuller information about and establish closer connection with the government's war activities, past and future.

A general inquiry into the work of the war department, especially in arming and equipping the nation's man-power, was ordered by the Senate military committee. Capitol leaders said it was the forerunner of similar investigations of all phases which would in a measure accomplish executive conduct of the war, plian the purpose of the proposed joint committee for "the conduct of the war." The joint committee idea was abandoned at the last session because of President Wilson's opposition.

Inquiries by standing committees into the navy department's activities and the work of the shipping board and other wartime agencies of the government, were said to be contemplated.

The war department inquiry began Wednesday, when Gen. Crozier appeared before the Senate committee to testify regarding ordnance manufacture and supply. Secretary Baker and general staff officers, as well as departmental and field commanders, will follow. Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the committee, said much of the testimony would be confidential and given in executive session, though some of the sessions would be public.

The decision to inquire into the war department's operations came after two hours' discussion of reports from Senators who have visited army camps. Senators Chamberlain, Wadsworth, Frelinghuysen and others told of conditions observed and reported to them, especially regarding lack of clothing in many camps, lack of ordnance and unsatisfactory sanitary conditions.

It is understood the committee heard of large quotas of men in camp lacking overcoats and winter clothing, of ordnance shortage resulting in the use of broom sticks for rifles and wooden makeshifts for cannon. The alleged clothing shortage and its possible relation to the large number of pneumonia cases in the cantonments were discussed.

Transportation of soldiers and reports that they have been crowded into trains and not properly rationed and contracts for building cantonments and furnishing supplies are other matters on which the investigation will touch.

That the purpose of the army inquiry is constructive and not critical was emphasized by Senator Chamberlain and others. He said it is proposed to inquire what, if any, mistakes have been made, extravagances or errors committed and to assist in preventing their repetition.

"We propose to have 'punch' put into the war preparations if they need it," said another member of the committee, "to have new and younger blood and methods supplant old, if necessary, and to insure the greatest future efficiency."

## GERMANY CAN'T HOLD OUT LONGER THAN SIX MONTHS

Amsterdam, Dec. 10.—A pro-German Dutchman has returned after several weeks' stay in Germany and gives the Handelsblad a pessimistic report of conditions, says a special cable from the London Times to the Greensboro News. He declares the Germans cannot hold out over six months. If the war continues longer the nation will become a physical and mental wreck. Their food supplies are little better than pigs' food and the population is suffering. He saw three of his friends collapse from weakness. He says he will never forget the pitiful impression on the German people made upon him.

## R. F. D. CARRIERS ARE SELLING WAR SAVINGS-THRIFT STAMPS

War savings and thrift stamps are being distributed through the R. F. D. carriers as well as through other branches of the postal service and through the banks. Every carrier out of Lenoir has a supply of these stamps and will be glad to explain the sale of them to their patrons.

## FREEDMAN MINISTER GETS 14 MONTHS

S. R. McCorkle Takes Appeal But Goes Back to the Jail in Default of the Required \$500 Bond

The A. M. E. church in Freedman is again preacherless on account of the new minister from Greensboro being unable to get here. It seems that McCorkle had "taking ways" other than in the pulpit and at present he is on the inside looking out while the Lenoir parishioners are wondering if there's such a thing as an honest man. Of course every "nigger" knows there's no harm in "robbin' the roost" occasionally, but when it comes to 100-pound sacks of flour and things—well, there's a limit.

The Greensboro Daily News says: "Unless the Superior Court decides otherwise Rev. S. R. McCorkle, the negro minister who was arrested Friday for the larceny of a large amount of merchandise, must serve fourteen months on the city streets, this being the term given him in police court when he was convicted in three cases. Monday he was found guilty of stealing two sacks of flour from T. M. Bennett's grocery store and yesterday he was convicted of stealing a ham from the same store and of the larceny of shoes from the Fordham-Brown Shoe Company.

"In the first case he was given eight months and in the other two three months each. Probable cause was found in the case in which he was charged with the larceny of \$32.50 worth of merchandise from B. Stadium & Co., and he was bound over to Superior Court, the municipal court not having jurisdiction in cases charging the larceny of over \$20. He was acquitted of stealing a pair of trousers from the Wallace Clothing Company.

"The negro did not take the stand in his own behalf yesterday, but through his attorney pleaded not guilty in each case. At the conclusion of the trial notice of appeal was given and his bond placed at \$500. He was unable to raise this sum and was returned to jail. His bond for appearance in Superior Court in the case bound over was \$200."

## DAVE CLARK PRESENTS MR. BERNHARDT WITH A DEER

A good-sized buck deer has been received by Mr. J. M. Bernhardt. It is the present of Dave Clark, who is at Dayton, Va. The buck has a nice spread of antlers. Mr. Bernhardt intends to have the head mounted.

It is far better to sign the food pledge card late than not at all.

## ROY KIRBY, LENOIR BOY, KILLED AT GASTONIA

Was Shot By Floyd Johnson Wednesday Afternoon and Died Shortly Afterwards—Will Be Buried Here Today

Roy Kirby, the son of Mrs. Ella Kirby, who lives in South Lenoir, was shot Wednesday afternoon at Gastonia by a man named Floyd Johnson. Kirby died thirty minutes later at a local hospital. The shooting occurred at a store near the edge of the city, where Kirby and Johnson had gone as companions. According to the story brought here, both men had stopped to talk with a woman on the store porch when Johnson went into the store to buy some cigarettes. When he came out he said to Kirby: "You are talking to my girl," and fired one shot, which took effect in Kirby's breast. The bullet, which was fired from a .32-caliber pistol, ranged downward and lodged near the backbone. Johnson threw the pistol away and, so the story goes, helped Kirby to the hospital, where he died before an operation could be performed. Johnson was said to have been drinking. He was immediately placed under arrest.

Roy Kirby was about twenty years old and was working in a cotton mill at Gastonia. His mother, Mrs. Ella Kirby, lives here in South Lenoir, to which place the body of her son was brought yesterday. The burial will be held today in Fairfield cemetery.

## GERMAN PEACE TERMS HARD ON THE RUSSIANS

Germany to Control Wheat Market for Fifteen Years; German Goods to Be Duty-Free

The causes for the Bolshevik depression referred to in recent dispatches from Petrograd are explained in the following dispatch, according to a special cable from the London Times to the Greensboro Daily News:

"Petrograd, Dec. 8.—It was stated on good authority in the course of informal conversations with the Russian and German delegates that the following terms were indicated, the latter as likely to form a part of any German peace proposals: First, Germany is to obtain for fifteen years the control of the Russian wheat market, enabling her to satisfy all her requirements; second, the importation into Russia of all German goods duty-free; third, that no territory now occupied by German troops is to be surrendered. Owing to the continued successes by the socialist revolutionaries the country constituencies of the Bolsheviks has now lost even a relative majority in the assembly.

"The government yesterday arrested and imprisoned the commission charged with the superintendence of elections. There seems little prospect that the assembly will be allowed to meet until it undergoes a thorough overhauling at the hands of the party now in power."

"Petrograd, Dec. 6.—(Delayed.)—Disappointment evidently prevails among the Bolsheviks because of the reserved attitude of the Germans in the negotiations and for the evident want of sympathy and political idealism. The feeling of depression has increased as a result of the Paris conference, the war credit voted by the reichstag, the Hindenburg's declaration in the Neue Freie Presse and the vigorous, militant speech of President Wilson.

"The end of the war seems remote, but the people's commissioners propose a new appeal to the allies. hitherto nki" tishrdpuatoinshrdta "Korniloff succeeded in joining Kaledines yesterday. An armored train was dispatched by Kharkoff for the purpose of attacking Kaledines' troops.

"Dismissal of public functionaries and the suppression of journals continue. Some of the latter reappear under other names. A few imprisoned journalists have been liberated."

## CHRISTMAS BAG FOR EVERY AMERICAN SOLDIER IN FRANCE

Every American soldier in France will receive a Christmas bag. The first shipments, consigned to the American base hospital units on the British front, were sent forward last Tuesday.

Each bag contains two packages of cigarettes, two of cigarette tobacco, two of pipe tobacco and one plug of tobacco, a toothbrush, tooth paste and a wash cloth, a pair of shoe laces, a needles roll, half a pound of candy and a khaki handkerchief. The bags have been made up by the women's war relief corps of the American Red Cross composed for the most part of American women in Paris.

Nearly 150,000 bags have already been prepared. The bags are made of cloth with a large Red Cross sewed on the side.

## DEATH LIST IS PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN 1,800

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 12.—A revised estimate today of the explosion casualties reduces the death list to approximately 1,800. The known dead total 800 and it is believed that not more than 1,000 bodies and perhaps only 900 still lie under the debris. The list of victims is steadily becoming smaller as relatives are reunited and refugees return.

From 300 to 400 persons are totally or partly blind and 200 children have each lost both parents, according to the American and Canadian workers.

A relief ship from Boston entered the harbor today.

For dessert serve a fruit salad or fruit omelet; cream cheese with honey or fine preserves; fruit desserts with honey or just enough white sugar to bring out the fruit flavor.