

Fear Epidemic As Winter Nears

Homeless Hordes Threatened With Starvation in Stricken Europe.

WASHINGTON. — Total war has dumped one of history's biggest problems on the doorstep of civilization.

It is the problem of what is to become of Europe's gigantic army of civilian refugees—more than three-quarters of them women and children—who have been made homeless and penniless by war.

The enormity of the problem is just beginning to be realized, even here in Washington, which receives the first confidential reports of each new mass evacuation.

Famine is the first threat. Not just a shortage of food for a few, but grim, actual starvation for literally millions.

Next, and equally grim, comes the menace of widespread pestilence. Undernourished, weary, ill-clad, the wandering horde of the homeless may any day fall prey to some such epidemic as the influenza that took countless lives in the World war.

Millions Homeless.

Never in world history, it is agreed, has there been such a huge number of refugees wandering homeless—living on the fringe of famine even now, and facing worse privation ahead.

The refugee army numbered 10,000,000 before Paris was surrendered. It has grown in size every day since. Only the inroads of disease and famine can keep it from being doubled, it appears now, before the cannons cease.

Volunteer humanitarian agencies—notably the Red Cross and the Society of Friends—are making heroic efforts to feed and shelter the myriad war victims. But their officials admit that in the present situation, no volunteer agencies can possibly do enough. They can, and are, saving countless lives every day, but they cannot hope to save them all.

The swift passage of summer brings another problem nearer—how the refugees are to be sheltered against Europe's bitter winter.

Then, too, there is the fact that the war has drained all Europe's food resources. Men at war cannot till farms. And it takes an immense amount of food to keep huge armies in the field.

Worse Than Last War.

The situation is not comparable to the refugee problem created by the World war. Then the tide of invasion moved slowly and it was possible to provide for one group of refugees before another group was made homeless.

This time, a major refugee problem existed before the war started. Then came the Polish invasion, adding 1,500,000 to the total. Then the Russian invasion of Finland added another half-million. Then the blitzkrieg into Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, France—all within a matter of days and weeks—all so swiftly that the refugees were hard put to keep ahead of the tide of advancing death.

In their fight against threatening pestilence, relief workers have used millions of phials and ampules of serum and vaccine. Millions more are needed. Wherever possible, refugees have been immunized against typhoid, typhus and tetanus.

But the specter of typhus comes ever closer, especially in France, as living conditions plummet under the pressure of ever greater refugee hordes. Carriers of this dread disease, rats and vermin, can make Roman holiday among the wandering homeless.

South Carolina Dusts Off Its Original Constitution

COLUMBIA, S. C.—The original South Carolina constitution, believed to be the first state constitution adopted in this country, has been rediscovered.

The valuable document, which was adopted at a congress begun and holden at Charles Town November 1, 1775, and continuing by divers adjournment to Tuesday, twenty-sixth day of March, 1776, was found in a statehouse storeroom where it lay unnoticed many years.

An appropriation to provide a suitable cabinet for the paper was made immediately by the general assembly, and it will be placed in the historical commission archives.

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LABOR DAY "THEME SONG"

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Aug. 24.—Nashville Trades and Labor Council has completed arrangements for the most elaborate Labor Day celebration ever held in this city. The event will be staged at Cumberland Park, the State Fair grounds, and plans have been perfected for entertainment of at least 15,000 visitors. The Labor Day celebration will be free, and the program calls for many features.

The theme song for the Labor Day celebration will be sung as one of the features. The song, "All Hail to Labor Day," was written by Ben Faucett, editor of the Trades and Labor News, of Nashville, and is as follows:

ALL HAIL TO LABOR DAY (Tune—"God Bless America")

All hail to Labor
With voices true,
Let's revere it, endear it
In our hearts with the work that we do!
To our Country, to our Unions
More devotion we now bring;
On this, our Labor Day,
Let Freedom Ring!

All hail to Labor Day
Throughout the Land,
Celebrate it, instate it
With a loyalty all understand!
We're happy in America,
To our Freedom we still cling;
God Bless our Labor Day,
All Workers sing!

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Forest Acres of U. S. Show Steady Gains

Purchases May Bring Total
To 200 Million.

WASHINGTON.—Expansion of the national forests purchase program to reach 200,000,000 acres by 1950 is planned by the national forest reservation commission.

The purchase program is expected to give the federal government ownership of large reserve supplies of timber and forests for recreation and conservation of mineral and other natural resources.

There now are more than 176,000,000 acres of publicly owned lands in the national forests. These are distributed among 196 forest units in 40 states, Alaska and the island possessions. They comprise about 10 per cent of the total area.

Last year nearly 4,000,000 persons derived all or part of their support from employment in the national forests, the United States forest service reported. Their total income was nearly \$1,000,000,000.

Workers living in or near national forests obtained employment harvesting timber purchased from the forest service, herding privately owned live stock on the public lands, working in summer resorts, dude ranches and hotels catering to visitors.

The forest service reported lumbermen received 2,600,000 man-days of work in timber camps. Live stock owners employed 25,000 riders and herders to take care of 6,500,000 head of animals in the forests.

While no estimate of resort, hotel or dude ranch employees was available, the number was large enough to supply the service needs of a clientele which spends about \$200,000,000 annually at such establishments.

In addition to private employment, the forest service kept a permanent force of 5,500 persons in the forests and gave part-time employment to an additional 11,000 persons.

Reforestation, road and trail building, and other improvement work under direction of the forest service also provided 15,436 man-years of employment on WPA projects, and year-long employment and training for 50,000 CCC boys and World war veterans.

I do the very best I know
how—the very best I can—
and I mean to keep doing so
till the end. If the end brings
me out all right, what is said
against me won't amount to
anything.—Abraham Lincoln.

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