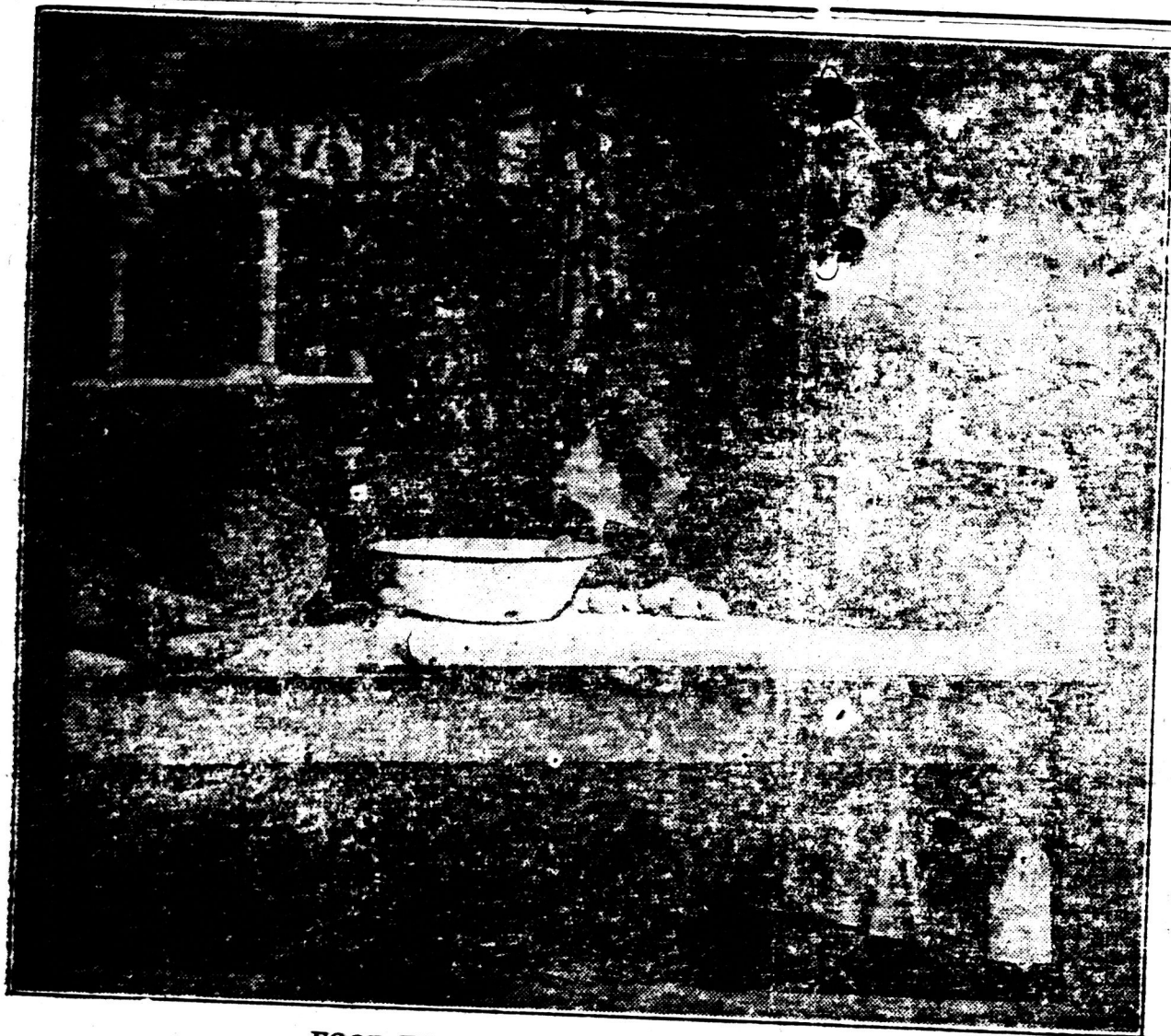




FOOD SHORTAGE IN GREAT BRITAIN.
A "queue" outside a London shop waiting for the weekly allowance of four ounces of oleomargarine.



FOOD ECONOMY IN GREAT BRITAIN.
Making potato bread in an English farmhouse by mixing "riced" potatoes with flour.



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COMPARED WITH OTHER NATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO THE HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND IN FARMS.

FIGHTING TRENCH FEVER

New Disease That Has Been Discovered in Present War.

Trench fever and shell shock are the two most difficult problems that this war has presented to medical science, according to a report issued by a British American medical commission.

Cases of trench fever were reported from France as early as 1915, and the disease has been continually studied ever since but the organism which causes it has not been found for its successful treatment. The American army doctors believe that they have definitely established that trench fever is communicated by a body louse, a fact which has been repeatedly suspected by the British investigators also.

The fact that the disease is growing more prevalent and is spreading from the trenches to the back areas is also noted in the report. The original cases were all among troops in the trenches, but the disease is now prevalent on various lines of communication and at the bases. Even hospital orderlies and nurses are occasional victims.

The actual crux of the discussion seems to be whether trench fever is a disease of man transmitted by the louse, or some disease among lice themselves which is transmissible to men. If the latter, the cure would seem to be the eradication of lice, a gigantic and almost hopeless task in war time. If the former, the dissemination of the disease comes down to a control of the human carrier, and probably an easier task. The commission recommends energetic action in the direction of greater personal cleanliness, which will also contribute greatly to the general comfort and health of the troops.

Missionary as a Guide Book.

Some years ago in Tokio I met Carl Crow. I was about to take my first plunge into China, and was then carrying in my grip Crow's guide-book to the country. "What suggestions have you for me?" I asked. "Go to the missionaries," replied Crow. Then he modestly added that his guide-book was largely a compilation of information which he had collected from the missionaries. "They are the only people," he explained, "who really know the country." I have had frequent occasion to test this assertion and I feel impelled to record that it is profoundly true. The temples and the hamlets have their value in introducing one to the country but they chiefly give one a glimpse of what the past has been. The people who are the present, and who are determining the future, cannot be found there. If one wishes to see the Orient that is, one will have to make very generous use of the missionary. And yet very few tourists see him at all. The missionary is often the one person available who understands both the language of the tourist and the language of the country; but more important is the fact that often he alone understands why one asks the questions of the questioner's mind and is at the same time intimately familiar with the life about which the question is asked. The English-speaking native may understand one's words but unless he belongs to the very limited class of those who have been educated abroad he is practically at a loss to understand why anyone would ask such a fool question any how.—Asia.

Loyal Hypocrites.

Those who are familiar with the Pennsylvania Germans will not be surprised that in order to remove any possible doubt of their attitude the consistory of the Reformed Church of Berks county has voted against sermons in German. This Lutheran denominations in the state, and while this action is a war measure, it is one that has been coming for years, since the exclusion of pure German and the Pennsylvania patois from the elementary schools of the state has been surely building up a body of citizens who knew little and cared less for the historic dialect or the mother tongue that for so long separated them from their English-speaking fellows. For one thing this Pennsylvania German renunciation fits in easily with the drive which is being made all over the United States as to the use of German in the elementary schools, since, curiously enough, the "Pennsylvania Dutch" never were the object of the solicitude of the von Holleben-Muensterberg-Bernstorff style of propaganda, their efforts being aimed at the more recent German immigrants and at German-Americans in the great cities of the East and in certain sections of the West who did not derive from colonial or revolutionary ancestors.

National Kitchens in England. England is to have national kitchens. Public baths and park buildings will be turned into kitchens and town halls into dining halls; street cars and omnibuses will carry the finished product to thousands of small distributing stations. Varied meals will be provided for everybody at the lowest possible price and there will be special invalid kitchens.

Rabbit Ranches.

The Australian Government is making every endeavor to have rabbit ranching become one of the big assets of the future. Rabbits which formerly fished sheep and cattle, are now being raised in wire fenced grounds and used for breeding. Canadian boys and girls could help by raising rabbits.

Better Than Politicians.

"Whoever makes two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, deserves essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together."—Swift.

Hawaii has two snow-capped mountains rising nearly fourteen thousand feet from a tropical sea coast.

ENGLAND AND WALES GROW.

Births Exceed the Number of Deaths in Army.

Two hundred thousand persons in England and Wales were married between August, 1914, and June, 1917, when in the ordinary course would not have done so. This is a direct result of the war. Thus Sir Bernard, the Registrar-General of England, informed the Royal Statistical Society, discussing the "Vital Statistics as Affected by the War."

Corresponding figures in many countries are only available for Hungary, and there, in the same period, more than 600,000 persons who in the ordinary course of events would have married have not done so. In Hungary the annual number of marriages decreased 24 per cent., and in Berlin 21 per cent.

But for the war the number of children born in the United Kingdom from May, 1915, to June, 1916, should have been 3,500,000, while the number actually born will be about 2,950,000. In Germany the number born should have been 5,950,000, and will be only about 3,250,000, while in Hungary there should have been 2,600,000, and there will be only 1,100,000. In the United Kingdom this is equivalent to the loss of over six months' normal births; in Germany to a loss of 17 months' births; in Hungary of more than 24 months.

At the outbreak of the war the population of the Central Empires was about two and a half times as great as that of the United Kingdom. Their losses of births have apparently been ten times as great. It is gratifying to know that the exceptional stories of the growth of the population in Britain are utterly false, since the rate for 1916 was the lowest on record and the number registered in 1915 was smaller than in any year of the tables except two.

Sir Bernard discloses the extraordinary fact that the rate of infant mortality in the United Kingdom during the war years has been lower than at any previous period of like duration. In England infant mortality is largest in the big towns; in Germany it is lowest. In last July the rate in the English towns was under 10 to each 1,000 births; in the German towns it was 76. In August the English figure was 30 and the German was 108. In Halle the rate reached 345; in Cologne 283. So much for the vaunted sanitary administrations of the Germans!

Excluding deaths of infants under a year old, the deaths in the German towns of which statistics are available during the first half of 1917 were equal to the total for the whole year 1913; while in England and Wales the urban deaths were considerably less than half the year's total.

Deaths from alcoholism in this country declined from 53 for each million persons living in 1914 to 29 in 1916. "It is impossible," says Sir Bernard, "to avoid associating this sudden drop in mortality with the restrictions in the output of alcoholic liquors and of public house hours brought about by the war. The disappearance of the excess of infant deaths from 'overlying' on Saturday night over the other nights of the week is held by the Registrar-General to be another proof of the growth of sobriety. The surplus births over deaths in the United Kingdom during the war is very considerably greater than the total loss of lives of English, Welsh, Scotch and Irish soldiers during the whole period of the war."

Sir Bernard concludes: "It is not too much to say that at the end of three years of war the population of the United Kingdom was sensibly greater than it was at the beginning. That of Austria-Hungary had decreased by some 600,000 in addition to a loss of at least 1,000,000 in the field; while that of Germany had suffered an equal decline, in addition to a loss of life sustained in all the battle fronts which can hardly have fallen much short of 2,000,000."

Horses Went on Rampage.

Eight hundred unbroken horses ran wild recently in a paddock at the Byuulla Racing Club in Bombay, India, smashed down the fence and spread all over the city, causing considerable panic in the native quarters, and blocking railway and street traffic for the entire day. Large numbers of the animals got on to the railway lines, where several of them were killed. Six of them fell into a large culvert. Horses from the race track spent the whole day, and the following night in pursuit of the animals. Only 450 horses were recovered, the remainder having either been killed or escaped into the countryside. One man was seriously injured in the Bazaar district by being trampled by a herd, while in a main street a motor-car was wrecked by the horses rushing madly over it.

The Grenville Spirit Lives.

"First Lieut. Bavin, seeing one of the light cruisers returning towards them, called the gunner, Mr. Haddock, and bade him sink the ship." From the report of the last fight of the Mary Rose in the North Sea. "Sir Richard, finding himself in the distress, and unable any longer to make resistance, having endured in this fifteen hours' fight the assault of fifteen several Armadas, all by turns aboard him, and by estimation 800 shot of great artillery, commanded the master gunner, whom he knew to be a most resolute man, to split and sink the ship." Banish on the last fight of the Revenge in 1931. The Grenville spirit lives.—London Chronicle.

Panache Tuesday at Westminster.

Every Shrove Tuesday the Westminster School boys have a panache, and the successful competitor in the ensuing scramble for the largest fragment receives a guinea from the headmaster. Shrove Tuesday School is noted for its "hall elections" at the beginning of each term, for the posts of hall clerk, hall constable, hall postman, and hall scavenger.

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