

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY.

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

MAN WANTS BUT LITTLE here below, and all he wants the Want Columns of the Deseret News can supply.

PART TWO. SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1903. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. FIFTY-THIRD YEAR.

LABOR IN GERMANY.

A Land of Hard Work, Low Wages and Long Hours—Hard Times and How They Affect the Markets.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

BERLIN.—Is an American workman out of a job? If so, he had better look for another at home. As far as I can learn, the labor market of Europe is overstocked. There are something like a million idle workmen in England. The industrial centers have many out of employment, and in London there are parades of the poor. There is no room for extra workmen in France, and Germany is still in hard times.

This country was on the boom for thirty years. It began to grow when France paid over her millions to Germany. Factories and workshops then sprang up all over the empire. The people flocked from the farms to the cities, and the country changed from an agricultural to a manufacturing one. Trade was pushed in every direction. The towns grew and wages rose. The state continued until about 1900, when, owing to over speculation, the nation of prosperity burst, the gas came from it asphyxiated some of the banks and they failed, and factories all over the empire began to shut down. Within fifteen days 22,000 men were discharged in Berlin for lack of work, and the industrial establishments all over Germany either dismissed, cut down their forces or shortened the working hours. This condition of hard times still exists, although things are picking up in some branches, owing to the increased demands from the United States.

EUROPE'S BIGGEST ENGINE WORKS.

I have spent a large part of this week in some of the most notable factories of Germany. I have gone through electrical establishments employing thousands of hands, and have examined among other works, those of the Borsig, the biggest engine makers of the continent, having the place in Germany that the Baldwins hold in the United States. The most of these factories are running with less than their usual number of men, and some which are to be full are giving short time.

The Borsig factory is one of the most expensive in Germany. It has a large ship canal, and it is somewhat over a mile long, and it keeps its men busy. Some of the big engine works of the world, although not as large as the Baldwins, it builds on an average four locomotives every week, and it has already built more than 5,000. These works are situated at Tegel, just outside Berlin. They cover 30 acres and employ about 2,500 men. The establishment has also mines and works in upper Silesia, which employs 10,000 hands, so that altogether the force is large one.

BELONGS TO ONE FAMILY.

This factory was founded over 60 years ago by A. Borsig, and it still belongs to his sons. In the United States it would be run by a corporation or trust, but in Germany some of the largest of such establishments, such as the Borsig and Krupp, are owned in families. The two Borsigs who now manage the works are each under 40. They are active business men, and spend their time in the factory, knowing personally all that goes on. Indeed, I was told that either of them could run an engine if he had to. I met the younger member of the firm, Mr. Conrad Borsig, during my stay at the works, and he furnished me an English guide to look over them.

I walked together through the crowded acres of buildings where the steam engines are made, now stopping to watch the men in the foundries pouring red-hot metal into the moulds, and now going through the rooms where the vast boilers are riveted together. There was a noise like the hammer of many hammers which almost deafened me. Huge traveling cranes, running overhead, lifted boilers weighing many tons as easily as a mother lifts her baby, and machines bored through steel as though it were cheese. Here they were making screws, there lathes were cutting iron like pine, and here the parts of the locomotives were assembled and put together for shipment to all countries of the world.

LABOR COLONIES IN GERMANY.

After leaving the works I went through the colonies which the Borsigs have built for their workmen. Such institutions are becoming quite common in connection with the larger German factories. The Krupps have constructed towns as homes for their employees, and there are other large iron-making companies along the Rhine which have done likewise. These I shall describe when I visit that region.

Here, near Tegel, the Borsigs have bought a large tract of land and have built houses about it which are rented out to their workmen at such prices as will make them pay a low interest on the investment. None but employees and their families are permitted to live in these houses, and the accommodations are such that they receive the more for their rent than they could get anywhere else. There is an open space, covering many acres, in front of these homes. This has been planted with forest trees, and it will some day be a beautiful park.

The Borsigs treat their employees well. The men seem to be satisfied, and I am told their condition is superior to that of other German factories. They work but 10 hours a day, and such as continue with the firm a certain number of years are given pensions.

LOW WAGES AND LONG HOURS.

Germany is a land of low wages and long hours. In the steel and iron industries \$5 per week is good pay, and in the textile mills the wage is still less. Mechanics think they do well if they get 15 cents an hour, and on the state railways the best paid engineers receive only \$10 per week. Firemen are paid from \$5 to \$7 per week and porters less than \$4. Workmen employed by the city forces are paid equally low, the boys cleaning the streets receive 25 cents a day. On the government works the average day is nine hours, but it is longer everywhere else.

The most of the factories of Berlin claim to have a 10-hour day, and as the labor unions are strong here they can hold that time to a certain extent. In other parts of Germany the working day averages eleven hours, with no Saturday afternoons off, and in certain sections it averages 12 hours and over.

WORK IN THE STORES.

There are many clerks in this city who work as much as 14 hours every day. The stores open about 8 o'clock in the morning, and the most of them do not close until 9 o'clock in the evening, and the restaurants and cafes much later. Nearly all stores are open until 2 p. m. Sunday, although they are closed during church hours. Some storekeepers are so pious that they will not allow an advertisement to be extended at this time. There is a glass case of such advertisements under the railroad at the Friedrichstrasse Bahnhof. Between 10 and 12 on Sundays some of these advertisements are covered with paper, which is torn off as soon as church is out.

Speaking of time in the stores, at an investigation some years ago it was found that 46 per cent of the establishments worked their clerks 14 hours a day, and that in 6 per cent of them they worked 16 hours. In nearly all places there is an hour or so off at noon for lunch.

FARM WORK AND WAGES.

In the country districts the hours run from sunrise to sunset, with very few holidays. The great exodus from the farms to the cities has somewhat increased farm wages, but they are still low, being competed with by the gangs brought in from Austria, Russia and Poland at harvest and seedling times.

I am told that the Poles work for as little as 25 cents a day, with poor food thrown in, and that there are farm districts where the ordinary hand gets only 15 cents a day. Throughout Prussia 50 cents is a good price for farm work, and in some sections the wages are 40 cents for men and 25 cents for women.

A great deal of farm work is done by the women. They spade and hoe, weed and do other back-breaking work. They commonly follow the plow and scatter the manure, working side by side with the men.

Something About Labor Colonies and Workmen's Insurance—Wages of Mechanics and Factory Hands—Clerks Who Labor Fourteen Hours a Day—A Look at the Sweat Shops and Their Thousands of Sewing Girls—Farm Hands Who Earn Fifteen Cents and Upward per Day—What Living Costs—A Seven-Cent Dinner in the People's Kitchen—Something About the Biggest Locomotive Works of Continental Europe.



Photographed for the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

THESE STURDY YOUNG SWEEPERS GET TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A DAY.

Some farmers hire married couples, renting them small houses on the estates and taking the rent out of the wages. Such a tenant agrees to give all his work to the owner of the estate and to take 35 cents a day for it in the winter and 50 cents per day in the summer. The man's wife may get 20 cents a day in the winter and 25 in the summer. At such wages, if one has a good healthy wife, he may possibly earn as much as \$200 during the year.

IN THE SWEAT SHOPS OF BERLIN.

Berlin is filled with sweat shops. It is one of the manufacturing centers of Europe, and it has tens of thousands of sewing girls engaged in making mantles, cloaks, men's and women's clothing, jackets and infants' wear. Many of these sweat shops are in the cellars and some in the attics. The houses look well on the outside, but within you find scores working away in little rooms, and not a few working and sleeping in the same room. The police regulations require that the rooms be of a certain size, but today there are thousands of men, women and children who live in cellars in this most beautiful city of Germany. There are other thousands in rooms which cannot be heated, and many of which lack ventilation and light.

Nearly all the sweat shops pay their employees by the piece, and that at such a rate that only the best sewers can make as much as 50 or 60 cents a day. There is a fine for every mistake, and trumped-up fines reduce the receipts below the amount agreed upon. I am told that few sewing girls earn as much as \$2 per week. Girls make jackets for 20 cents apiece and shirt waists for 25 cents. You can get a girl to come to your house and sew for less than 50 cents a day, and you can hire a dressmaker who will cut, fit and make a plain dress for you in two days, charging you 50 cents per day for her work, and perhaps 40 cents per day for the girl who helps her.

MUSIC TEACHERS ARE PAID AS LITTLE AS 25 CENTS A LESSON, AND SINGING TEACHERS THE SAME. GIRLS IN SOME FACTORIES RECEIVE LESS THAN \$2 A WEEK. IN OTHERS THEY GET \$3, WHILE FARMWORKERS RECEIVE FROM \$8 TO \$10. SOME FIGURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT NOT LONG AGO SHOWED THAT CLOAK-MAKERS WERE EARNING \$2 A WEEK AND THAT GIRLS ON UNDERCLOTHES RECEIVED FROM \$1.25

TO \$3.75, THE LATTER BEING PAID FOR SKILLED HANDS AND OVERSEERS. THINK OF MAKING COLLARS FOR FROM 1 TO 2 CENTS APiece AND CUFFS FOR 20 CENTS A DOZEN AND YOU HAVE AN IDEA HOW SOME WOMEN WORK IN BERLIN. I HAVE HEARD OF PLACES WHERE BUTT-HOLES ARE MADE BY HAND FOR A CENT A PIECE, AND WHERE, IF THE PLACE TO WORK AND THE THREAD AND NEEDLES ARE FURNISHED BY THE EMPLOYER, A REDUCTION OF 25 CENTS PER HEAD IS MADE.

The percentage of women workers in Germany has rapidly increased of late years, owing to the enormous number of men required in the army. It is estimated that there are more than seven and a half million German women who earn their own living, and this is an increase of more than a million within the last 15 years. Of these 40 per cent are employed on the farms, 20 per cent in domestic service and 10 per cent in public offices. About 7 per cent work in the factories and 4 per cent act as servants in the hotels and in the beer and wine rooms.

Within the past few years the men have been trying to keep the women from doing certain kinds of work in the factories and foundries, and the unions are generally against the employment of married women when their husbands have work.

LIVING NOT CHEAP.

But how can people live on such wages? They can't if you use "live" in our sense of the word. It is the general opinion that things are cheap in Europe. They are not. Here in Germany good things cost as much as in the United States, and many things more. A fair price for beefsteak is 25 cents a pound; mutton, 20 cents, and veal the same. Good butter costs from 20 to 30 cents a pound, sugar 7 cents and flour 5 cents.

Germany has to import a great part of her food. We send her much of her breadstuffs. Russia is her poultry farm, and Holland and other countries her butcher shops. Eggs are imported by the millions, and they sell for 30 cents and upward per dozen. An ordinary chicken costs 50 cents, and it is a poor goose that won't bring a dollar.

Clothing is somewhat cheaper than with us, but the better kinds are equally high. Shoes cost so much that the average workman wears sandals of wood with toes of leather. I see men so shod on the streets of Berlin, and the clack, clack, clack of the wooden sole is heard in every factory. Fuel is high, and altogether the necessities as well as luxuries cost much.

PUBLIC SOUP HOUSES AND PEOPLE'S KITCHENS.

Many people cook as little as possible. You can buy all sorts of eatables already cooked, and this is done by both rich and poor. You can get roast beef, roast chicken, and puddings ready to warm up in every block, and the delicatessen shops will supply you with a cooked dinner ready to take home and serve if you want it.

There are but few free lunch counters and public soup houses where you get things for nothing, but there are many cheap restaurants where the poor are supplied at cost prices. Some of these are managed by the charitable ladies of the city, and that under the patronage of the empress herself. They are known as the people's kitchens and are open to all. In them you can get a dinner for about five cents. A bowl of soup costs three cents and a cup of good, strong coffee one cent. The rooms are very clean and well kept and the food is nicely cooked. As you come in there is a cashier who gives checks for the articles wanted upon payment of the money, and by presenting these checks at the luncheon counter you are handed your order. Everyone waits upon himself, carrying his bowl of soup or coffee to one of the tables and sitting there while he consumes it.

I took dinner in one of these kitchens the other day. My first check was for soup and it cost me three cents. The soup was made of beans, and I venture the bowl contained over a pint. It was, at any rate, more than enough, and that which I ate stayed in my delicate stomach for hours. I had also two cents' worth of boiled beef, a one-cent cup of coffee and finished up with a penny's worth of custard for dessert, so that my dinner all told cost me seven cents.

INSURANCE AND PENSIONS.

The conditions I have described pre-

vent the average workman laying up anything against sickness or old age. The wages are so low and the chances to rise so few that the majority of laboring men live from hand to mouth. Only the fewest own their own homes and fewer hope to make fortunes. If the same conditions prevailed in the United States our poor houses would be full, we should have tramps on every road and beggars at our doors.

The German government prevents such a condition by compelling all workmen to pay a certain proportion of their wages to a government insurance fund, which shall support them when they are sick and give them pensions when they are too old to work.

The sums paid are very small, the lowest class being only about 8 cents per week and the highest about 8 cents per week. Half of this sum is paid by the employer and half by the laborer. The employer is required to see that the whole is paid or he is subject to a fine. The result is he takes it out of the wages and the government is sure to get its fees. Many laborers make it a part of their contract that the employer shall pay all the insurance, and some employers voluntarily pay the insurance of their employees who receive wages to a certain amount.

A payment of 3 cents a week gives a laborer after his retiring age \$33 a year; 5 cents may give him as much as \$130 a year, and 6 or 7 cents, from \$120 to \$270. If he pays 8 1/2 cents he may annually receive \$270 or more, according to the time he has been paying in and other conditions. There are also certain payments for accidents and permanent disabilities, and in case of death the widow and children annually get from 15 to 20 per cent of their husband's or father's former earnings.

All wage earners receiving less than \$500 per year are by law required to belong to such associations. They pay their premiums in stamps which are pasted upon cards and kept in books which must be shown to the police upon demand. The government watches carefully to see that the insurance is kept up, and as a result it has a big fund to take care of its needy and deserving poor.

SECRETARY WYNDHAM.



Chief Secy. of Ireland George Wyndham is Ireland's hero at the present time. He is responsible for the Irish lands bill, now before parliament, which is considered to be the most important piece of legislation for Ireland for many years back.

IN POSTOFFICE FIGHT.

GEO. W. BEAVERS

Following George W. Beaver's resignation as assistant superintendent of salaries in the postoffice department comes the appointment of Charles M. Whelan as his successor. This is regarded as a clear victory for acting Postmaster-General Wynne in the latter department fight now waging.

THEY WANT ROOSEVELT.

President Roosevelt's declaration to visit Hawaii has caused great disappointment to the people of the colony, says Gov. Dole of our new possession. Despite the president's refusal Hawaii has not given up all hope of receiving a visit from Roosevelt and the invitation may be renewed later.

ABOVE ARE INTERESTING SCENES FROM THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK OF WHICH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT NOW IS MAKING AN EXTENSIVE TOUR. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY WILL REMAIN IN THE GREAT RESERVATION FOR 16 DAYS, FROM APRIL 5 TO APRIL 24. HERE THE NATION'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE WILL SEEK COMPLETE REST AND RELAXATION FROM THE CARES OF OFFICE. STRICTEST PRECAUTIONS WILL BE TAKEN TO MAINTAIN THE PRESIDENT'S PRIVACY DURING HIS STAY.

CRATER OF GIANT GEYSER. GRAND CAÑON.