BIZONAL FOOD PROSPECTS IMPROVE
British Official Says Nations Are Willing to Help Germany
As Long They Believe the Germans Are Helping Themselves

By G. E. Hughes

The food that is needed to raise the standard in western Germany to a reasonable level has to come from imports. Imports can come only from the few countries that have a surplus of food over their own requirements; and the claims on this surplus are many and insistent.

Apart from countries which have always in the past expected to import food—for example, Great Britain—countries which used to be exporters—for example, Burma—are today demanding imports in order that they may live. The reason is probably known to you all: the population of the world has increased during the last 10 years, while agricultural production, because of a war which the Nazis planned and began, has not been able to keep up with the increased population. Indeed, production has decreased.

There is a gap between food requirements and supplies for the current crop year that cannot be closed. Millions of people all over the world are going to be hungry and thousands will starve. In Great Britain itself, in the country which was the first to take up the fight against the Nazis and which alone continued the fight until their total defeat, the standard of feeding will be lower this winter than at any time within human memory.

It is not surprising that countries which suffered from the war should complain when food that they badly need themselves is sent to the countries which bred the Nazis.

In spite of this somber background, I believe that the food prospects for western Germany during the coming winter are better than last winter or the winter before. This is because nations which are themselves short of food recognize the importance to Europe and the world of the early achievement in Germany of a reasonable standard of life. To speed this, they are prepared to sacrifice their own immediate interests; but they will only be prepared to do so, so long as they believe that Germans are doing their best to help themselves.

An intangible factor that leads me to look to the future with greater confidence is that the Central Administration for Food and Agriculture for the British and US Zone of Occupation, now established in Frankfurt/Main under its executive director, Dr. Hans Schlangen-Schoenningen, has expect to avoid any serious breakdown of distribution in the spring.

Potatoes. Potatoes are the most elusive of all products. They feed pigs as well as human beings, and they have a way of vanishing into thin air if they are left in storage. The potato harvest, although less than was hoped in the early summer, was enough to give everybody a reasonable supply: but as I have said, potatoes are elusive things.

Meat. There would be no difficulty in providing a meat ration of 800 grams per period throughout the winter, if some way could be found of making German farmers give up their livestock, particularly pigs. I have said before, and now say again that the German pig is keeping the German people thin.

Fish. I hope it will be possible to maintain the present fish ration, though that will mean considerable imports. It is perhaps not generally realized that since the occupation the British and US Governments have together imported 278,000 tons of fish into Germany at a cost of about $34,000,000.

Fats. Butter production has been much less than last year, because of the late spring and dry summer. The oilseed crop has suffered severely. But by a stroke of good fortune, Germany had an allocation of fats from the International Emergency Food Council this year: needless to say, the allocation was accepted, and with the aid of the resulting imports we expect that the fat ration will be maintained, though there is no chance yet of an increase.

Sugar. It should be possible to meet the sugar ration from German production. In addition to the German production, we expect to import a substantial amount of sugar from Cuba during the early part of next year.

Milk. Milk production has suffered for the same reasons as butter pro-

G. E. Hughes, chief of the Food and Agriculture Division, CCG (BB), since early 1946, spoke recently over the radio to the German people of the British Zone on the food situation, particularly as it involves the Bizonal Area. The text of his speech is reprinted here in part.

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duction. Here again we have been lucky and a large purchase of dried milk made last spring should enable the milk ration of the priority classes to be maintained . . . .

Although the vital factor, as always, is the rate at which grain imports may be expected to arrive during the first six months of next year, the British and US Zones of Germany will face the new year in better shape than at the beginning of 1947 . . . .

I indicated earlier that Germany was living on the goodwill of other nations, many of them nations that had suffered from Nazi aggression, but the extent to which this goodwill will continue will be determined by the extent to which Germans give evidence of their intention and ability to help themselves.

OTHER NATIONS cannot be expected to go short themselves in order to subsidize the German black market; they cannot be expected to make up for deficiencies in farmers’ deliveries: they cannot be expected to view with equanimity the displeasing spectacle of Land governments resisting in their own selfish interests the plans make by a Central Administration in the interests of western Germany as a whole.

Germany is going to be on trial during the next half year. Every abuse of food regulations, whether by Land governments or by individuals, is going to be world news because the world wants more to eat. I repeat that there is every reason to expect a better winter, so far as food supplies are concerned, this year than last year or the year before.

Whether these expectations are confirmed depends on the German people, who can show by self-help and self-discipline that they deserve help from the rest of the world.

Vacations With Pay

In Hesse, about 75 percent of the employers in the metal industry have signed agreements with trade unions providing for annual paid vacations of 12 days minimum as guaranteed by the Hesse Vacation Law of May 1947.

THE APPOINTMENTS of Charles M. LaFollette, former member of the US House of Representative, as director of OMG for Wuerttemberg-Baden, and of Dr. Herman B. Wells as special adviser on cultural affairs to the Military Governor were announced by OMGUS.

Mr. LaFollette, making his headquarters in Stuttgart, filled the vacancy caused by the return of Sumner Sewall, former OMGWB director, to the United States a few months ago.

During two terms, from 1943 to 1947, in Congress as Republican representative from Indiana, Mr. LaFollette was a staunch proponent of racial equality, having been author of legislation demanding equal economic and political rights for all races and creeds.

Dr. Wells, as special adviser on cultural affairs, is concerned chiefly with coordinating MG activities in education, reorientation, and cultural matters. Noted for work in organized education, he is on leave from the presidency of the School of Business Administration, University of Indiana, to assist the Military Governor.

MURRAY D. VAN WAGONER, former governor of Michigan, has assumed his new duties as director of the OMG for Bavaria, succeeding Brig. Gen. Walter J. Muller. His appointment was announced in October.

Col. Hans William Holmer, who had been serving as acting director, has been named director of the Transport Division.

Phillips Hawkins has been promoted to deputy director of the Economics Division, OMGUS. He formerly was chief of the Decartelization Branch of the division.

Lt. Col. Harry S. Messec has been named deputy director of the Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons Division, OMGUS. He had previously been executive officer of the division.

Lt. Col. Edwin P. Cushman has been named executive officer of the Office of the Director of Intelligence, OMGUS.

Richard Bronson, former I.G. Farben Control Officer for Military Governor, became acting chief of the Decartelization Branch of the Economics Division. He had been an assistant chief of the branch.

Kenneth Dayton is acting director of the Civil Administration Division, OMGUS, for the duration of the . . .

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