

CONDITIONS IN GERMANY.

South Carolina Editor Writes Interesting Letter From Central Europe.

B. Jordan, editor of the Dillon Herald, has been spending some time in France, England and Germany and has been writing some wonderfully interesting letters to his paper. The following appeared in the Herald of Thursday:

Hamburg, Germany, July 28. The American finds the cost of living in Germany very low, but to the man it is very high. This is due to the low value of the mark. Almost the same conditions exist here today as existed in the south during the period following the close of the Civil War—except that food is plentiful, everybody is talking about the mark, and "cussed" on every sidewalk in the hotel lobbies, on the trams and trains and in every public place.

Want you to bear in mind the present value of the mark. Before the war it had a stable value it was the equivalent of about 25 cents in American money. Yesterday you could buy 1000 marks with an American dollar. It is falling every day and before the exchanges closed I was told an American dollar would buy 10 million marks. People are speculating in it wildly. Well dressed men march on the streets and beg to exchange the American dollar for marks. That is their business, of course, and they manage to make commission out of the transaction. The first day I was in Hamburg I took a surface car and rode about 5 miles. I got a transfer to the elevated and rode about 10 miles, then took the subway and rode about 5 miles, making a total of something over twenty miles which practically covered the entire city. The total cost of the journey was 6,000 marks or one and one-half cents in American money. But I shall tell you more about the mark later.

Hamburg is a very interesting city, has a population of about 1,000,000, has no tall buildings like our American cities. Nearly all the buildings, including the stores and apartment houses, are practically of the same height—about five stories. It is more American than any of the other German cities and quite frequently you hear English spoken in the cafes and other public places. I attribute that to the fact that Hamburg is in close touch with the English speaking world through its large import and export trade. Long before the fall of the Kaiser Hamburg was something of an independent unit in Germany's political system. It had its own govern-

ment, practically made its own commercial laws and seemed to stand apart from the German empire. It was of course, subject to the general laws of the Empire, but the emperor seemed to be satisfied to let Hamburg run her affairs to suit herself.

Wednesday I took a stroll through the shopping district and studied Hamburg through its shop windows. You find here on display almost the same wearing apparel that you will find in the average American city. The women's hats were, so far as I could tell, of the same shapes and styles. The men's clothing, shoes and hats were built on the same general lines as those of the American. There were the same familiar cards offering goods at reduced prices, but it did seem strange to see a pair of shoes worth probably \$5 in American money marked "down" to 250,000 marks.

Although beer is a national drink you do not find bar-rooms in Germany. There are beer gardens everywhere in which you find men, women and children drinking beer, but the old-time American bar-room with its long polished counter, large mirror, polished brass railings and white-aproned bartender would be a curiosity here. Small tables at which people sit and sip beer extend out on the streets and sometimes it is necessary to walk around them in passing. The grocery stores or "delicatessens" as they are called here all carry a full supply of wines, brandies and whiskies and it is a common sight to see a customer buy a bottle of brandy and put it in a handbasket along with his groceries. It seems so funny to an American who knows how rigid the prohibition laws are in our country. When you tell a German about our prohibition laws he cannot understand it. He thinks it is preposterous that one should have to go to jail or pay a fine for transporting or manufacturing beers or whiskey.

Hamburg, like our American cities, has its amusement places. The city has its theatre district and great crowds flock there in the afternoons and night. Tuesday night we went to The Circus, the largest playhouse in Hamburg. It is something like the Hippodrome in New York. Our party of five occupied box seats, the best in the theatre, for which we paid 50,000 marks per seat or 11 cents in American money. To show you how rapidly the mark is falling, if we should go to the same theatre today (five days later) and occupy the same boxes the prices would be 80,000 marks or just 6 cents in American money! That gives you an idea of the distressing conditions under which the German is living at the present time. Printed in a prominent place on the program

was an offer from the management of the theatre to exchange tickets for oats, from 5 up to 15 pounds, according to the location of the seat. There was fine talent in the cast and the play was very interesting, although I could not understand much of the German spoken by the actors and actresses. It was very dramatic. The scene was cast in 1806, during the reign of Queen Louise, when Napoleon invaded Germany. The stage was very large and there was considerable fighting and sword duelling. Horses dragging artillery would dash up inclines representing hills and the cannon would fire with a terrific roar. The infantry would meet in hand to hand conflicts, and the bayonetting and sword play were thrilling. Soldiers would fall in great numbers and the whole scene was a faithful description of a miniature war. The flight of Queen Louise was very touching and dramatic. She escaped to a poor peasant's home where she was most cordially received. The carriage in which she made her escape was the original carriage in which the real Louise escaped. Before the war it was one of the Kaiser's most valued relics, but after his fall was sold at auction and bought in by the manager of the theatre at a nominal sum. In appearance it resembles the carriage used by Americans before the Civil War.

The whole cast was composed of talented actors and actresses but there were lapses in the play which I could not fail to notice. They were not apparent to the German spectator because I am told that the German Germans do not move along as smoothly as those in America. There are no lapses in the professional American drama. Each one knows his part so thoroughly that the whole play is carried out without a pause. For instance, at one of the most thrilling and dramatic moments in the play four horses dashed on the stage dragging a cannon. The chains came loose and the cannon turned upside down in the center of the stage, blocking the way of the other horses that were to follow. There was a long and embarrassing pause while the overturned cannon was moved out of the way. Before the curtain falls the property man begins to change the stage scenery which destroys to a certain extent the dramatic effect of the closing scene. Taken as a whole, however, it was a very thrilling and dramatic presentation of one of the most important events in the history of Germany and I enjoyed it thoroughly. The feeling that still exists between France and Germany was very apparent in the long and loud applause that followed every time something was said or done that appealed to the

patriotic German spirit. I am told that similar patriotic plays are being shown in France.

It is the invariable rule in Hamburg to close all places of business from 1 to 3:30 o'clock. This is the rest period during the day in which the people either go to their homes or to the cafes for beer and lunch. You cannot even get a shave during these hours. And by the way, I will tell you something about the German barbershop. There are not many barbershops. You do not find them in hotels. They are small shops of from one to three chairs and haircutting instead of shaving is their specialty. Most Germans shave themselves. They do not use the heavy plush chairs but small cane chairs and when you get in position for a shave your head rests at an angle of about 20 degrees or is almost straight up. Hot water and towels are not used much. When I got my first shave the barber began to dress my face without using a towel and when I called for one he seemed surprised. Those I have found however, know how to use the razor well and I have had some very good shaves.

Tobacco is very high and for that reason many people smoke cigarettes instead of cigars. Quite frequently you see the long stem German pipe. Cigarettes are sold in broken packages of from one up. It is astonishing to see a single cigarette priced at 4,000 marks, but in America the price is almost negligible. Cigars are priced at from 10,000 to 50,000 marks. On many of the cigarette boxes you see the advertisement "Virginia Tobacco," but there is very little Virginia tobacco in either the cigars or cigarettes. I fancy that the most of the so-called Virginia tobacco in the cigarettes comes from the bright leaf belt of the Pee Dee section.

Coffee is also very high—in fact so high that most families use chocolate and cocoa. On the cards in the windows green coffee is priced at 118,000 marks per pound, black coffee at 200,000 marks per pound and tea at 60,000 marks per pound. This of course does not amount to much in American money, but in Germany it is so high that it is almost a luxury and if you call for it in the cafes the waiters open their eyes in astonishment and there seems to be considerable of a flurry in the whole establishment while the "delicacy" is being prepared.

Rooms and apartments in Hamburg are very scarce. Rents and taxes are so high that among the poorer classes from 8 to 10 people live in one room. How they manage it I am unable to tell. Such conditions are bound to have a demoralizing effect on the social life of a country. There are many refugees from the Ruhr district—people so I am told, driven out of their homes by the French. I shall not pass an opinion on this until I get into the Ruhr district and study the situation for myself. Any opinion I would get of the Ruhr either in France or Germany would be partisan. If you knew conditions here as I have been able to observe them for the past few days you would agree with me. Following the German characteristic for efficiency and details in everything, invalids are given the preference in comfortable homes. So profound is the German patriotism that refugees from the Ruhr are also given the preference in the allotment of living quarters.

Before the war people who possessed 100,000 marks or its equivalent in property were considered very wealthy. They had an income that would provide for them during the remainder of their days. Now the condition of these old people, who had toiled and slaved and economized to lay-by something for a rainy day is distressing. A hundred thousand marks are worth about 15 cents in American money. Before the war they returned about \$1,200 a year interest at five per cent. These people are too old to work and in many cases their relatives are too poor to take care of them. They have become objects of charity and are fed at soup kitchens provided by the government or given a meal ticket which entitles them to so much food per week. Many of these people represent what is known as the better classes. They are intelligent, cultured and refined and their fall to such a low estate is one of the most distressing and harrowing aftermaths of the war.

I have gathered considerable data on Hamburg and shall write more about it upon my return to America. My next article will be written from Berlin.

Mr. Johnson has here two brothers and two sisters. They have received me with open arms and are making my stay in Hamburg one of the pleasantest experiences of my life. They cannot do enough for me. "Gas" of course, is at home and is enjoying it immensely. One of Mr. Johnson's brothers speaks English well and I can talk a little English with the other members of the family. He has a charming nephew just 20, a student at the University, who speaks English fluently, and whom I have enjoyed very much. A. B. Jordan.

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Buried Treasure Found.
Hagerstown, Md., Aug. 26.—With the assertion today of Lee House, a 28-year old farmer living near here, that the box he dug up last week on the Brownsville-Weaverton road contained between \$100,000 and \$110,000 in bills, besides approximately \$10,000 in gold coin, speculation grew today as to whether the money is that buried by Grover C. Bergdoll, draft dodger, before his flight to Germany. Complicating the situation, was the assertion of C. S. Wheeler, a farmer, that he would lay claim to the fortune. Wheeler said his ten-year old son, Howard, is entitled to the money since he was the first to find it. Wheeler said his son was seated on a bank beside the road when Houser's pick exposed the box containing the money. Wheeler says Houser tore the box from the boy's hands and made off with it.

Pitcher Breaks Arm.
Leand Brown, pitcher of the Epworth Orphanage baseball team, broke his arm Saturday afternoon while pitching for his team against Lugoff, the game being called at the end of the ninth inning, on account of darkness with neither side having scored. Brown had been pitching a fine game. In the fourth inning, the accident happened. He was in the act of throwing an outcurve when his arm cracked. He was given immediate attention by Dr. Sanders, who was at the game, and was taken to the Doctor's home. The game was one of the best of the season. Perkins, who relieved Brown, continued the work of pitching in superb form. The Lugoff pitcher was also in first class shape.—Sunday's Columbia Record.

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34 x 4 Cord	21.80	2.75	
33 x 4 1/2 Cord	27.80	3.50	
34 x 4 1/2 Cord	28.90	3.65	
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