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Private

September 2, 1919

My dear Sir William Osler

I have been so deeply impressed by the accounts which have been received of the mortality and suffering among the children of Germany due to their totally inadequate milk supply that I view with dismay the prospect of the immediate cession by Germany, in accordance with a provision contained in the Peace Treaty, of a number of their cows and goats. In this connection it has been suggested to me that something might be gained by laying before the Reparation Committee in Paris the enclosed memorial on the subject.

As the prospect of its success must obviously depend upon the position and influence of the signatories I most earnestly hope that you may be willing to sign it.

Yours very truly,

Robert Cecil

Sir William Osler, Bart.

The following have been asked to sign the Memorial:-

Duke of Northumberland,
Marquess of Crewe,
Marquess of Lansdowne,
Earl Beauchamp,
Earl of Cavan,
Earl of Selborne,
Viscount Morley,
Lord Burnham,
Lord Inchcape,
Lord Leverhulme,
The Archbishop of York,
Bishop of Winchester,
Cardinal Bourne,
The Chief Rabbi
Dr. John Clifford,
Sir Thomas Barlow,
Sir Hugh Bell,
Sir A. A. Booth,
Sir J. Crichton-Browne,
Sir Donald Maclean,
Sir William Osler,
Sir George Newman,
Sir Alfred Pearce Gould,
Rt. Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett,
Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes,
Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson,
J. L. Garvin, Esq,

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF RESULTS OF MILKFAMINE IN EUROPE.Dr. Starling's Report (White Paper CMD. 230.)

.....Before the war Berlin received about 1,350,000 litres of milk per day; it now receives about 225,000 litres per day, a quantity insufficient to maintain the milk rations.

Reports of British Officers: (White Papers, published in April and in June.

"The conditions as regards the milk supply are steadily growing worse."

"The sight of children (at the local infant's home) from three weeks old to three years sucking spinach soup from a bottle instead of milk was very upsetting."

Berlin Correspondent of Daily Express, May 5th.

"I have encountered dozens of children 2 years old who have never tasted milk."

Paris Correspondent of Manchester Guardian, May 15th.

.....quoting responsible Englishman just back from Berlin. "Many of the infants born in the last year have never tasted milk, either human or animal." (Rickets is as pebbles on the seashore.) "The children are in a pitiable condition."

Berlin Correspondent of Manchester Guardian, May 26th.

"In Berlin there are scores of thousands of children who have never tasted milk." (He describes the children in Berlin slums "all head and no body, thin necks and grey ghastly skins.")

Commission of Five Doctors appointed by the Medical Faculties of Sweden, Norway and Holland.

"Physical development of school children is arrested to a striking degree.....Tuberculosis increases appallingly, especially among children. It generally takes a malignant course. Rachitis also is spreading, and growing much more severe. No battling with these diseases is possible. There is no milk for the tuberculous....."

Professor Gadellius, (the Swedish Commissioner) reports in Stockholm's "Dagblad", April 22nd., that one of the most distressing things to be seen was the ravages of tuberculosis among children in the hospitals. The only antidote is milk, which is unavailable, The

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disease is assuming almost unprecedented aspects.....The whole body is attacked simultaneously and the illness in this form is practically incurable. The same applies to rachitis, the cure for which, cod liver oil, is also unobtainable. Tuberculosis is also prevalent among adults.....Milk is of course unobtainable for them also." It was evident from an inspection of the schools that the children's growth was greatly retarded, and they could almost be described as dwarfs, with sunken cheeks and weary expressions.

The same Commission, after the publication of the Peace Terms, sent a wire to President Wilson begging him to consider the serious consequences to women and children involved in the cession of milch cows. (Volkstimme, May 21st.)

 EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF MISS JANE ADDAMS

 AND DR. HAMILTON'S VISIT INTO GERMANY.

The pale people we saw in the streets, especially in the industrial quarters, were very serious and quiet, and in the railroad stations there was a conspicuous lack of all that talk and family bustle which one associates with German travels. Even the children were quieter. For them, the war had evidently been translated into a lack of milk and butter and chocolate. The editor of a large city newspaper told us that he had been able the night before to take home a bottle of milk and that his little girl, who met him at the door, shouted joyously to her mother that peace had come. We were told by a mother that her little girl had asked if it was true that there were countries in the world where there was no war and where people could eat all they wanted to. Perhaps it is these mothers who suffered most, these intelligent women who knew perfectly well how important proper feeding was, and who yet were unable to obtain the barest necessities for their children. One such mother said it was hardest at night after the children were in bed, and one heard them crying and whimpering from hunger until they fell asleep, and even after. She added, "I do not see how the women ~~endure it~~ endure it who were obliged to be always in the same room with their children, and could offer them no diversions."

.....Everyone we saw, men, women and children, had lost weight, many of them to the point of emaciation.....The shoulder blades of the boys stand out like wings, it is really almost a deformity, their ribs and their vertebrae can be counted, and their bony

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little arms and legs look still thinner, because of the swollen joints which rachitis causes so commonly. The narrow sunken chests bode ill for the future in the society where tuberculous infection will certainly be widespread.

In the wards for tubercular children, we saw varieties of the disease which used to be regarded as medical curiosities, so extreme as to be seen only in primitive people with no racial immunity to the disease. Germany's racial immunity, if there really be such a thing, was destroyed by the blockade, and now in her hospitals one can see the most terrible forms of this infection, and not as exceptional cases, but fairly common. Not only in the Charite, where one expects to see picked cases, but in the hospitals of Halle, Leipzig and Frankfurt we saw children with enormously developed tuberculosis of the glands, with involvement of both lungs, and cavity formations, such as ordinarily occurs only in grown people. There were tiny children with tuberculosis of the breast bone, of the bones of the skull, even of the bones of the jaw with involvement of the eye-socket, and many cases of the formerly rare tuberculosis of the skin, lupus. There was added tragedy in the impotence of the physicians who while equipped with all that science in this field could provide, and so entirely capable of dealing with each case in the best possible way, could only struggle with makeshifts, and look on at their own failures because without nourishing food the fight against this disease must be a losing one. Yet, if only food could be procured these child cases of bone and gland tuberculosis could be made to improve amazingly.

Probably the increase of tuberculosis is the most serious single result of the food blockade, but there are other diseases also, which have shown a startling rise in prevalence and in severity. Among children, rickets, which was formerly almost confined to the very poor or to the inmates of private orphanages, has become widespread in every class of society. With the softening and bending of the bones and abnormal fragility, so that fractures occur almost spontaneously, after the slightest violence. If a child stumbles and falls to the floor, he may break a leg or a collar bone, even a hip; if the mother lifts the child by its arms, she may break one of the arm-bones. We saw a three year old boy in bed with his second broken leg.

In the orthopaedic wards of the Charite, 90% of all the children are rachitic, and even in detention homes and creches and orphanages rickets are common. Forty per cent of all the children in the Leipzig home for delicate children are rachitic. We saw innumerable instances of this disease of mal-nutrition coming on after the first year in children who were fairly normal till they were weaned or till they began to require more fatty and proteid food and could be given them. There were children of two, three, four and even six and seven

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years who had learned to walk, than gradually lost the ability to as much as stand alone. The orthopaedists operate on bowed legs and knock knees and obtain their usual good result, but the food that would make the straightened bones strong is lacking, and so little by little the bending returns, and the surgeon's work is all undone.

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