

They Are Hungry in Berlin

By ISRAEL AMTER

(Our European Staff Correspondent)

Berlin is hungry . . . not hungry for art, not hungry for diversion, not hungry for every kind of spicy entertainment, to arouse the nerve and stir up sexual desire . . . No, Berlin is hungry for food, for bread and butter, for a piece of wurst, for a roll smeared with margarine.

There is real hunger in Berlin . . . possibly the hunger that preceded Revolution.

It is cold in Berlin . . . and there is little coal—because of the Russian invasion. Coal is obtained from England, but at fearful price. It is good business for the British capitalists . . . and no doubt the British miners are delighted with the steady work they are now getting—scabbing on their fellow miners in the Ruhr, and the French and Belgian miners who have just gone on strike.

"Briquettes" are dear in Berlin, and every plebeian must be saved on heating. But food is dearer, so Berlin children and mothers, Berlin girls and fathers go hungry . . .

It is awful to be hungry in winter, when the cold pinches your nose and lets the wind sweep thru your body as if it were made of straw. Berlin has got used to hunger and cold . . . during the war, when there was a scarcity of everything and all the food and drink was sent to the front to help German soldiers save German capitalism. There was a slight improvement after the war, but gradually that sank.

And now, with the American dollar the standard of the world, and the German mark not worth a fraction of a penny, with speculation running riot, with the cost of living rising daily while the dollar has sunk in value, with milk so dear in Berlin that hardly one-quarter the apothecary is consumed that Berlin used before the war, with American prices for Swift's lamb sold on the streets, with unemployment increasing daily, with . . . but these are all separate chapters. There is food in Berlin. For the well-to-do—those who can reckon in dollars, there is plenty food. And so much pleasure—theatres and concerts . . . Berlin's rich and the foreigners who have dollars and pounds in their pockets have a good time—a very good time. And it costs them very little, the German mark is worth so little . . . you get 20,000 for a dollar. A week ago you received 50,000!

But the workers are not paid in dollars—they are paid in German paper money that is turned out by the Government printing presses by the billions of marks a week. German workers don't get 50,000 marks a week . . . still they must live. Not that many think it not worth the trouble . . . But the habit is strong and they hope for better days.

So they are hungry in Berlin . . . the workers are, their wives and daughters and the little children. They sell matches and chocolate. The little boys, bedraggled and pale, want to run errands for you, carry your luggage . . . do anything to earn a worthless piece of paper that won't buy even a roll.

From Cover to Cover

By MAX SHACHTMAN

As a first result of the new theories of rejuvenation by gland treatment and of the "glands regulating personality" we have Mrs. Gertrude Atherton's "Black Oxen" (Bonif and Livright).

The American wife of a deceased Austrian nobleman regains her youth and beauty by gland treatment, and after mystifying New York's High Set and the Sophisticates (Mr. Atherton's substitute for "Intelligentsia"), she reveals herself as the belle of a quarter of a century ago. But outwardly she has been altered, the European veneer of youth has remained, and, after a self-deluding love for a brilliant "columnist" asserts itself again and causes her to renounce the journalist and return to Europe with a former lover who offers to make her a power in Austria—along with himself.

The development of the struggle within Mary Zattiany between the awakened desire for youthful joy and the old desire for power, together with a suggestion of political intrigue is written with finest insight. The whole story, and it is a very good one, rushes along from scene to scene with the assurance of a writer who knows her subject thoroughly. And that assurance is well justified by the character portrayal and the exact description of the times and the American Scene in which Mrs. Atherton, together with Edith Wharton, holds a supreme place.

New Anti-Labor Sheet

NEW YORK.—A new weekly news magazine by the name Time is being extensively circulated free for three issues to a selected list of subscription prospects. The character of the circulation Time hopes to acquire is evident from its reference to William Z. Foster as a "notorious radical leader" and to President Harding's advocacy of the anti-subsidy as "seeking only the national welfare." It also repeats as a "notorious fact" the officially exposed lie that the Russian Government is spending vast sums for communist propaganda in Ireland.