

Berlin, 23 August 1922

Memorandum

As my second travel through this very unhappy Germany this year is coming to an end, I would like to share my impressions with my friends in America.

As a consequence of the extreme devaluation of the currency you cannot just talk about the impoverishment of the middle class. These unhappy people are not only extremely modest now, their pride has been broken and they have become beggars. The German welfare has suffered a lot. They cannot afford to buy the goods they used to. If nothing will change soon then you will see most of German people as poor and a very small group of very rich people. Who are they? Some wholesale merchants and industrialists, then the racketeers and a certain group of foreigners.

If France will not be stopped in its attacks on the German people, one has to be prepared for the worst. The disrespectful expulsions of Germans from Alsace-Lorraine. The poor have to leave behind their household goods and are chased across the border with the luggage they can carry and \$10 in value. Who are these persecuted people, men and women of all classes who have lived in Alsace-Lorraine for many years or a life-time?

During my travels through some of the newly formed countries like Poland, Lithuania, Lettland I found much misery and dirt. The people are suffering, and I wished the politicians would recognize what is going on and act to send help. The soldiers appear unhappy in their worn uniforms. I have been told that in some of those countries the soldiers are beaten for punishment and escape to Germany. Even the city Riga which once was the pearl along the Baltic Sea offers a very poor appearance. Everywhere you see women and children without shoes and dressed in rags. They look starved. They only have one wish: to become free of the present unbearable conditions. I also heard that people would be willing to join Russia. In Berlin and Hamburg I had an opportunity to meet with President Ebert who gave me a humble and yet goal oriented impression. He seems to be the right man during this very difficult time. His efforts in this very difficult situation are recognized in a positive way. Also his wife, Mrs. Ebert, has been welcome by the people because of her simplicity and compassion she is showing towards the people.

Before my travel to Germany I had supported to use 50% of monies raised for children's food and clothing. I am even more convinced now that we German-Americans have to pay most attention to give support to the middle class in Germany to help them rise up out of their poverty. The organization of the care packages will be a blessing with the winter coming soon. The Germans will be very appreciative. The constant devaluation of the German Mark causes an increasing shortage of food like flour, milk, butter, fat and sugar and others. The goods which are imported from other countries are of poor quality. In storage you find outdated food articles which they call dead stock. You speculate with them. All German-Americans who have relatives and acquaintances in Germany are encouraged to support the Central Relief care package mission.

Translated by Margot Hendricks