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MICHIGAN Believes in Promoting Rural Health

Rural health is a great deal more than a discussion topic to the medical doctors of Michigan—it is a vital program that has their fullest support. This is evidenced in many ways, as will be brought out at the Michigan Rural Health Conference which is to be held at Michigan State College, September 16-17. Being one of the sponsors, Michigan doctors of medicine will utilize this Conference to search out the further avenues in which they can most practically enlarge their health services in Michigan's rural areas. This concern of organized medicine; and many other health organizations, with the health improvement of all the people of the State is one of the reasons why Michigan leads the way in health progress.

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Leading the Way in Health Progress

Allied Currency Reform Gives the Germans 'Real' Money to Buy Long-Awaited Items

By Esther Van Wagener Tuffy
MUNICH, Germany—Germans are window shopping.

That's because currency reform, now in its second month, has put something in the shop windows worth pressing a nose to the glass. And has put some "real" money in German pockets to buy what's displayed if not now, then later.

"Nothing as important has hit Germany since the occupation three years ago," says a man from Woesno, Michigan, who knows more about the frustrating complexities of setting up currency conversion than anyone in Bavaria.

Russell B. Lord, assistant to Governor Murray D. Van Wagener, Land Director of Bavaria, came here with the fighting troops. From the first rugged days when General George Patton was the Military Governor he has been one of the officials trying "to do something" about the worthless Reichsmark, of which there were too many and of too little value.

Key to Recovery

This former colonel struggled with the finance middle knowing currency stabilization was an essential key to German recovery. Thus he was scorned both the

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Bubble Trouble

that 20 Marks will buy a pair of real leather shoes... and every fourth month she'll have enough ration points for a new pair. The new Deutsche Mark is worth about 30 cents in American currency. But it is worth more than money to the Germans. It is "hope of recovery."

Farmers, who had hoarded such goods as cattle, drove so many to market, officials had to stop them. One Hausfrau angrily toppled over a pushcart, suddenly laden with vegetables arranged like a floral bouquet.

Blackmarket operators marked down land from 20 marks to six. A Frankfurt woman, who had broken her glasses and had been put off weekly by her optician, was able to see again, for on June 20th she found repairs could be made while she waited.

Find a Way

One storekeeper found a way to calm down his customers, irate at the outrageous prices of the ration cards issued overnight. On his shop window, he posted his invoice of goods to prove the arrival was after, not before, the currency reform of June 20th. His shop was not boycotted by buyers full of revenge for those merchants who hid goods in anticipation that some day currency stabilization would come.

"Will currency reform in Germany work?"

A check-up the other day by officials of the Military Government resulted in an official opinion. Always conservative in predicting, these Americans "expressed confidence."

Russell Lord confidently expected the continual flow of consumer goods into wholesale and retail outlets.

Price Factors

This optimism is based on several factors:

1. Manufacturers no longer have the lure of exorbitant profits on the black market. Getting back to normal with distribution and turn-over the motto for success.
2. To get labor has ceased to be a problem.
3. In regard to credit, the OMB survey of 110 largest manufacturing firms in the Munich areas showed consumer goods firms could cover their cash obligations for the present. Some metal and machine plants (but less than half) could not. Credit is tight. The cash reserves are low. Some business must survive now by good management and hard work.
4. An actual surplus of meat exists so the most ration has been increased from 3 to 10 ounces per person a month.
5. Increases exist in milk, butter and cheese.

To make currency reform work, the complete cooperation of the Germans... in more than legislation... is necessary.

Many Germans with money frown upon such a leveling process. These Germans with many of the old Marks (which are to be valued at 10 to 1) would have preferred a reform more favorable to the old ruling class. But the occupation leaders were firm. Their objective in currency reform was to give a foundation to the German economy on which it could grow and provide the people with a fair standard of living; not to give preferential class treatment.

Faith in U.S. Integrity

The Germans are cooperating. The hatred for the "conqueror" is frequently seen in the eyes of the Germans as they go about their business to eke out an existence in the cities that we, and the British, reduced to ruins. But in contrast to their attitude to the Russians, they believe we will do what we say. Faith exists in our integrity and there's respect for the principles on which the United States operates.

It's too early to predict what changes, if any, will have to be made in the currency reform set-up. Already an additional law was passed to take care of the displaced persons who were without

the ration cards used as identification to secure the new Marks. Many, including Russell Lord, say the success of currency reform depends on manufacturers, producers, retailers and workers uniting their efforts to see that new production (of which they are capable) appears on the market in a steady flow before hoarded stocks are depleted.

Favorable Effect

It also depends on prices not going so high that wages must be increased. Of course, price controls could curb that and probably would over the howls of some German officials.

Meanwhile, the window shopping is having a favorable psychological effect.

"It's just like the photographs of shops in American magazines," said one German girl, delighted

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