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Subject: Distressed condition of many Army officers, aristocrats, and members of the former imperial court after the first World War.

A great deal has been written concerning the distress of the masses in Germany and in Austria after the first World War. The recovery of Germany and Austria from the effects of the first World War was slow, but the Governments in Austria and in Germany - in Germany the Republican government and in Austria the Socialist government - were doing their best to bring back industry and to relieve the situation of the great mass of the people. By the time that we arrived in Germany in early 1930, Germany had made great progress towards industrial recovery and while there was unemployment there were really adequate means of taking care of the unemployed and those who needed food. We found that when we arrived in Germany those who were really in distress were the large number of professional army officers who knew no other occupation and who found it very difficult to get placed in the new Germany. We knew many of them and how many of them existed was always to us a miracle. I have elsewhere referred to Goering, who really had a distinguished record in the German Air Force during the first World War. He was demobilized at the end of the war and found himself, like tens of thousands of other officers, without any means of livelihood. It was in the early 1920's that he drifted into the ranks of the Nazi Party. It was probably in the beginning for the purpose of getting food and shelter.

The position of some of the high officers of the former Imperial government was really distressing. Early in our stay we learned through Ambassador and Mrs. Sackett to know ^{him} Frau von Karnap. He had been the chamberlain to Emperor Wilhelm for a number of years and as such had had charge of the administration of the Imperial properties throughout Germany. His position was one of the highest at the court. The Sacketts frequently had Frau von Karnap for dinner; we found her a charming lady. We began to ask her to our house for certain dinners. She always came and excused

her husband saying that he was not very well. They lived, I understood, in a single room. Although she was well on in years she was lively and vivacious and interesting. Although she enjoyed no real rank wherever she was invited she was given the first place no matter who else was present. At our home, therefore, she usually sat on my right. After seating ourselves she would bring up to her lap a large black leather bag that she carried. She would open it and take out carefully folded pieces of tissue paper; beginning with the fish course she would take a liberal helping and then whisper to me that she was sure I didn't mind if she took a little something home to her husband. Through the courses, whatever she could conveniently wrap up in tissue paper, she would carefully place in this paper and put in the bag. She did this quite naturally and without any embarrassment and at the end of the dinner would say that she was sure that her husband would enjoy the dinner when she got home. She was a great lady. I never heard her express one word of complaint or recrimination with regard to **lost** splendors and lost position.

How so many of these people lived in Berlin always remained a mystery to us and to our friends. There were too many to try to do anything - that is, for some of us living there trying to do anything. The Quakers in the United States were doing the best within their power through a relief organization which they had to provide at least a meal a day for some of these people who could not go out and beg and who could find no way of making a livelihood.

I recall one evening in the early 1930's I was asked to go to the **Buccaneers'** Club to make an after supper talk. The membership of the **Buccaneers** Club was largely made up of Americans and Englishmen who had been in Germany for some time with the Reparations Commission and with other agencies, including the control bodies of the allies. There

were quite a number of German members as well and some of the leading bankers and industrialists had been invited to become members of the Club. The quarters of the Club at the time that I was asked to make this after dinner talk were in a building behind the Hotel Adlon. As the street on which the Club was located was a very narrow one, I asked my chauffeur to wait for me in front of the Hotel Adlon as it was only a block or two from the Club. After I'd made my talk and was ready to leave the Club several of the members who were responsible for my being there asked if I had my car and I told them it was waiting for me in front of the Adlon. They insisted on accompanying me to the car; I asked them to please not bother as it was only a block or two. They insisted on accompanying me. We had hardly left the building when we were accosted by a number of young women and we had really a good deal of difficulty in making our way the block and a half to my car in front of the Adlon. As the Adlon was one of the principal hotels in the city frequented by foreigners at certain hours of the evening it was full of these young women. To me they did not look like women of the street; they looked like women whom one would meet in a nice home. They looked like women of education and breeding. I was told by those who were accompanying me to the car that the Berlin police reserved this particular beat around the Hotel Adlon for some of these young women, daughters of aristocratic families, who supported themselves and their families in this way.

Later, when we were to go to Vienna in the middle of 1934, we found this same situation but even in a somewhat more exaggerated form. The Socialistic government would do nothing for these ex-army officers or for aristocrats without means. Early in our stay my wife was asked to join the other ladies of the diplomatic corps in Vienna in helping with what was called the Elizabeth Tisch. Every day these ladies served

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a luncheon, which was really a big meal, to ex-army officers, their wives, and to members of aristocratic families who had no other recourse except to come for food to the Elizabeth Tisch. A nominal charge of a few cents was made for the meal and the ladies of the diplomatic corps took turns waiting on the table themselves. This naturally covered only a small part of the need. The Quaker Relief Organization, with its headquarters in Philadelphia, was active in Vienna as it was in Berlin, and it had a number of these tables throughout the city where it served this noon day meal. The head of the Quaker organization in Vienna was a Miss Cadbury of Philadelphia. She was an extremely intelligent fine little woman. She came of good family and, I think, of people of substance in Philadelphia. The dear lady not only directed the work of the Quaker Relief Organization in Vienna but did a great deal of work herself. Her fingers I noticed were knarled and her nails broken. She was really an uncanonized saint, and whatever we could do in Vienna to help her we did.

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