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U.S. Military Government Gives Provisional Approval

By EDWIN SHANKE

BERLIN, Oct. 24 — (AP) — The American military government gave conditional approval today to a proposed constitution for Württemberg-Baden which seeks to bar the ascendancy of another Hitler, outlaw war and make possible wide socialization of public utilities and basic industries.

The constitution is similar to charters written for Bavaria and Hesse, the other two states in the United States zone. Similar approval is anticipated for them.

Patterned to fit into a future united Germany, the constitutions give a strong impulse to the development of local self-government, setting up legislative, executive and judicial bodies.

The constitutions will be submitted to the people in a referendum in Württemberg-Baden Nov. 24, in Bavaria Dec. 1 and in Hesse Dec. 8.

The three constitutions make possible a socialization program similar to that undertaken by the British Labor Government. The Hesse charter declares that as soon as it goes into effect mines,

iron, steel and power industries, railways, telegraphs and telephones "shall be transferred to community property." Compensation is provided for private owners.

The Bavarian draft says that "property carries obligations to the community" and therefore ownership of mineral resources, sources of power, railroads and other transportation facilities serving the public, water, gas and electric works "belong as a rule to public law corporations or co-operatives."

Large banks and insurance companies would be placed under state administration or supervision.

Cartels are prohibited in all three documents. The Bavarian constitution says that Bavaria will "join a future German democratic federal state which should rest on a voluntary union of the individual German states," while the other two charters declare that the state they govern are a part of the German republic.

Each constitution includes provisions protecting the denazification programs.

A Farmer Looks At Factories

MONTREAL, Oct. 30 — Unless a reconciliation is effected between farm and factory prices, tens of thousands of our farms may be liquidated, according to Mr. John Atkins of Bracebridge, Ontario, who spoke at the 23rd annual meeting of the Canadian Woolen and Knit Goods Manufacturers Association here today. In an address entitled "A Farmer Looks at Factories" Mr. Atkins pointed to the increasing divergence between the return a farmer receives and the wages paid at the present time to factory workers. The only way equity could be restored, he said, was by unprecedented production in industry which would lower costs and prices. Failing this he believed that Canada would have to undergo "the surgery of depression."

Many city people lacked understanding of the farmer's life, problems and work the speaker felt. With greater understanding he believed there would be greater willingness to bring about adjustments giving the farmer a return in line with his investment and labour.

He outlined the long hours of hard work on a farm—starting with chores at 5:30 a.m.—and pictured a tired farm family reading in their evening newspapers of the high pay and shorter hours demanded by factory workers.

Farm people, declared Mr. Atkins, were more concerned than resentful; more anxious to find a practicable way out than to indulge in bitter comparisons. They wanted a fair deal, not one weighted unduly in their favour, but one which would restore equity in the exchange of farm and factory labour. "We farm people," the speaker said, "want from you an assured and adequate supply of garments and comforts which are essential to our work and well-being. We want them at prices consistent with our own earnings from our products which must be sold on both domestic and world markets. The reconciliation of our prices with yours, at levels which will maintain the maximum exchange of labour between us, involves all the considerations of national and international policy."

In the end the speaker pointed out, unbalanced prices would work to the disadvantage of all. The farmer he said was compelled to conform closely to the principles underlying economic health and national well-being whereas industrial workers could depart temporarily from such principles. "But we all suffer when you stray into error," he emphasized.

According to Mr. Atkins the basic problem was that on one hand there was the farmer receiving not more than 33 cents an hour for a 60-hour week, while on the other the industrial worker was receiving twice as much per hour and working only forty or forty-four hours a week. He claimed that as a result of this situation Canadian agriculture was facing a period of downward adjustment while Canadian industry, with costs mounting and production dropping, had to get more for its products. The inevitable outcome, unless equity was restored, would be inflation followed by a cataclysmic slump, Mr. Atkins declared.

He felt that factories should have pegged their wages and prices at the end of the war and that increased costs should have been met by greater production on the basis of the 48-hour week without increases in weekly pay. He condemned the fiction that a short work week would contribute to greater prosperity by spreading employment.

"Few Canadians realize," he said, "that a reduction in the work week from 48 to 40 hours means a loss of more than two months in production in industries and businesses which are on one-shift operation. The hard working, thrifty people of Canada, who work long hours, have been compelled to surrender their rights and an increasing part of their earnings to relatively high-paid, short-hour people who have forced uneconomic costs and prices upon everyone in the pretence, and sometimes in the belief, that they were sharing employment."

When a farmer looked at the factories, he concluded, he looked to them for the manufactured goods he needed produced by people who were willing to exchange their labour with him on a basis which would lower his costs and increase their own real wages.

Co-Operatives Are Now Big Business

Co-operative business organizations in Canada are definitely in a substantial business category. In 1946 total business of such organizations, the overwhelming percentage of which are farmers' co-operatives, amounted to \$685,000,000 an increase of 210 per cent compared with the aggregate volume of business done ten years earlier, or in 1936.

A report entitled "Co-operation in Canada 1945" just issued by the Economics Division, Marketing Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, prepared by Dr. A. E. Richards and Lucienne Lalonde, gives some interesting figures and information on the subject. There were at the end of the year under review 739,004 shareholders or members, more than double the number in 1936. Of the total business of \$685,000,000 done in 1945, \$500,451,627 was in sale of farm products. Assets of all the co-operative business organizations in Canada on July 31, or end of crop year 1944-45 amounted to \$172,555,800 or more than twice the value in 1936. Working capital advanced from \$15,797,223 in 1936 to \$40,163,231 in 1945.

The report states that it is estimated that marketing co-operatives in the Dominion handled approximately 28 per cent of the main farm products entering channels of trade in 1944-45. Of the total dairy products marketed, co-operatives handled 17 per cent; livestock 17 per cent; eggs and poultry 12 per cent; wool 47 per cent; fruits and vegetables 27 per cent; honey 21 per cent; maple products, 36 per cent; tobacco 89 per cent and grains and seeds 46 per cent. The value of farm products marketed in 1945 was 40 million dollars more than in 1944.

But the business of co-operative business organizations in Canada is not limited to the sale of farm products. They sell a variety of supplies and merchandise to their members and patrons. In 1944-45 these sales amounted to \$81,300,885 an increase of 13 million dollars over the previous year. The organizations also do a considerable mutual fire insurance business. There are 409 such companies with a net insurance risk of \$1,438,200,000 with net assets of about \$16,000,000. Net losses paid in 1944 totalled about \$3,000,000.

Saskatchewan leads among the provinces in the number of shareholders or members in co-operatives and in the value of business with 237,842 and \$191,164,206 respectively in 1944-45. Alberta is in second place with 149,152 members and a total business for the year of \$99,080,370. Ontario is third in volume of business with 377,507,707 and is fifth place in number of members (37,715) being exceeded by Manitoba with 118,043 members and Quebec with 61,713.

The report also discloses that there are 2,375 co-operative telephone systems in operation in Canada with 49 investment centres of \$22 million and 110,388 connected telephones at the end of the year 1944. In addition, co-operatives provide services, such as housing, lodging and boarding facilities, transportation, medical and hospital care, and funeral services.



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