

TIME

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Foreign News

"Emaciated, Despairing"



ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE

"Hunger is the firebrand of revolution."

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin arrived in the U. S. fresh from a European tour, in which he investigated conditions on that continent. The Senator was principally impressed by what he had seen in Germany:

"The Germans have been underfed for seven years. They are suffering for want of food, fuel and clothing. Young children and old people are dying daily from hunger and disease induced by hunger.

"Emaciated, despairing, they are waiting the end.

"The situation is desperate in the large cities, where food riots are common.

"The crisis which is at hand involves possibilities too awful to contemplate. It menaces more than Germany.

"Hunger is the firebrand of revolution. There is no time for protracted debate.

"Delay means the possible overthrow of Governments, dissolution, chaos, civil war and hell let loose in Europe.



“No part of a great, industrious people should be allowed to perish when help is available . . . The need of Germany is no less elemental and no less urgent than if caused by famine or earthquake . . . The American people should not wait on Government. I appeal to them to organize for action at once. Every American citizen who believes in the fundamental principles of democracy—government by the people—is deeply interested in saving the German Republic. . . .

“What I have seen in Europe makes me more determined than ever to devote whatever powers I possess to bringing our Government back to the people and to spend the balance of my life in combatting with renewed energy the forces that are tending to undermine and destroy in the United States the American tradition of government by the people.”

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