

FLASHES

The ^{train} railway from Vienna to Paris is ^{running} ~~open~~ again after six years of war. Through the Alps the railway climbs to nearly five thousand feet, passing through the six-mile long Arlberg tunnel. Hereabouts the route winds its way through some of the finest scenery in Europe. Passengers on the first train to make the trip under peace-time conditions found the cooking in the restaurant car almost up to peace-time standard. It's a symptom of returning sanity that some of the famous continental trains are running again.

However, the return to normal is a slow business. Barter has been resorted to in Munich as the only solution to the breakdown of normal trade. In return for every article traded in a ticket is received stating its pre-war value. The ticket can be exchanged for goods any time the holder desires. ~~Toys of course are much in demand at the moment.~~ The Germans seem to have plenty of goods. We have money, coupons, and practically nothing to buy. But then, we won the war.

The famous Hagenbeck Zoo near Hamburg is again open to the public. Through ^{wartime} food shortage the Zoo lost 22 lions ~~and~~ 200 monkeys and fifteen bears, but the animal family is still pretty large.

British tommies were much amused to see the Hagenbeck elephants clearing up bomb damage, central heating included. It's very nice for them ~~to see~~ to see other people doing ~~the~~ ^{the} fatigues. The elephant has strength but fortunately no malice; otherwise he might say to the soldiers, Thee knocked it down, thee pick it up.

Munich Barter Centre

In Munich one of the largest barter-centres of Germany is opened. It is a kind of a store in which you can buy nearly everything if you turn in goods of equal exchange value.

Every object is assessed at prewar price. You get a receipt in Reichsmark for which you will later get the goods you want.

Business in the clothing department is very brisk ... particularly in the shoe department. In three months 80.000 pairs of boots were bartered.

Often the choice is difficult ... some are most concerned with the quality, others are more interested in smart appearance.

Many a wish is granted here, many a need met ruling out fraud and Black Market - until one day normal trade will again supplant the barter-centre.

yes