

to inflate its currency a bit, because he says they should keep inflating like the rest of the world is so that we will be more on an even basis! But one thing you can't persuade the Germans to do today is to inflate. They remember what inflation leads to. Many a person in Germany who perhaps owned a large apartment building from which he received rents and on which in his old age he was living, found that the inflation got so bad that it would take a month's rent to buy a meal! The only thing he could do was to sell his building to anybody who would buy it. That would have to be a foreigner, because no German had the money to buy it unless he had friends in other countries. So he would sell his apartment building and get enough money to live for a month; then he would have to start begging. There were men out in a part when I was there selling little souvenirs to get enough to get along, who had at one time owned large apartment buildings.

In 1947 the amount of money that would have amounted to a billion dollars before the war was only enough to buy a meal, so rapidly did inflation go in its latter period. One man told me at the end of the war -- he lived in the country, he said it == there was absolutely no food. He said for six weeks they had nothing to eat except turnips. Then, he said, an American Red Cross truck came through the country distributing cans of lard. He said, I never tasted ice cream that tasted half as good as that lard tasted, because he'd had nothing to eat but turnips for six weeks. But he said, 'Our stomachs were all shriveled up and we became ~~six~~ sick when we began eating that lard. When I was there in 1927 things had come back to a pretty normal condition. They had reached the highest point they had reached at all between 1914 and 1970 (? == you said 1950 I think before). Things were much better, but they still had that heavy reparations to pay and still were in a condition where that country was as many people them