



CHAMPION DEERING MC CORMICK MILWAUKEE OSBORNE PLANO

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY

GESELLSCHAFT M. B. H.



SCHUTZMARKE.

ERNTEMASCHINEN, ACKERGERÄTE, MOTOREN, MOTORPFLÜGE, BINDEGARN.

SCHUTZMARKE.

F. F. A. GOTTWALD, DIREKTOR.

BANK-KONTO:
WIENER BANKVEREIN,
WIEN II.

ÖSTERR. POSTSPARKASSEN-KONTO
NO. 182.641.

TELEGRAMM-ADRESSE:
INTERVINA-WIEN
TELEPHON NO. 44.534.

FFAG/B.

WIEN, II/1. October 11th, 1921.

~~KRONPRINZ RUDOLFSTRASSE 36.~~

Lassallesstrasse 36.
(frühere Kronprinz Rudolfstrasse)

Mr. JOHN DIERKING,
c/o INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF AMERICA,
Collection Department,
4450 Olive Street,
ST. LOUIS, Missouri, U.S.A.

My dear friend:-

I received last week your letter of September 14th, mailed from CENTRALIA, Ill., and was delighted to hear again from you, and also thank you for the photo you enclosed and judging from same, you certainly must be in the best of health.

We often thought of you and talked of you, and wondered what had become of you, as we read here daily about the bad economical times through which the U.S.A. are going through at present, and I was glad to read that it has not affected you yet, and I hope it never will. There is plenty of work here, but with all this rainbow paper money printing all is so unreal and it just does for buying what is absolutely needed for keeping up. As you know, we have had some terrible years here in Vienna from 1916 till beginning of 1920, until the good American relief came, and now when we had thought we would be over the worst, famine seems to be again menacing. Prices are climbing up to heights unknown before; potatoes have risen to 43 Kronen a kilo, meat 200-410 Kronen a kilo, coffee 640-760 K a kilo, flour not on tickets 160 K a kilo, sugar 266 K a kilo, butter 850 K a kilo, lard 1000 K a kilo, condensed milk 200 K a tin; fresh milk we have not seen since 1915, and it will be years yet before this town has any fresh milk; they had made a good start here with raising cattle, but with the drought which we had since months, there is no second grass crop, so that the young cattle must be slaughtered; eggs 17 K a piece, plums 100 K a kilo, a tram ticket 15 K, postage for a foreign letter 10 K, a glass of Munich beer 90 K, of Pilsner 95 K. It is simply unbelievable, and you may be glad to be out of it, as the ordinary working man in the States lives 100 times better than the ordinary citizen in this country. Only the joining to Germany can save this country, in order to be in a great economical territory, as alone Austria, whose territory is mostly mountainous and unproductive, can never exist. We are dying of the bad money, and the others of the good money, and the people who made these robbery treaties are the guilty ones.



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Mr. John Dierking, St. Louis.

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As regards business, we received a small number of machines from Neuss, also 30 "M" type Engines from Chicago, and are thus able to keep up this branch house.

Mr. Sawall, as you will know, has left Budapest, succeeding Mr. Dally at Hamburg, who had been transferred to Bucarest. I heard from Hertz a few months ago that they had done very well at Neuss, and also Pleiss wrote me that in Berlin they almost had a record year.

Of the losses of the I.H.C. people who died recently, you no doubt will have heard:- Mrs. Schmitz died, Ahring at Koenigsberg, Jungblut at Hamburg also joined the great majority, and from a letter lately received, old Mr. Hense died in the States. The Central Division seems to be particularly hit, and I think it is in connection with the consequences of the terrible years through which we went here in Central Europe during the war.

We spent in August our holiday in Karlsbad, where I met Mr. Schmied from Laun, whom you will no doubt remember, and he told me that the gall stones he had, were caused by the sale of the McCormick machines; so I told him, how many must I have, when I had to sell them to him. Old Prchlik is also dead, Leibmann, Schuldes - one by one they went.

Mr. Cooney passed through here a few weeks ago and left Hamburg for good a fortnight ago and sailed on the 5th on the "New Amsterdam" for U.S.A., going to Springfield, Ill., where they intend to settle. It was a very hard parting for me, as I always revered Mr. Cooney, and I cannot understand that in these times the Company let him go, when the reconstruction business needs people who are thoroughly acquainted with the situation. The Cooney family will probably be in New York coming Sunday, and land in Springfield on the 19th, so you may have a good chat with Mr. Cooney before so very long.

Of our old staff here, Sturm, Kaltenecker, Tomasek, old Lohse, Simon are still with us, Stefek is at Warsaw, and Rausch has become a Bürstenbinder, as he had to take over such a business from his uncle. As regards Ungar, we have lost sight of him altogether.

As you seem to be interested in our papers here, I shall send you occasionally the Neue Freie Presse and Berliner Tageblatt, and in case you have some American papers to spare, I shall be very pleased to receive them.



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Last month we had here the first Vienna Fair, which was a great success, and as show rooms and show grounds the Hofburg, the Royal Stables, and the Rotunde were used. The town was full of people, and also now it is still crowded with Balkan buyers.

The harvest in Austria was pretty good this year, and we have an incomparable summer and autumn, as practically since five months we have as beautiful weather as I can ever remember. At this time of the year it is a great help, as it helps the coal situation, for the coal calamity is a daily source of trouble and often affects the whole train circulation. In everything we are living here from hand to mouth, and there seems to be no hope for improvement. When the war was over, we thought the worst was behind us, but instead of getting better, it is getting worse every day, and as soon as the other countries will open up again, a great emigration must set in, as the war was not only a downfall of the Central States, but of all Europe.

Antelmann is looking after the Czecho-Slovakian business, and Mr. Gellner in Budapest after the present Hungary and Jugoslavia, and the three places are under my temporary charge. I expect Mr. Eirich, who succeeded Mr. Cooney, and Mr. Hutmacher here next week, and Mr. Hutmacher will no doubt be glad to hear that I had some news from you. Also he may retire next year, so that of the old people there will be very few left.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, with kindest regards to you both, in which Mrs. Gottwald joins me,

Yours very sincerely,

F. F. A. Gottwald