

RUSSIAN BEARSKIN TO BE GERMAN'S PAY

Inhabitants of Conquered Slav Territory to Become Slaves of Prussian Militarism.

BALTIC PROVINCES SPOILS

Courland, Livonia and Estonia, Occupied by German Invaders, Possess Great Estates Whose Owners Are Mostly Germans.

BY JAMES W. GERARD, American Ambassador at the German Imperial Court, Berlin, to February 1, 1917. Copyright, 1917, by Public Ledger Company.

ARTICLE XXXIII. Secretly or openly, Germany will propose to the world to take her pay from the skin of the Bear, from the conquered territories of Russia which remain in her possession. The inhabitants of those territories would have to become the slaves of Prussia, as did the inhabitants of Belgium and Northern France. Prussians of Russia paid the agitators to talk about peace without indemnities. Germany, since the first days of the war, has been taking indemnities not only in money, but in property and in labor from the conquered countries. Belgium alone has been compelled to furnish a tribute of 4,000,000 francs a month (late 1917, 999,999) to her conquerors, and vast sums have been exacted from Lille and other conquered cities. Property, including machinery, has been seized and transported to Germany in an effort not only to obtain a temporary advantage, but to destroy forever factories that compete with German manufacturers.

Especially do the German autocrats hope to obtain the so-called Baltic provinces as a territory of war. Courland, Livonia and Estonia, now largely occupied by the German invaders, Courland and Livonia were originally possessions of the Teutonic Knights, then became a part of Poland and finally passed to Russia.

The three provinces were governed semi-independently until 1812, when they became in all respects an integral part of the Russian empire. The land in the provinces is held by great land owners, mostly of German blood, and the mass of the population belongs to the Lutheran Church. The peasants have been kept down by the lords of the soil, whose sympathies turn to Germany.

In 1913-1914 I met in Berlin several landlords from these provinces who acted in Berlin and were treated in Berlin like Germans, although subjects of the Russian Czar. No backward were these provinces in liberty under their German landlord that it was not until 1918 that the infamous "right of the lord (droit du Seigneur or jus primas nocte) was abolished.

Tannenberg as a Russian Heritage. What Tannenberg has to say about Courland, Livonia and Estonia is well worth studying. He writes: "The most precious portions for us of the Russian heritage are the German Baltic provinces, Courland, Livonia and Estonia. To the north in Estonia and in the northern part of Livonia live the Estonians. To the south, the Lithuanians and the Lithuanian branch, Esthonians and Livonians are Lithuanians and form the principal part of the population. There are 250,000 Germans in the Baltic provinces. The Baltic provinces are a civilization in German and gives to the whole country a German stamp. In the rural districts the great landlords, the ministers of the crown and the schoolmasters are German. In the cities the middle classes are German. But the workmen are Estonians or Livonians. The Russian are only represented in the large cities by officials.

"It was in the middle of the 12th century that the first German settlements were made in the provinces of Courland and Livonia. In 1291 Riga was founded, and in 1282 the Order of the Knights of the Sword. In 1257 this order was united with the powerful order of the Teutonic Knights. There was no thought then of the Moscovites. From Martenberg to Riga it is 500 kilometers, from

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Koenigsberg to Riga 250, to Moscow 350. Moscow was then going through a very difficult period. In 1225 the battle of the Kalch took place which put an end to the power of the great Russian princes.

German Influence Extends. Tannenberg describes how these provinces finally became part of Russia, and adds: "Courland, Livonia and Estonia became the model provinces of the whole empire. The German nobility furnished Russia with its generals and its high officials; the University of Dorpat was founded and was the model of the high schools created later in Russia. The University of Dorpat exchanged its professors with the other German high schools of the Russian Empire. The students of the Baltic provinces passed several terms in the German universities of the south and east of Germany and then returned to Dorpat to undergo their examinations to enter in the service of the Baltic or Russian state.

"One encounters constantly in our literature allusions to the Baltic provinces. Kant, the philosopher of pure reason, published his work at Riga. In the time of Goethe students from Courland and Livonia visited the great Weimar. Goethe himself commented at Riga his theatrical and musical career."

Tannenberg speaks of the revolution after the defeat by the Japanese, of the Russian troops in these provinces when the castles of the German barons were besieged by the people and says: "The cry of indignation resounded through all Germany. A military German intervention was generally expected. Against all expectation nothing of the kind happened."

"When the Russian Government finally got control the Russian troops treated the rebels mildly, and it was finally the Russian Government that ordered 6,000 German bayonets that hastened matters so well that, superficially at least, order was re-established."

Lands for New German Peasants. Speaking of the acquisition of these provinces to Germany he says: "There is no money to be seized in the East, but there is something which is of more value than cash, and that is lands, lands of colonization for new German peasants." And he points out that the Baltic provinces are about the same as Bavaria and Wurttemberg, but in Bavaria and Wurttemberg there are eight and a half millions of inhabitants, while the Baltic provinces support a little more than two millions.

"The Baltic provinces have always occupied an important place in the thought and sentiments of the German people. The public as a whole does not inquire if it is true that only 15 per cent of the population is German. For the public they are simply the German provinces of the Baltic, and the German people are right, because since seven hundred years the proprietors of the land there are Germans and the civilization has always been German."

Should Germany be allowed to seize these provinces, to increase her population and man-power enormously, a second great war like this one will not be far off, and Russia, deprived of what Peter the Great called "His Window on the Baltic," will lose her place as a European power.

Troops Will Be Retained. The Germans will endeavor, during any peace negotiations, to keep their troops there in the hope that they will be permitted to occupy these provinces or that, if a vote should be taken to determine to which country the inhabitants wish to be annexed, the latter will be carried through the German landlords and by the use of money and terror made to appear as desirous of annexation to Germany.

Princes, however, who had been in this section during the war, told me once how easy it was to observe that the more prosperous sections of the population were German and how anxious these people were to become German. In this case I think he was right. It is certain that the great landlords of the Baltic provinces believe that as Prussian Junkers they would have a greater chance to continue to oppress the masses than as Russian citizens, especially citizens of a new Russian republic.

The allies must guard against any move which can add to the man-power of the Central Powers, and this reason alone is sufficient reason never to permit the Arabs and Syrians who are being so oppressed by the Turks to suffer again under the rule of the Young Turks.

The world must not be disturbed by Prussian dreams of world conquest, nor must Jerusalem and the Holy Land, toward which the eyes of all Christians are turned, be disturbed by voluntarily given back to the Turks.

Holy War for Hamburg Merchants. To allow the Germans access to Bagdad is a terrific economic disaster to the Kaiser to don the turban and proclaim a holy war in the interest of the fat merchants of Hamburg and Frankfurt.

If this world-wide war, when ally diplomats sat at a green table, exchanging territories and peoples like poker chips, we might consent to the artificial destruction of Russia as most natural. But this war is between two systems, and wars either will be continued or cease hereafter. The German system, however, the war cannot permit Germany to add to her man-power any part of the rapidly multiplying population of that territory which we now call Russia.

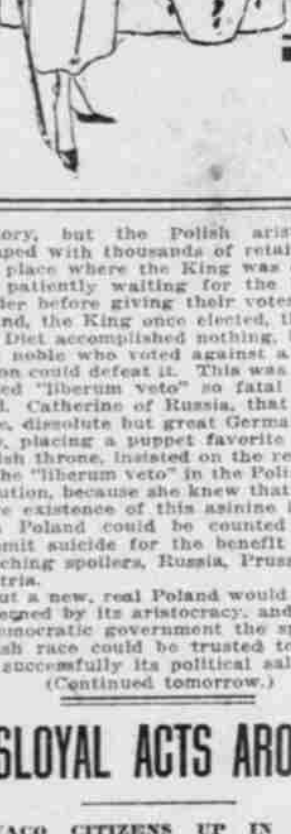
It is probable that Russia will go through the stages of the great French revolution. We have had already the revolution made by the whole nation, Duma, army and the control of the respectable moderate republicans. The period of the Jacobins, the terror, has come, too, and we must in the end expect the appearance of the military leader, a strong man who will bring order.

Prussian Propaganda Hife. That is what will happen, for Russia cannot remain a nation under the control of any government which cheerfully consents to dismemberment of her territory. Perhaps Trotsky will clever enough to transform himself into a patriotic military leader; if not, then he will not long remain at the head.

All these movements of lesser social nationalities are fostered by Prussian propaganda. The region of the Ukraine, in Southern Russia, is supposed to be clamoring for freedom and independent existence. Long before the war, other diplomats were flooded with newspapers, pamphlets and literature about the longing of the Ukrainians for freedom. The Prussian Germans as if they had been stamped with the royal arms of Prussia and the seal of the general staff.

The Lithuanians look with uneasiness. There is, perhaps, hope in their claim; they request the world not to confuse them with the Poles and they protest against incorporation with Poland. But should a number of little states be created, sliced from the map of Russia, they would enjoy but a short independence before falling, one by one, into the law of Prussia.

Restoring Poland an Experiment. Everyone sympathizes with the Poles and hopes for the establishment of a really free and independent Poland, and not a Poland under the rule or protection of either Austria or Germany. It will be a great experiment, because in the past the great state of Poland, one of the greatest in Europe, was broken because of the incapacity of the Poles to rule themselves. Their armies showed great bravery, the Polish cavalry was the best in the world, and their cavalry horses and charged often to



Easter-time is Dress-up time—and there are but a few days more to make your purchases. Our store is looking its prettiest these Spring days—and such an assortment of lovely merchandise! You surely will enjoy a pre-Easter visit to the Eastern.

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There are the light summery colors in satins and taffetas, exquisite brocaded patterns and plain white, tans and blues. Black, too, is well represented in our silk suit novelties for Easter.

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Easter Suggests Hats and We Readily Respond

—and such hats! Smartly tailored effects in black Lisere—both large and small. Betrimmed Georgette hats in all the new pastel shades—so fashionable for dress wear. Then, too, a lovely line of white Milans, banded with gros-grain ribbon. No matter what style is the most becoming to you, you will find it here—perhaps among the number of styles we are selling at \$5.00.

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U. S. TO GET SHIPS

Japan to Exchange Bottoms for American Steel.

150,000-TON LIMIT IS FIXED

Effort on Part of Washington to Obtain 300,000 Tons Jeopardized by Possibilities of the Siberian Situation.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Negotiations for transfer of 150,000 tons of Japanese shipping to the United States have been completed on the basis of two tons of steel for one ton of dead-weight of ship capacity. This agreement is understood to be in the nature of a preliminary one intended to bridge over the period of negotiations now being conducted by American Ambassador Morris at Tokio for a wider and more permanent understanding. Signing of the agreement is all that remains. The United States first asked for

200,000 tons of ships and negotiations proceeded on that basis until the Russian debacle brought up the possibility of Japanese action in Siberia. Japan was unwilling to relinquish more than 150,000 tons, asking in return the lifting of the steel export embargo so that she might replace the ships with new ones. As one ton of plates makes about three tons of shipping, she will gain 50 per cent shipping capacity in the end. Prices which the United States and Japan will pay for the ships and steel, respectively, have not been made public.

It is understood that the Shipping Board, which administers the law suspending the prohibition against foreign vessels entering trade between American ports will put no obstacle in the way of Japanese shipping firms obtaining permits for trade between the Pacific Coast and Hawaii. While the big Japanese liners always stop at Honolulu between Yokohama and American ports, they have been prohibited by law from taking any passengers or cargo between the island and the mainland of the United States.

PARIS, March 27.—Intervention by Japan in the European war was solicited by France at the end of August, 1914, according to a detailed account by M. Bernard, the historian, as published today in the Excelsior. Theophile Delcasse took charge of the Foreign Office on August 28. His first step was to draft a note to the emperor of Japan, in his own hand. M. Bernard says the note was communicated to the British Ambassador. The reply was that Japan's policy was entirely Oriental and that her army was not prepared for active outside that sphere.

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Dr. Caldwell's SYRUP PEPSIN The Perfect Laxative. NO INCREASE FREE SAMPLES. In spite of enormous increased laboratory costs due to the war the manufacturers of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin are sacrificing their profits and absorbing the war taxes so that this family laxative may remain the same price of 50c and \$1 a large bottle. Sold by druggists for 25 years.

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Sloan's Liniment KID'S PAIN. Nip It in the Bud by the Free Use of Sloan's Liniment. People who have to be outdoors, exposed to the attacks of wintry weather, use Sloan's Liniment. They know it's most effective in relieving stiff necks, neuralgic pains, rheumatic twinges, lumbago attacks. They simply apply it and let it penetrate—without rubbing—quickly, surely. It does away with the mussy uncertainty and skin-staining of plasters, salves, poultices. Clean, soothing, positive. Generous sized bottles. COUGHING. Sloan's prices not increased—25c, 50c, \$1.00.—Adv.