

GERMANY ARMING FOR TRADE WAR

Dye Industry in America Will Be Object of Sudden, Fierce Offensive.

TARIFF WALL WOULD AID

Touton Government to Have Practical Part in Contest—Bargains Expected to Extinguish Prejudices Against Germans.

BY JAMES W. GERRARD.

American Ambassador at the German Imperial Court, July 23, 1913, to February 4, 1917. Author of "My Four Years in Germany." (Copyright, 1917, by Public Ledger Company.)

The war after the war, in trade and commerce, may be long and bitter. The rivers of Germany are lined with ships of 7000 or 8000 tons, many of them built or completed since the war, and Germany designs as her first play in this commercial war to seize the carrying trade of the world.

The German exporter has lost his trade for years. Alliances have already been made in grain, industries, such as the dyestuff industry, in preparation for a sudden and sustained attack upon that new industry in America.

Women New Factor.

The war has brought new power and new responsibility to women. Armed with the franchise, they will demand not only equal rights but equal pay.

In great Britain alone, before the war, there were fewer than 200,000 women workers, where now more than 5,000,000 carry the burden even of the war industries of the country.

Unless the war ends with a victory so decisive for the allies that an era of unusual peace shall dawn for the world, each nation will constitute itself an armed camp, with all the ferocity, efficiency and bitter assault of German trade rivals.

Germany Will Hoard Heavily.

For instance, Germany will always carry great stocks of grain and of fats, of copper and cotton and wool, all of the materials for the lack of which she suffered during the present war.

In my first book I touched on the change in the industrial system that will be brought about by the socialized buying and selling introduced first by Germany and which must be copied by the other nations if they desire to compete on equal terms with that country.

In Germany, for several years after the war at least, and perhaps as a permanent regulation, the purchase of all luxuries outside of Germany will be forbidden because of the desire to keep German gold and credits at home.

Germans Belligerent Prejudices.

They say that a man always will buy where he can buy the cheapest and that however much a merchant may hate the Germans after the war, if he can buy the goods he wants for his use from Germany at a cheaper rate than anywhere else he will forget his prejudices in the interest of his pocketbook.

This is a question which each reader will have to solve for himself. Personally, I believe that in England, in France and in America, too, if the war should last a long time, the prejudice against German trickery and brutality in war will become so great that many a merchant will prefer to lose a little money than to deal with German sellers.

Political Change Necessary.

And if there comes a change of government in Germany, if the Hohenzollerns no longer control, or if in a liberalized Germany the ministers are responsible to a popular Parliament, while Kings sink to the political position of the Kings of Great Britain or of Spain, then the commercial prejudice certainly will not last long.

The harvest of Germany for 50 years



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suggested by the American Chamber of Commerce is a most powerful weapon. And why, if wars are to continue after this one, should we contribute to German trade profits and consequently to German preparations for another war?

The nations of the allies must reckon, too, with the bitter, bitter hate felt for them by the whole German people—and only one who has been in Germany since the war can realize its intensity.

One great factor in forcing a change of government will be the desire of the individual German after the war to say that the government of his country existing then is not the government that ordered the shooting of Edith Cavell, the enslavement of the women and girls of Northern France, the deportation of the Belgian workmen, the horrors of the prison camps, the burning of Louvain and all the other countless barbarities and cruelties ordered by the German military commander.

German Will Cast Ots.

Imagine after this war in some distant island, perhaps, a Frenchman, an Englishman, an American, a Portuguese, an Italian all seated at the dining table of a little hotel. A German comes in and seeks to join them. Will he be treated on an equality? Or will he be treated as a leper and a pariah?

Stronger than any other consideration will be the desire of the German to repudiate these acts which have made the Germany of today a Cain among the nations—an outcast branded with the mark of shame.

Statesmen Face Big Problem.

The Russian author Bloch, whom I have quoted, says, referring to the future war:

"Behind all conflicts of interest between nations statesmen must balance the chances of success of their nation, promised by the resources to arms, against the terrible miseries of the victims caused by the war as well as the social peril which can be the consequence of war.

"They who ask themselves when it will be possible to propose to the people of any nation after the war a compensation for its enormous sacrifices forget that the conquered will be so exhausted that there will be no question of being able to draw from a conquered nation the least pecuniary indemnity.

"All that can be imposed on the conquered will be the abandonment of some rag of frontier territory.

"In these conditions, up to what point can calm be counted on to reign among the millions of men called to the colors, when in their ranks there is not more than a handful of old officers and when the command will be in the hands of those newly promoted from among the non-commissioned officers—that is to say, men belonging to the working classes?"

Nations Will Meet in the Markets.

Just as today it is not isolated armies but whole peoples in arms that are opposed, so in the war of commerce after the war not single producers and exporters, corporations or individuals, but whole nations will meet in a market of the world.

Germany has favored trusts—controlling prices and unifying competition—and she shall encounter in buying and in selling the whole German nation ranked behind their central buying company in buying and their cartels in selling.

Isolated firms and individuals cannot on our side cope with such an offensive, which is hampered in effectiveness by the so-called Sherman law, a law from which England is free.

The war will produce great and sudden alterations and President Wilson, in his meeting with the statesmen, has pursued a progressive course; witness his support of the Webb law, which enables manufacturers to combine in export trade.

Every sign points to a new era in business—an era in which the Government will permit—even encourage—enlightened business combinations.

The railroads of the country in the efficient hands of McAdoo have already bettered service and the rights of the savings banks and of other holders of the securities of each road have been secured.

We must, on the one hand, permit the abolition of ruinous competition and on the other safeguard the public from high prices and the smaller firms and corporations from the unfair competition of a powerful rival.

Great changes are coming in the social structure of the world. We are on the threshold of a great readjustment.

Whenever else our entrance into the war may accomplish, let us hope that it will have made of us a Nation with the throbb of a single patriotism and the steady pulse of an energetic efficiency that shall not merely seek in honest rivalry to compete with other nations, but in an enlightened and helpful way shall strive truly to heal a world of civilization in the God-given days of peace.

(Continued Tomorrow.)

NEGROES RESIST DRAFT

GERMAN MONEY USED IN SOUTH, SAYS INSPECTOR.

Colored Preacher Accused of Delivering Pro-Hun Sermons and Urging Resistance.

JACKSON, Miss., April 1.—Charges that German money is being used to encourage Mississippi negroes to evade the selective draft are made in a report filed at the Adjutant-General's office today by F. M. Ethridge, state inspector of local exemption boards.

The report declares it has been almost impossible to get negro registrants to respond to the draft and that C. H. Mason, pastor of a negro church at Lexington, Miss., known as "The Church of God in Christ," has been preaching pro-German sermons and advising negroes to resist the draft.

The inspector's report said the "Church of God in Christ," has headquarters in Los Angeles. In August, last year, a \$10,000 brick church was built at Lexington, for which local negroes furnished only a small part of the building fund, the report says, and also that the pastor, hitherto an obscure preacher, recently erected a \$25,000 residence in Memphis.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 1.—Neither German money nor pro-German propaganda is being used in the "Church of God in Christ," it was said here today by Rev. E. R. Driver, pastor of the Los Angeles branch church.

NEBRASKA HOUSE RATIFIES PROHIBITION
LINCOLN, Neb., April 1.—The House of the Nebraska Legislature today voted in favor of ratifying the National prohibition amendment. The ratification measure now goes to the Senate.

GERMANY RESORTS TO PAPER CLOTHING

Nation Saved From Nudity by Makeshift Fabric—Public Lacks Enthusiasm.

MANY SHORTAGES EXIST

Hoosier Famine Most Serious and Darning Is Becoming Lost Art. Empire to Great Extent Unwashed, Due to Lack of Soap.

BY CYRIL BROWN.

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STOCKHOLM, March 2.—Although no honest German is reported as forced to go naked at the commencement of the 1918 season, there nevertheless is a shortage of new clothing in Germany. As in food, so in the matter of clothing, the army comes first. And in order to forestall the otherwise by no means ludicrous possibility of losing the war by being forced to fight in their socks or shirts, the German army has been covered by a provident War Ministry as to its clothing requirements for many years to come for a war of "unoverseeable length," as the Germans quaintly phrase it.

This is made possible only by confiscating all stocks of raw materials—semi-finished and finished cotton, shirts, sheetings, linens, cottons and woollens—even rabbit skins—in any way adapted to the use of the army or convertible for ultimate army wear on the one hand, and on the other, throttling down the entire immense clothing industry to a minimum production except where working in the military interest, taking care only to prevent too precipitate wholesale unemployment.

German Supply Exhausted.

The raw material situation is distinctly bad. It is extremely doubtful whether there is a single bale of raw cotton in all Germany in manufacturers' hands.

The conquered territories have been combed with military German thoroughness, and though big hauls were made, notably in Belgium and the Lodz manufacturing district in Poland, these stocks were used up long ago, while the home needs of the neutrals have prevented any cotton coming in, with America's embargo making assurance doubly sure.

Germany's cotton problem for the balance of the war essentially one of making old goods into new, of collecting unwearable cotton clothing and putting it through the mill again.

Nor is the wool situation much brighter. Austria has first whack at the fleeceable sheep of Hungary and Serbia, and Germany's own wool production added to all the other conquered territories can be made to yield, covers but a fractional part of the army's requirements alone.

Here, too, the solution can be only that of manufacturers' shoddy of ever increasing shoddiness as the war lengthens.

Silk, Flax, Jute All Gone.

The stocks of raw silks, though last to go, are exhausted, too.

Despite the fact a well-organized propaganda succeeded in increasing Germany's acreage of flax and hemp, the yield is negligible compared with Germany's normal linen requirements. The lack of jute too has become a worry to the government. It does not exist today.

That Germany is in no danger of being threatened by an epidemic of nudity at some distant future stage of the war is entirely due to the sensational turn in the development of the paper thread industry, culminating in the technical triumph of practical woven paper materials.

What started as a seemingly visionary emergency experiment has been perfected into a process of permanent value.

Thousands of Spindles Busy.

Cotton spinners have evaded closing down by their new process of paper thread and paper yarn spinning, on which thousands of once idle spindles are running again.

Cotton goods and jute makers alike have eagerly taken to paper weaves from coarsest to finest qualities. In the opinion of experts the new industry still is only on the threshold of its development.

It is prophesied that after the war the production of materials will assume such proportions that the importation of cotton and jute will be greatly limited, thus helping to restore Germany's unfavorable trade balance and boost up the fallen mark-exchange.

German manufacturers are even dreaming of its export possibilities, of conquering world markets with their paper fabrics in competition with the cotton goods of England and America.

There is no doubt that the new paper fabric industry could turn out wearable substitutes for all necessary articles of clothing heretofore made of cotton, wool or silk. The public, however, has shied at the misnomer "paper clothes," and the public's prejudice against wearing "paper" has not yet been overcome.

Paper or Nothing Will Be Worn.

Nevertheless, the time is bound to come when Germans in large numbers will be forced to choose between wearing paper or nothing.

With the exception of a limited number of luxury articles and certain trifle and furnishings, such as collars and neckties, not an outer or undergarment, not a piece of clothing can be bought in Germany today without a permit issued on personal application to the police.

There is a standard war wardrobe for both men and women. It entails a man to have and to hold, among other things, four pairs of socks or stockings and three undershirts—four for women and the same number of underdrawers; three nightshirts or gowns; three shirts for men and three blouses for women; two suits for either sex and likewise two overcoats or cloaks.

Of the various cloths shortages the most serious is that of hosiery, which again is due to the shortage of darning cotton and thread, coupled with very inferior quality. Darning is fast becoming a lost art among German women.

Babies Suffer With Rest.

The most indispensable swaddling clothes and baby linen are so short that the charitable and social welfare work organizations of Frankfurt and other large cities have had to issue patriotic appeals to the better situated mothers to donate all possible cotton and linen articles.

The acute soap shortage must be regarded as a serious secondary cause of the hosiery, hosiery and household linen shortages. There is hardly a cake of good, pure laundry soap in Germany today, and the "eraser" soaps and imitation soap powders and nondescript chemical washing powders that have flooded the country are ruinous even to the best clothing.

Acute, too, is the shortage of toilet soaps. The sensitive nose can measure this condition in all crowded public

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places. The aroma of the unwashed is steadily enveloping even those higher up in the social scale.

There is a very flourishing shoe shortage, and a "throwing back" wooden shoes the fashionable footwear of the German masses in 1918.

Again the army must come first. Not less than 15,000,000 pairs of shoes and shoes annually are needed for it. In the main the war shoe industry

is specializing in turning out shoes of wooden soles and cloth tops, with narrow imitation leather trimmings.

Twenty-five factories are already able to turn out wooden soles at the rate of 100,000,000 pairs annually, and it is estimated that the consumption of wood in 1918 for this purpose will exceed 100,000 cubic yards.

The shoe situation amounts to a public calamity, and municipalities have had to take emergency measures to end the unhappy state. Berlin, for instance, has set up a municipal shoe repairing institution, with more than 100 branches. Berliners can get their shoes repaired with wooden soles and heels within eight days at the low price of \$1.50 for ladies' and \$1.75 for men's.

(Continued Tomorrow.)

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