

GERMANY WEIGHED IN TRIAL BALANCE

Pinnacle of Power Has Been Reached and Militarism on Threshold of Decline.

NATION UNITED FOR WAR

Every Economic Strength of Great Empire Available as Working Capital for Defensive Conflict of Endless Duration.

(Continued From First Page.)

Weakness in Germany's position at the beginning of 1918, as follows:

Assets.
Maximum military strength.
Maximum production of war materials.
Military state socialism.
Organization and overorganization.
Economic vitality.
Unshakable morale.
Progressive democratization.
Absolute unanimity on negative war aim.
Cautious optimism.
Peace with Russia.
Beneficial Assets.
Austria-Hungary.
Neutral America.

Liabilities.
Food shortage.
Transportation shortage.
Coal shortage.
Non-military raw material shortage.
Non-military war material shortage.
Progressive depletion of plant.
Progressive depletion of human material.
Miscellaneous shortage hardships.
Economic attrition.
Inflation and rising prices.
Pyramided war debt and deficit.
America's entry.

Contingent Liabilities.
Decisive military defeat.

All Factors Are Variable.

These are the principal debit and credit items of Germany weighed in the trial balance. Note, too, that they are all variables approaching limits not yet visible, or calculable with any reasonable certainty, except in a few cases, such as coal shortage, where the limit of production has virtually been reached, or war material production, whose present maximum is practically an unobtainable limit; and further (for the benefit of world war mathematicians interested in solving the fascinating problem, "How long can Germany hold out?") that all these variable factors of weakness, these liabilities, are intimately interconnected; so, too, all those variable assets of strength—change in one, for better or for worse, directly or indirectly affects all others. And there is even a frequently complex, reciprocal relation between all the main debit and credit items.

Birth-Rate Fall Starting.
The statement, for instance, may seem far-fetched that America's entry into the war is already a factor, though a very minor one (one of many), in causing the startlingly increasing "race suicide" in Germany (birth rate already fallen over 40 per cent as compared with the last peace year), until you wander through the German war labyrinth of neutral food shortages, import restrictions, and highly doubtful assets for Germany, particularly helped reduce food imports to the lowest level of the war.

The bulk of the neutral food imported previous to America's entry was reserved for the army. The army must be adequately fed; its deficit in neutral food can be made good only by increasing the food shortage at home. And food shortage, coupled with increasing economic pressure, is a principal factor in causing a startling fall in the birth rate among Germany's masses.

Germany Long on Shortages.
Particularly profitable is the analysis of Germany's food shortage account. Germany is long on shortages. There is a shortage of everything except shortages; and this, of food, is not the most serious, from the viewpoint of military importance. Transportation troubles incident to war, overburdened railroads are graver today than food troubles; the attained limitations of Germany's state railroads making themselves directly felt, militarily.

In reality, there is no general food shortage in Germany in the sense of a close approximation to famine; there are only acute localized food shortages, with near-starvation symptoms appearing at irregular intervals and persisting until relief is rushed from food reserves.

The general condition is called by the Germans themselves, with their passion for exact terminology, "Nahrungsmittelknappheit"—"foodstuffs scantiness"; admittedly irreducible minimums, but sufficient for supporting life; at worst, reducible only for short emergency spells; at best, at least debatable adequacy in the long run.

Food Shortage Root of Many Ills.
Conservative German opinion of food shortage is epigrammatically expressed as "Knapp, aber es geht"; a phrase often heard in the mouths of Germans, implying that it's a close squeeze with the food, but that they'll "make it go."

The relatively well-fed army and the drain of young recruits from the country districts tends constantly to increase food shortage or put the brakes on slight improvement; while food shortage, in turn, is the root of numerous non-military ills, and even cause of weakness that make themselves unpleasantly felt militarily.

Food shortage necessitates a tremendous concentration of food shipments immediately after each harvest, almost completely tying up the German railroads during the last quarter of the year—no major military operations to be thought of then, with railroads choked with potato specials and grain transports.

Food scantiness, as principal factor in deprivation of human material, is otherwise of indirect military interest. Food and economic pressure have not only contributed to the precipitous fall of the birthrate, but more particularly food scantiness has lowered the power of endurance, the working efficiency of all German labor except the favored "heaviest workers."

Starvation Is Imminent.
Food scantiness, besides having a devastating effect on German territorial aspirations, is the principal factor in the rapid progress toward democratization. Acute inner political crises have their tap roots in food crises. Inner political reforms, partial parliamentarization of imperial government electoral reform in Prussia, are promoted as palliatives for ominous food shortage unrest. Organized labor has succeeded in obtaining more and greater rights refused in peace time. A Reichstag conscious of the terrible power of the scantily fed masses, unleashed, no longer stands in awe of officialdom, but shows a will of its own. Harbingers of coming democracy—through food shortage.

Food scantiness, in 1918 at least, shows no germ of peace-compelling de-

clivens; its deteriorating effect on neither national health nor morale is such as to warrant peace hopes from Germany's impossible starvation into capitulation—possible only in case of a complete crop failure. Tagged to the fascinating chapter of food conditions in Germany is the moral that food shortage is no "just as good" substitute for military defeat; nor is there a calculable limit to the food hardships which the German people can still bear.

Germany Deteriorating Physically.

All Germany, one notes, is deteriorating physically; increasing shortage of man power and raw materials makes reasonable maintenance and repair an impossibility. There is a widespread depreciation of buildings, of public utilities, of "plant" in general; a grand "going to seed," a significant down-at-heels shabbiness, as of hard times. Yet nothing of direct or indirect military necessity is permitted to run down to the point of jeopardizing military interest. There is acute man power shortage for all peace purposes; insufficient raw material, even were there man power, to supply the reasonable requirements of the German people—burdening increasingly heavier, insurmountable miscellaneous hardships on the backs of the patient people; but again with no jeopardy of the highest military interest, and with no last shortage straw in sight likely to break the Teuton camel's back, and none thinkable to German minds; not even with ever higher prices and war debt already aggregating nearly one-third of Germany's nominal national wealth thrown in.

America Not Taken Seriously.

The moral effect of America's entry, too, has not yet made itself felt as a really important factor. Far-going ignorance of the facts regarding America's war preparations, with military officialdom not eager to throw light on the painful subject; credulous clinging to the fond, fixed idea that America's entry is all a "Yankee bluff"; elaborate paper proof that even if America's spirit be willing, there is not enough floating tonnage left to transport America's millioned armies to France nor keep them supplied with food and war materials after they get there—these expedients of ostrich-like German public opinion still serve to nullify the moral effect of America's entry. And to German credulity there is no limit.

No one of the liabilities, nor any combination of them, contains peace-compelling potentialities at the beginning of 1918, so long as the assets, the elements of undoubted German strength, can be kept intact; so long as those contingent liabilities, decisive crop failure or military defeat, do not become bitter business realities. Meanwhile, assets and liabilities, elements of strength and weakness, continue to balance one another.

Military Maximum Reached.

The maximum of possible concentrated military strength has been reached, a reasonably fixed quantity in auditing Germany's 1918 account. The highest concentration of troops, eventually throwing at least 100 divisions from the east to the west. Conservatively estimated, half that number had been unobtrusively withdrawn from the pacifist Russian front. This maximum concentrated military strength, for which German Generals and staff officers are laudably, ruefully longing ever since the battle of the Marne, is backed up by a reservoir of reserves, certain to yield a minimum of three-quarters of a million men, usually—green youngsters and convalesced veterans—further backed up by the maximum of possible war material production, achieved by the ruthless, unflinching, and unrelenting program, which has nevertheless practically reached its limit, a climax of fighting power maintainable only by increasing those heavy liabilities—power shortage and raw material shortage for non-war purposes.

German Morale Unbroken.

Germany's economic vitality is an asset impossible to value. It is a refusal to be downed by state control or war discouragement. Equally incalculable is the breaking point of German morale, which, though will serves much frayed after three years of grueling food and economic hardship, is still at bottom unshaken. A cross section of the German mind, as today an element of strength if only for acting as a safety valve—demand for more inner political reform, more parliamentarization, which, at bottom, is only a hunger for peace and food and partial compliance with the people's demands from time to time, enabling much superheated steam of public opinion to be blown off in violent press polemics and harmless political crises which otherwise might condense into something like a well-disciplined Russian revolution. As a safety measure, too, the political censorship lid has almost been lifted.

Disenchantment of the German Empire, even the gentlest surgical trimming of peripheral fatherland, has no champions or followers within the police lines; the mere spectre of it, discredited by enemy statements, still serving as a red rag to rouse the bull-headed Teuton.

Germany's biggest asset, counterbalancing food shortage, is still that peculiar Teuton brand of chronic optimism, summarized in the proposition that "Germany cannot be beaten," an idea hard to eradicate from the German mind, because a matter of faith, not of logic. The collapse of Russia has given Germany and German optimism its second wind. The relief cannot be exaggerated; relief from the inescapable pressure of a two-front war. The state of peace with Russia has wiped out all the moral effect of America's entry, and has nourished the popular delusion that world peace is near; given German optimism a new lease on life.

Perhaps the only cure for chronic optimism is decisive military defeat.

If you have a spyglass, a telescope, a sextant, a chronometer, or binoculars, send any such property to the Navy Department at Washington, D. C. It is impossible for the Government to get enough of these articles for use in the submarine zone.

Alkali Makes Soap Bad for Washing Hair

Most soaps and prepared shampoos contain too much alkali, which is very injurious, as it dries the scalp and makes the hair brittle. The best thing to use is just plain mulkified coconut oil, for this is pure and entirely greaseless. It's very cheap and beats the most expensive soaps or anything else all to pieces. You can get this at any drug store, and a few ounces will last the whole family for months. Simply moisten the hair with water and rub it in, about a teaspoonful is all that is required. It makes an abundance of rich, creamy lather, cleanses thoroughly and rinses out easily. The hair dries quickly and evenly, and is soft, fresh looking, bright, fluffy, wavy and easy to handle. It does not break or take out every particle of dust, dirt and dandruff.—Adv.

SIBERIA MARKED AS GERMAN PREY

Berlin Paper Declares for Its Exploitation—Economic War Predicted.

JAPAN'S POLICY IN DOUBT

American Attitude Toward Proposed Intervention in Far East Said to Be Unchanged—Situation in China Disturbing.

LONDON, March 16.—Germany must not yet make itself the fact of economic war after the war and control by Great Britain and the United States of sea-borne traffic in raw materials, declares the Pan-Germanische Rundschau, of Berlin, according to a dispatch from The Hague to the Daily Mail. The Tagliche Rundschau adds: "Germany must therefore exploit Persia and Siberia. Bremen and Hamburg, which so long have strained their eyes earnestly seawards, must for some time turn their gaze landwards."

Exploitation Deemed Urgent.
"Germany must make up her mind to exploit the countries available to her, and these are the Balkan and Black Sea districts, followed by the Caucasus, the Trans-Caspian district, Persia and Siberia."

WASHINGTON, March 16.—There were intimations in official circles today that President Wilson might make an early declaration on the Russian situation. It was not indicated what might be its form or its manner of delivery.

America's attitude towards intervention in Siberia by Japan, whether she acts independently or in conjunction with other powers, has not undergone any change, it was said today at the State Department.

Exchange of Views Continues.

Officials remained reticent regarding Japan's expression of her intentions, but it was indicated that an exchange of views was continuing and from this it was deduced that Japan has not determined definitely on a course.

It was suggested that final decision might be delayed when the new Japanese Ambassador, Count Ishii, reaches America, but the probability of that was discounted at the department.

It is known that the United States has been doubtful of the need of intervention by Japan.

Russian Attitude in Doubt.

Many officials of this Government fear that such action might bring together various factions in Russia to combat the Japanese, even if they were supported by the armies of the entente and America and however good their intentions.

LONDON, March 16.—In reply to a question in the Diet yesterday, the Japanese Premier, Count Terauchi, said, according to a Ruter dispatch from Tokyo, that the dissemination prevailing between North and South China was the source of serious concern for Japan's interests, but that Japan would take no steps in the way of mediation.

Troop Movement Denied.

The Premier characterized as untrue a report that a small body of entente troops had been dispatched towards Siberia.

(By the Associated Press.)

MOSCOW, March 16.—The newspapers generally commend the disposition of the United States to refrain from joining in any plan to dismember Russia.

NEW WAGE SCALE IS FIXED

Schedule for Baker Mills to Be Made Public Tomorrow.

BAKER, Or., March 16.—(Special.)—The new schedule of wages fixed for the employees of Baker Oregon sawmills and logging camps by Colonel Bruce P. Disque, of the Spruce Production Board, was received here today by the Baker millmen and will be made public Monday.

The schedule is said to differ very materially from that made for the employees of mills west of the Cascades. The schedule will go into effect as of



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PORTLAND'S LARGEST, MOST MODERN EXCLUSIVE OPTICAL ESTABLISHMENT.

March 10, according to Colonel Disque's bulletin.

"FOOD POLICE" IS NEWEST

Violators of Hoover Orders to Be Closely Watched in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, March 15.—A "food police force" to serve without pay, and to watch for, guard against and report violations of regulations for the use of food laid down by the State Food Commissioner and his subordinates, has been organized here and operated daily.

The new force, which is the idea of Louis M. Cole, City Food Administrator, is headed by a general committee of 12 men, who will be directly responsible to Mr. Cole for the enforcement of all Federal regulations regarding food. Each of the 12 men has in turn selected a sub-committee of ten, and these men have been given prompt notice of any changes. They will also be expected to watch for violations, and report them to their committee heads for correction.

A fair price board is also in process of organization here. Women, representing consumers in the households, will have a share in its membership and a voice in its findings.

VOLUNTEER BARS RAISED

Registrants May Not Select Service Now Except in Certain Cases.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 16.—(Special.)—War Department orders today end all further voluntary induction of registrants into branches of the service they prefer with the exception of genuine Alaska residents, whose option of choice in certain branches is extended until April 15. Registrants too low down in the lists to be immediately called may still enlist in the Navy or Marine Corps if their local boards consent, and the War Department will continue to draw men specially qualified or desired by order on local boards, but strict selective service rules will prevail otherwise.

This is taken as an indication that all deficiencies are filled and the selective service plan has proved adequate to meet the country's war needs.

CHURCHES TO ENTERTAIN

Soldiers at Vancouver Post Pleaded With New Innovation.

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 16.—(Special.)—An innovation has been inaugurated by several churches of the city for entertaining the soldiers at Vancouver Barracks on Sunday. The soldiers, leave the cantonment shortly after lunch and go on cross-country hikes and will complete their jaunt at some church. Last Sunday the Heights Presbyterian Church was host and tomorrow the hike will end at the United Brethren Church.

Members of the church will take the boys to their homes for supper, returning in time for the evening service.

Junior Red Cross Active.

BAKER, Or., March 16.—(Special.)—The work of the Junior Red Cross at Baker has grown to such proportions that a superintendent has been appointed by the School Board to spend his entire time directing the work. The appointee is Mrs. A. L. Williams, who will be allowed to appoint an assistant. The classes under Mrs. Williams include both boys and girls.

Louisiana Hangs Suspected Negro.

MONROE, La., March 16.—The body of George McNeel, one of two negroes arrested yesterday, suspected of implication in the assault of a young

"Come Now and Take Another Step in the Direction of Economy"

MAKE THIS HELPFUL STORE—YOUR STORE

Here Are the Easter Suits

At All Prices From \$18.95 to \$50.00

A Handsome Variety of Trim New Styles, Embracing Every Feature of the Spring Modes Which Is Accorded Favor.

Bizarre and doubtful styles are conspicuously absent, for we have thoughtfully selected those models which combine quiet elegance and evident quality. Suits practical, yet pretty, lacking nothing in charm because they are serviceable—though all conform to the slender-lined, short-coated styles of Spring, each finds ways of being individual; the popular tans and grays are interspersed with many of the ever-wanted darker shades—Come make an early selection.

EXTRA!
A Sale of
Skinner's
All Silk
Yard-Wide
Dress Satins
at \$1.85 Yd.

More than thirty desirable colors to select from, including black, white and cream—all brand-new goods.

HANDSOME NEW
Velour Coatings
at \$2.50 to \$3.50 Yd.

Fine 54-inch, rich, soft-finished Velour Coatings for Spring—fashionable, durable fabrics shown in all staple and new shades—matchless in value at the above prices.

New Georgette
Crepe at \$1.49 Yd.

A handsome fabric for waists, dresses, hats, neckties, etc.—comes in full standard width and shown in all staple and new Spring shades—a special value at the above price.

EXTRA!
A Sale of
Skinner's
Standard
Yard-Wide
Lining Satins
at \$1.35 Yd.

The world's best Lining Satins shown in all wanted colors and black—don't fail to take advantage of this sale.

Delightfully Fashioned New Silk Underwear

Women admire daintiness in dress—and the daintiest garments of a woman's wardrobe are her undergarments. This being true, our present showing will be of exceptional interest, for fine, firm quality crepe de chine and wash satins, combined with dainty laces and medallions, or ribbons, in underwear styles which are beautiful beyond description. You have choice from:

Bloomers \$3.50, Skirts at \$4.25 to \$6 | Envelope Chemise, \$1.75, \$1.98 to \$2.98
Gowns \$4.35 to \$4.98, \$5.25 to \$10 | Camisoles at 79c, 98c, \$1.19 to \$1.98

The extreme care with which they are made insures a perfect and comfortable fit and the prices are as practical as the garments are pretty.

Store Opens at 8:30 A. M.
Saturdays at 9 A. M.

Robert's Bros.
THIRD & MORRISON
The Most in Value—The Best in Quality

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Saturdays at 6 P. M.

white woman here Thursday, was found hanging to a tree in the Courthouse yard early today.

American audiences, especially those containing persons of Norwegian descent, on behalf of the American and entente war aims. He recently made a tour of the western front. Captain Amundsen will talk here and in other cities under the auspices of the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Rosalind Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole, arrived here today to lecture to

National Thrift Move and Firestone CORD TIRES

How the conditions which meant efficiency before the war mean a public saving now

THE economy methods which, long before the war, prevailed in the Firestone factory have simply anticipated today's demands for judicious buying, conservation of resources and war on waste.

This war against waste in the Firestone factory means war against waste on the road. For the values thus conserved go back into the product which more and more is recognized as the tire of Most Miles per Dollar.

This is more than a Firestone slogan, more than a working motto of the organization. National stress and the need of thrift now make Most Miles per Dollar a sound American doctrine.

More and more the world-affairs today require that you use your car. But more and more patriotism and common sense alike order that you use it wisely and at lowest upkeep cost. Experience proves that this means Firestone equipment. Get Firestones from your dealer now.

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