

FRANCE ON DECLINE; WORLD PERIL SEEN

Danger Visioned in Declining Birth Rate.

GERMANY HOLDS ITS OWN

Another Conflict, With Whites on One Side and Non-Whites on Other, Believed Coming.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.
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WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17.—(Special.)—The subject of this article may seem a long way from American politics, but it is a primary in North Dakota, from tariff debates in Washington, and from present American affairs altogether. But to anyone who views it with an eye on the future, the somber truth is otherwise.

One day last week there appeared in the same issue of the New York Herald two dispatches. They came from points far distant. In the flow of the day's news they were merely two separate items. But they belong together, and the considerations arising out of them go to the heart of future history.

The first came from Paris. It was headed, "French Birth Rate Falls," and the essential portion of it read: "At the present rate of depopulation it is only a question of one generation before the population of France will diminish at the rate of 200,000 a year, statisticians declare, after a study of partial birth and death statistics in the first quarter of 1922."

Germany Quite Different.

The other dispatch came from London. The part of it pertinent to the present article read: "The Times announces that the German birth rate has just finished an incognito tour of the Rhineland, using a pseudonym because of German animosity toward him owing to his work as director of propaganda during the war. Lord Northcliffe describes the birth rate as 'terrific'."

Lord Northcliffe gives no actual statistics about the German birth rate, but the word "terrific" conveys with sufficient force a fact that is well known to observers generally. To complete the picture suggested by these two dispatches, I quote now part of an article written by one of the genuinely great journalists of the world, J. L. Garvin of the London Observer, a man in whom scholarship combines with his other talents to put him in a very small class among those who try to provide the world with enlightenment. Mr. Garvin attended the recent Genoa conference as a correspondent for his own paper and for the New York Times. Those who read his dispatches will recall their clearly outstanding quality. The following sentences are taken from a narrative which Mr. Garvin wrote of his return trip from Genoa to London. He said:

"Leaving Genoa, I traveled from the Mediterranean to the channel through France in the freshest beauty of May. At Toulon, in all the sunshine of the Midi, the high ramparts were lined by black troops in red fezzes. The good-natured Senegalese looted content, not knowing they were unconscious of that long-armed jaw which decrees that a declining birth rate in France shall be made good in case of war by a ghastly but certain, among the militarized negroes of tropical Africa. There are over 300,000 of them on a peace footing in France and on the Rhine; there are plans for over a million in war."

Super-Armageddon Visioned.

"I reflected, I thought of Lenin in the Kremlin and his Chinese guards. If there is to be a million of black mercenaries on the French side, according to the mechanical two-camp logic of M. Poincare and all the fatal chauvinistic schools, why not ultimately millions of yellow mercenaries on the side of Russia and Germany? The logic of French reaction would be a sort of super-Armageddon, with hordes of blacks and yellows launched against each other until the larger forces of the east slowly conquered and the dwindling life of France was trodden out forever. No power in the world so much needs a genuine peace system of reconciliation and disarmament as France, whose population declines with every victory no less than with every defeat."

"Either the Genoa policy will live, and grow, and triumph on the basis of settled peace for Europe and Asia alike, or the civilization of modern Europe will perish like that of ancient Rome. Russia would have least to risk. Germany might be the cockpit of a continent—a devastated battleground as in the 30 years' war. France, though her initial ascendancy in military equipment would enable her to advance at the beginning of such a struggle, would be its surest victim at the end."

France's Decline Started.

Mr. Garvin puts this situation partly in the form of regret for the 300,000 black troops who now compose 40 per cent of the standing French army, and the additional 700,000 who would be drawn into any future war. Other observers speak of it as intolerable that France should maintain these 300,000 Africans as a part of the instrumentality through which she threatens to impose her will on the rest of Europe. France is charged with attempting to maintain her position by piecing out her own increasing sterility with the abounding fecundity of Africa.

This whole matter of declining French birth rate has been observed and studied by thoughtful persons who look beneath the surface, ever since the beginning of the war. The number of babies born in France has long been small—barely enough to keep her population stationary. But since the war began it has not even been large enough for that.

When Germany and France fought in 1870 each of them had about 16,000,000. But when they fought again 44 years later France still had only 16,000,000 while Germany had gone up to 70,000,000. It was France's stationary birth rate relative to Germany's advancing one that was France's greatest weakness during the war. But if the French birth rate was stationary for 40 years preceding the war, it became, during the latter part of the war, and ever since, not merely stationary, but smaller. In one or two years out of the last seven, France's birth rate went as low as nine per 1000 a year.

All Nations Concerned.

There is not space in this article to go more deeply into the figures of birth rate and of future population as they relate either to France or to other countries. The subject affects not merely the relations of France and Germany, but every

other country. The relations of France and Germany affect the future peace of the world.

It is not generally realized that what happened to France's birth rate as a result of the war happened also in greater or less degree to nearly all of the rest of the white part of the human race. The lowering of the birth rate, added to the abnormal death rate due to war conditions among recently-born children, was universal. Although there are no figures available, it was probably worst of all in the largest of the white countries—Russia.

Few realize how seriously the future military and economic strength of the white part of the human race was impaired by the war. The rest of the human race, the yellows, browns and blacks, suffered hardly at all; they have gone ahead at their normal rate of increase.

There are some who speculate on the idea that there may be ahead of us a great world-wide conflict between the whites on the one side and the non-whites on the other. There may or may not be anything in it. In the long run relative birth rate is the greatest single factor in the future history of the world. It has the power of a force of nature. It will overcome fortresses and erect around boundaries. It is superior in its potency to any league of nations or to any conference or diplomatic arrangement.

LIBRARY MEET JUNE 28

CONVENTION TO CONSIDER ALL PHASES OF WORK.

Well-Known Educators to Talk on Various Subjects at Detroit Gathering of Librarians.

DETROIT, June 17.—Every phase of library work from the education of children, the general public and public schools to its efforts in behalf of great universities and men of letters, will be considered here at the annual meeting of the American Library Association June 26 to July 1, inclusive.

Numbered among the speakers will be college and university heads, chiefs of great public libraries in all parts of the country and leaders in the educational movement from nearly every field. The entire time during the week will be filled with important general sessions and with group meetings embracing the activities of every department of library endeavor.

Dr. Marlon LeRoy Burton, president of the University of Michigan, will be the chief speaker at the opening general session, to be held Monday night, June 26. Azariah S. Root of Oberlin college, president of the association, also will speak.

The Tuesday session will be set apart for a discussion of association publications. Speakers will include Harry C. Johnson, director of the New York public library; Adelaide R. Hasse, Washington, representing special libraries of all kinds; Marion Horton of Los Angeles library school; Andrew Kaogh of Yale university and Howard L. Hughes of Trenton, N. J.

"Recruiting for Library Service" will be the theme of Wednesday's meeting. Speakers will include Judson T. Jennings of Seattle, chairman of the recruiting committee; George H. Locks of Toronto; W. E. Henry of the University of Washington; Miss Alice L. Rose of New York; Martha C. Pritchard of the Detroit Teachers' college library; Clara Hunt of Brooklyn and Alice S. Tyler of Cleveland.

On Thursday the delegates will go to Ann Arbor for a visit to the University of Michigan library. Reports of various committees will be submitted Friday. On Saturday speakers will stress the importance of the individual's responsibility to his profession. Those on the programme include Carl B. Roden of the Chicago public library; Mary Emogene Hazeltine of the University of Wisconsin library school, and Harold H. Emmons, Detroit attorney.

The group meetings include those on agriculture, law, library schools, of theology, negro libraries, school libraries, foreign born, university extension and library trustees.

The latter meeting is regarded by Frank Harvey Pittinger of Los Angeles as promising to be one of the most important ever held by the trustees. Mr. Pittinger is chairman of this section.

"What Must Be Done to Obtain Increased Funds From Taxation for the Needs of Public Libraries," will be discussed by Arthur A. Stearns of Cleveland, William L. Pipelow of Milwaukee, W. L. Jenks of Port Huron, Mich., Rev. Robert J. Renison, Hamilton, Ontario, and John H. Leete, director of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

CHIEF MAY OPEN REUNION

President to Be Asked to Deliver Address by Radio.

SEATTLE, Wash., June 17.—President Harding will be invited to open with a speech by radio from Washington the 22d annual encampment of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the reunion of the 91st division association in Seattle, August 15 to 20.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt has been invited to attend and has been requested to authorize participation in the parade by men from the Pacific fleet, which will be in Puget sound then.

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MAJOR HAS 30TH MEDAL

BELGIUM DECORATES SAMUEL I. JOHNSON.

Ex-Commander of Vladivostok Police Holds Unusual Record as Athlete.

HONOLULU, T. H., May 5.—(Special.)—It won't be long before Sam Johnson of Honolulu will be asking for a medal just to commemorate the fact that he has so many. He is just Sam Johnson to hundreds of folks in Honolulu, but in the United States army he is Major Samuel I. Johnson, former commander of the international police at Vladivostok, Siberia. He has just been decorated by another foreign government for distinguished services, this time by the government of Belgium.

This makes the thirteenth decoration conferred upon Major Johnson, many having been bestowed on him as a direct result of his activities during the world war, and the list includes the American distinguished service cross.

At Manila, P. I., on April 25, at Fort William McKinley, Major Johnson was presented with the cross of an officer of the Order of Leopold, II, the decoration having been conferred by the king of the Belgians. The presentation was made through Major-General William M. Wright, commanding officer of the Philippine department of the army, and Paul E. Verstraeten, Belgian consul at Manila.

Major Johnson was born in a Cosack camp on the Don river. He served in the Russian army and then came to the United States. He moved westward to Hawaii and arrived here in 1894 and when the monarchy was overthrown he served

as a private in the army of the Hawaiian republic, becoming a citizen of the United States and moving up from the ranks in the national guard when this territory was annexed by America. As an athlete he possesses literally a trunkful of medals and cups. As a military man he has one decoration from the United States, one from Great Britain, two from France, one from Italy, one from Japan, one from Siberia, one from Russia, one from Slovakia, one from Belgium besides several other awards and decorations for earlier military exploits.

He has made and lost several fortunes in business and his life reads like a romance from Dumas.

SLASHINGS FIRE CHECKED

Tulalip Camp of Everett Logging Company Near Destruction.

EVERETT, Wash., June 17.—A fire in slashing at Tulalip, north of here, which late yesterday and last night threatened the camp of the Everett Logging company, this morning was reported under control, no further danger being expected unless the wind rises. Back-firing was used by the crew of 150 men to save the camp.

Gavels to Be Donated.

HOQUIAM, Wash., June 17.—(Special.)—When Mrs. Clarice M. Elliott, local delegate to the national convention of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in Chattanooga next month, reaches the Tennessee city she will have ready to distribute to every club represented a gavel made from Gray's Harbor woods, with the name of the club to which it is given inscribed thereon. The northwest women are going after the 1923 convention for Portland and the gavel will be but one of the publicity inducements used to gain their point. Hoquiam Commercial club is supplying the gavels.

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