

WAR TO DATE COSTS 26 BILLIONS AND THE END IS NOT IN SIGHT

Taxation That Must Follow
Hostilities Certain to Be
Enormous.

DAILY COST 85 MILLIONS

Before Winter Is Ended Daily Expense
Will Soar to One Hundred
Million.

By J. W. T. Mason.
New York, Jan. 15.—(U. P.)—At the close of 1915 the war has cost more than \$26,000,000,000, exceeding by \$5,000,000 the total national debts of the six principal belligerent powers when the conflict began. With the exception of about \$5,000,000 raised in the United Kingdom by taxation, practically all the expenses of the war have been met by borrowed money. The end of 1915, therefore, finds the fighting nations saddled with double the debt they had accumulated in all the centuries preceding the outbreak of the war.

In the early days of the war the most liberal estimate of its cost, including the destruction of property and the economic losses caused by casualties, was \$50,000,000 per day. The actual expense now, exclusive of economic and property losses, is \$35,000,000 per day. Of this amount the Quadruple Entente is paying two thirds and the Teutonic Allies one third. If the war continues through the winter the cost will probably rise to \$100,000,000 per day. The interest for war loans which the war has already imposed on Europe's future generations is about \$1,200,000,000 per year. Every week the war lasts fixes an additional annual interest burden on the belligerents of \$25,000,000.

Colossal Taxation Certain.
Colossal taxation will have to be imposed on the soldiers when they return home after peace is declared. The belligerents will be bowed beneath the burdens of the war debts. The Germans for a time this year believed it might be possible for them to evade their cost of the conflict by compelling the Quadruple Entente powers to pay a full indemnity. Dr. Helfferich, the German minister of finance, made this statement in the Reichstag last August. But as the year's fighting continued with constantly increasing expenditures, the German government changed its mind about the possibility of any belligerent being able to escape from the financial net. Dr. Helfferich therefore announced a fortnight ago that although Germany might collect an indemnity, yet the war would impose "a colossal burden" of new taxes on the Germans.

During the year, various British statesmen uttered warnings concerning the financial outlook. And the possibility of bankruptcy overtaking Europe has several times been mentioned in the House of Lords. All the belligerent governments have become uneasy about the monetary outlook, but the system of raising the war by borrowing money has prevented the people themselves from feeling the financial pinch, except in Great Britain. The British government is now raising about \$500,000,000 per year for war costs by direct taxation, but no other nation has as yet seriously increased its peace taxes. The British tax, large as it is, does no more than meet the interest on the government's war borrowings.

French Plan to Recoup.
The war has compelled the rapid expenditure of such unprecedented sums of money that it is difficult to believe the warring governments will continue the strain for another year, unless one side or the other sees the possibility of a complete victory. No decisive success for anybody is now in sight. Even if either group of belligerents has the power to force the other into bankruptcy, it is not probable that power will be applied. The injury which would be done to the most robust of the warring nations would not justify the infliction of a condition of insolvency upon the enemy.

France is leading the other nations in taking preliminary steps to recover from the financial blight of the war. The northern area of France now in the enemy's possession, is one of Europe's most important manufacturing centers. The factories will have to be rebuilt and new machinery must be installed after peace is declared. A French commission is now in the United States studying American labor saving devices and American methods of production. Factory output in the United States is between two and three times as much per man as it is in Europe. If, after the war, France can adapt herself to American methods, the French factories will at least double their productivity and France will be able to care for her war debts and grow richer at the same time. If Europe at large is to make a speedy recovery from the war's distress, the example of France must be followed by all the countries alike. On Europe's ability to copy American industrial methods therefore depends the effect of the financial burdens which the war is fastening on the backs of the taxpayers.

Old Doctor Stork Is Real Friend Indeed

Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 15.—"I was expecting a visit from the stork, Judge, and was in a hurry to get home," said Audry Abraham, when arraigned before Municipal Judge Fox charged with speeding.

"Have you ever been arrested before?" asked the judge.

"Yes, about two years ago for the same offense, and I had the same excuse," said Judge Fox, with a smile. "Costs suspended."

New Liquor Issue Is Now Up for Solution

Union bartenders, who expect to continue as dispensers of near beer, have brought another grievance to the district attorney. Is their union label sign a violation of the clause in the dry law prohibiting the advertising of intoxicants? District Attorney Evans opines that it is not. To make sure, however, he has referred the question to the attorney general.

UNION COUNTY MAN AGAIN A CANDIDATE



Edward Wright.

For the last 12 years Edward Wright has been in the county clerk's office of Union county. For four years he was deputy and the last eight years he has been county clerk. Now he is a candidate for the Republican nomination for public service commissioner for the eastern Oregon district.

Mr. Wright was born at Union, in Union county, 33 years ago, coming from a family of Oregon pioneers. He is a son of J. T. Wright, a nephew of W. T. Wright, a prominent eastern Oregon banker. He has engaged in farming, stock raising and the drug business at different times. When elected to the office of county clerk, it was without opposition.

REMOVAL OF TARIFF FROM POLITICS AIM OF LOCAL CHAMBER

Plea Is That Schedules Be
Based on Science and
Facts as They Exist.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce through its permanent tariff commission committee is to undertake a campaign in Oregon for removing the tariff from politics.

Commercial organizations, the press and all citizens will be asked to use their influence with congressional representatives and others to the end that American tariff schedules be founded upon science and facts as they exist, excluding wherever possible the political aspect.

The Portland committee was recently appointed at the request of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States following a referendum vote among American commercial organizations of 710 for, and 9 against, a permanent national tariff commission.

Cookingham Is Chairman.
The committee held an organization meeting Friday, E. G. Cookingham being elected chairman. Others on the committee are A. J. Bales, C. H. Harrington, T. S. Townsend, O. E. Heintz. Support will be given to a bill Lloyd J. Wentworth and H. B. Miller drafted by the National Tariff league, this body cooperating with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States to take the tariff out of politics by carrying on a nationwide campaign of education that will demand of congress the creation and maintenance of a permanent tariff commission of the highest personnel, with the broadest powers under the constitution.

Aims Are Stated.
A resume of the proposed act to create a permanent, non-partisan tariff commission is as follows:
A tariff commission composed of seven members.

No one political party shall have a majority of the members.
Full term of appointment, nine years, one member retiring each year after three years.

Salaries, \$12,000 per year.
The commission to have full powers of investigation, to gather data and report to congress from time to time; to hear complaints and investigate them, and to recommend such tariff changes from time to time as are made necessary to put and keep the tariff on a fair and equitable basis, and to work out if possible a scientific American tariff system suited to the needs of all the country.

Upon this commission, agriculture, labor, manufactures and trade and commerce each to have a member. Higher education to be represented by a man trained and schooled in scientific research and investigation; one member to be a tariff expert from the treasury department, familiar with classifications, decisions, and the practice under the existing tariff act. Commission to have full power to send for books and papers and to compel attendance of witnesses, and to act as a tariff court in certain cases.

The act to carry a fixed annual appropriation, giving the commission stability, so that it could not be wiped out by failure to appropriate.

**Mayor Albee Will
Return to Old Party**

Although he was nominated and energetically backed by local members of the Progressive party in the mayoralty campaign to 1913, Mayor Albee is now to desert the ranks of the Progressives and register as a Republican. "We broke away from the party to accomplish a purpose," he says, "and that purpose is accomplished as far as it ever will be. There seems to be nothing to do but to go back to the Republican party."

270,000 Miners at War.
London, Jan. 15.—(U. P.)—Labor estimates place the number of miners with the colors at 370,000 while 170,000 are engaged in munitions work.

Edlefsen's provide fuel comfort now.

#COLUMBIA#

Sixth at Washington—The Perfectly Heated—Perfectly Ventilated Theatre—Sixth at Washington

The world loves a woman who can
keep smiling under heavy burdens

Jane Grey--Tully Marshall and Seven Charming Children

in a motion picture pathetic and thrilling

Let Katy Do It

One of the most intense and inspiring
dramas produced by Griffith—

Starting midst the quiet of a New England
farm it transports you with Katy and her
seven charges to the Mexican mines—a district
seething with revolution—

In this picture are reproduced some of those
artistic and stirring panoramas for which
Griffith is famous—

Another Top-Notch Keystone

The Great Pearl Tangle

Not a serious moment in
the entire comedy—your
smile grows to laughter as
you watch

Sam Bernard

and the funny Keystone
players



LEST YOU FORGET—THIS IS LETTER WRITING WEEK