

OUR YEARS OF WAR CHANGES WHOLE CHARACTER OF FRANCE AS A NATION

Has New Ideals Undreamed of in 1914—Future of the Country Turned From Agriculture to Industrialism—While Distant Future Is Bright, Problems to Be Solved Are Mighty.

By LLOYD ALLEN.

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(Copyright, 1919, by Western Newspaper Union.) Paris.—Four years of war absolutely changed the character of France as a nation, changed her economic situation, altered her outlook on the world and turned the whole future of the country toward industrialism rather than agriculture.

The France of today has new ideals that were undreamed of in 1914. Only one big characteristic of the pre-war days remains, and that is the unalterable and deep-rooted fear of Germany, a fear bred by generations of worry that started long before 1870 and that has imprinted itself on French character as a mark that will endure for decades to come.

Dread of the German will not prevent the French from embarking on a national career of prosperity and will not prevent France from trading with Germany—they must trade with their old enemy, it is a vital necessity; it cannot be arranged otherwise for the simple reason that Germany still holds her supremacy as the big coal producing nation of Europe. While France has some coal she must still depend on Germany for something like 23,000,000 tons a year even after the supposedly rich coal fields of Alsace-Lorraine go to France, as they undoubtedly will in the peace treaty.

It's going to be a rather strange situation between the French and Germans. France will lack coal and the Germans will lack iron.

France will sell iron to the Germans and get coal in return.

Immediate Problems Mighty.

While the somewhat distant future is very bright for France the immediate problems she must solve are mighty. She has the beginning of her new industrial system in the form of a series of factories that made munitions during the war.

Her former industries are smashed. At the first German invasion France lost 80 per cent of her woolen industry, 90 per cent of her sugar mills, four-fifths of her coal production, four-fifths of her iron and steel output and four-fifths of her coke. The Germans struck France right through the heart of her industrial region. Today this section is for the most part a waste.

With the beginning of the peace conference France was out of essential raw materials. She was in a situation altogether different from England and America. She had no chance of starting out to build up foreign trade and for that reason was anxious to have the allies maintain their blockade against the neutrals and the central powers as long as possible. America and England on the other hand knew that the peace of the world must depend as much on the resumption of normal trade as upon any strictly political action.

Germany Needs Raw Materials.

Unless raw materials are pushed into Germany the German factories cannot run and Germany cannot pay the indemnity the peace conference will place on her shoulders. Unless the factories of Germany are permitted to operate the German civilians will not have work and if a large problem of unemployment develops, the revolutionary elements—that is the very radical revolutionists—will overthrow whatever government the Germans now have set up and the German signature on the peace treaty will be null and void.

Out of these conditions the French government's policies were naturally vamped along entirely different lines from the American and British policies. It was impossible for France to plan for the future as America and England would. As a consequence there was a great divergence of ideas during the early days of the peace conference that was more or less misunderstood by Americans in France and caused an undue amount of criticism to be launched against French methods and French statesmen.

The French for instance passed a governmental resolution about the middle of January that practically stopped the importation of American, English, and other foreign manufactured articles into the country, this at a time when the average American was thinking and talking of the closer trade relations that would spring up between France and America as a result of the two nations having fought side by side in the war.

American Firm Hit.

One of the first American firms hit by the resolution was the manufacturer of a well-known automobile. This firm had several thousand cars in France ordered for war purposes by the French government. It was impossible to sell the cars to civilians, since such a move would be the cause of French money leaving the country. If money left the country the French financial situation suffered according to the amount spent abroad. The rate of exchange was already against the French. It was thought desirable to

keep the exchange rate from mounting higher against France.

More fluctuation of exchange was not the primary reason for barring out the American automobiles.

As it happened, a well-known French concern operated by Andre Citroen, whose name is as well known in France as the name of the leading manufacturer of cheap automobiles is known in America, had turned his factory over to munition production during the war. While the peace conference was starting, Citroen was converting his works into a plant for manufacturing a small and fairly cheap car which would take its place as the cheapest car in France as soon as production could be gotten under way.

In the meantime Citroen was protected. The lot of American cars was not to be thrown on to a market that the French considered to be legitimately Citroen's.

Close to Industrial Paralysis.

Americans in Paris did not appreciate the French situation as revealed in cold figures of the statisticians, namely, that France was on the very verge of absolute industrial paralysis—that the country, with only one or two false moves, might easily go into that vicious circle of industrial misfortune that had already hit Austria where the whole economic fabric had degenerated to a point that brought rank ruin to the greater portion of the population.

While France was enacting laws that prohibited the importation of American manufactured articles and thereby hoped to protect her own disrupted factories while they got back from a war basis to a peace footing America, as she had every right to do, shut out one of the principal commodities the French have to sell abroad: wines, brandies and liquors. Our national prohibition amendment cut off at one stroke one of the leading products the French had hoped to sell in the United States. There was of course no spirit of retaliation on the part of America in this—it was simply the working out of a strictly national problem.

American officials here in Paris who were watching the strained relations between the Americans and certain cliques of the French used to point out that America must make due allowances for the critical problems of reconstruction days in France and remember that any unjust commercial discrimination ordered by the French government would right itself quickly enough because of the inequalities such rulings made in France itself.

In other words, it was regarded as only a matter of time before pressure brought to bear by the French business houses who were unfavorably affected by the embargo against American factory stuff would cause the government to let down the bars in many instances and permit the flow of trade to resume.

French Industries Ruined.

To illustrate: The country around Lille in the north of France was a great spinning center before the war. It was also the center of some of the worst fighting. And the spinning mills were destroyed by shell fire and by willful robbery by the Germans. Of the 570,000 bobbins spinning linen thread before the war 250,000 were destroyed and 80,000 stolen. In the wool spinning business in this section 1,000,000 bobbins out of 2,500,000 were destroyed or stolen, according to the French minister of reconstruction. Something like five hundred cotton bobbins were put out of business. To complete the job of paralyzing the

GERMAN OFFICER SELLS RED PARK OF AIRPLANES

London.—Lieutenant Porten, former officer in the German aviation service, has been tried by court-martial, according to Berlin advices, on a charge of having sold an entire park of airplanes at Vilna to the bolsheviks for 2,000,000 marks. The airplanes were valued at 10,000,000 marks. Porten fled to Koenigsberg and headed a conspiracy in the local workingmen's council against the commander of the German garrison at Kovno. The plot was discovered and Porten arrested.

French textile industry, the Germans, when they did not steal the machinery, broke some of the vital parts and took away all electrical fittings and every scrap of copper.

What happened then after the war had ceased?

The French government made it impossible for the Lille factory owners to replace the stolen and destroyed spindles by buying them in America and England, and France could not replace them. It was pointed out to the men of Lille who wished to buy, and who had the money to buy, that it was illegal to send money out of France. If the spindle buyer happened to have a fund handy in England or America, with which to pay for his stuff there was a slim chance of being able to put through the deal, but it was by no means a certainty.

Back of this seemingly suicidal policy was the French government plan to make France as nearly self-sustaining as possible, to keep French money at home and to keep the rate of exchange as favorable as possible to France.

It did not occur to the French officials that reconstruction problems could be solved more easily if the Lille people and others in the same predicament were permitted to buy factory machinery abroad and thereby hasten the day when the textile mills would resume production.

Would Help Labor.

With production started, even with factory reconstruction started, the French economic system would be benefited, because such an outcome would give employment to French workmen. And exportation of textiles—which have to be manufactured before they are shipped—would automatically push the French exchange rate into a position favoring France. Yet the whole chain of reconstruction was blocked by the prohibition on importing foreign spindles and the French textile people themselves were obliged to oppose a government policy that hurt their business.

American business men in France during the peace conference shook their heads when they were asked about the possibility of immediate trade between France and America, and the optimistic ones took the view that tight government control of trade as put into effect by the French in January as a reconstruction measure could not last long.

What happened to the textile industry during the war was only a repetition of the sad fate of the brewing business and the mining industry, as well as the sugar business.

All of this wreckage cost the French something like \$300,000,000—that's the first official estimate.

Dream of Prosperity.

In the midst of this despoliation France has a dream of future industrial prosperity to be realized only by protecting all national industry against foreign competition. Never before has she thought seriously of taking the German's place in Europe, and now she believes that with only a comparatively small amount of favoritism she can compete for many of the German markets.

From the despairing days of July, 1918, when it seemed certain the Germans would take Paris and that French public opinion would not stand behind a continuation of the war, to the exaltation France feels today in the joy of victory is a far cry, to say the least.

The tables are completely turned. Politically and economically the French have made tremendous gains and they can only be expected to make the most of their bettered position in the world.

If they happened to work at cross purposes to England and America, we can expect some compromise measures and some heated headlines perhaps in case the censor gets off the job sometime in 1919, but scarcely anything more serious.

Pickled for Life.

Jackson, Miss.—"Pickled for life," mumbled a courtroom wag as Henry Pickle listened to the supreme court's decision affirming the lower court's verdict of life imprisonment.

Some Dog.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Oliver C. Black, lawyer, is the only man in the state with a dog valued as highly as all his household goods, Assessor Beuty says. Each is listed at \$100.

Through the Looking Glass

By EVELYN NESBIT

Have you ever seen a chicken fly? Or a waddling duck look longingly in to the sky and try her wings?

Try as they may, they cannot reach the clouds. They cannot do what every sassy sparrow and every black crow can do.

All of which goes to prove that if you are a chicken don't try to be a sparrow. And if you are a duck, don't try to be a crow. A chicken cannot even be a duck. The chicken has this fact brought forcibly to mind every time it tries to swim.

It is good to have ambitions, but nature has imposed certain limitations on every human being. You cannot have Mary Jones' nose, no matter how much you despise your own button of a nose. You console yourself with the fact that Mary Jones could not have your beautiful curls and your sweet disposition if she angled after them for a century!

It is waste of time for a woman to long to be a sparrow if she is a duck. Let her make the most of her duck-like qualities, and she will beat the sparrow anyway.

Be as ambitious as you can be. Ambition is the axle grease that makes the world go round. But misdirected ambition is like pride—it "goeth before a fall." It fills the world with grumpy, discontented fools, who do not realize how well off they are.

LINEN TEA CLOTHS CHARMING

Table Spread Combined With Flet Crochet on Quaint Mahogany Furniture is Greatly Admired.

A linen tea cloth combined with flet crochet on a quaint old mahogany table was recently the subject of comment and praise at an afternoon tea and the hostess said: "My store of linen was small—just a roll or two—but it was homespun by my two grandmothers. Both these dear ladies loved to tell tales of their early days. One had spun her linen in New England and the other in Old England, and I determined to enhance my heirlooms with my own handiwork."

"This tea table cover has only a 12-inch square of linen in its center, but the flet lace is broad enough to make it seem of considerable size. The lace motif is the crown and scepter in honor of my British ancestry. Another cover I value is made from the ends of an old homespun sheet. I re-enforced it on the under side with fine stitching before I made it into a dinner cloth. It has some insets of flet and wherever it had to be cut or punched I strengthened the linen by running a little embroidery stitch around it. This made-over linen has been recreated in odd moments and is a treasure to me, and I know my daughters will appreciate it and add to it as I have done."

BEAUTIFUL AFTERNOON FROCK



This is a dainty afternoon frock of gray chiffon with chenille striped satin of same shade used as banding.

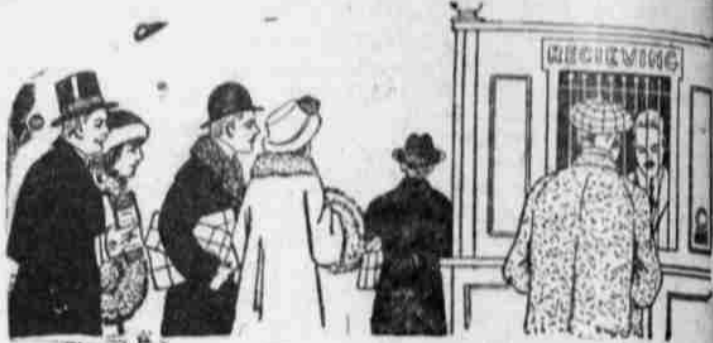
Furniture Cleaner.

To save time and labor while doing housecleaning try putting some olive oil in a pan of lukewarm water which has been made slightly soapy with a pure soap. Use this to wash furniture, then polish with a dry soft cloth. Woodwork, leather and all will look like new, for the olive oil feeds, while the soapy water cleans, and there are no injurious chemicals to eat the varnish.



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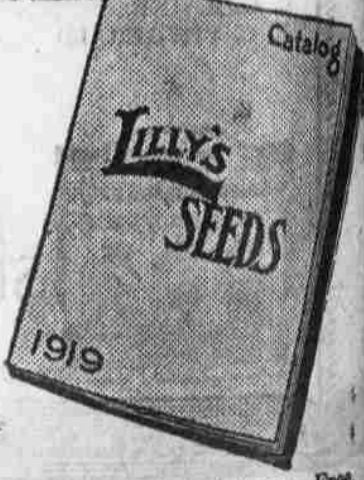
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YANK HELPING RUSSIAN



Dressed in his special arctic uniform, the above soldier of the United States is giving a few coins to the poor unfortunate woman on the steps of the church at Archangel, Russia.