

WAR CREATES AN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Russell Asserts European Contest Besides Profoundly Affecting the World's History, Geography and Politics, Is Upheaving Old Industrial Conditions and Creating New.

(By Charles Edward Russell)
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LONDON, May 10.—Doubtless this war will profoundly affect the world's history, geography and politics, but it promises now to have a still greater effect upon the world's industrial system.

Already a vast revolution has begun in Great Britain, not by any body's will or planning, but because of inevitable conditions.

Take this matter of government ownership. Nobody in control of affairs wanted it; nobody there liked it. The thing was, in plain terms, compulsory. By no possibility could government escape it.

After all, governments seem to be no more than hammer and chisel in the hand of fate. As soon as the British government had taken over the railroad system it was assailed with the brilliant and multiple problem of munitions and supplies for the armies it was enlisting. At first these supplies came with maddening slowness. Recruiting was hindered because the government had no place to put the recruits, no clothes for their backs, weapons for their hands, nor food for their stomachs.

A situation Nobody Had Dreamed Of To push things along it was compelled to assume the active control of first one establishment and then of the second establishment on which the first was dependent until it found itself confronted with such a situation as no man in the country had ever dreamed of.

If you are going to take up the making of cartridges you must have machinery to make them with, and if you take up the mill that makes that kind of machinery you will dislocate the making of machinery to weave the cloth you want for your troops, and so on, like the house that Jack built.

It was to meet this extraordinary situation that the government passed in March, the sweeping measures by which it was authorized to take over bodily at any time any factory or other source of supply that it might deem the national needs to require.

There never has been so powerful an assertion of supremacy of the interests of the community over private interests and private ownership. Under this policy the government has assumed some establishments by guaranteeing (as with the railroads) a reasonable return; in other cases (as with the great armament factories) has put forth its power by placing representatives on the boards; and in others has organized a company, and itself taken the stock, after the plan pursued so successfully by the government of Japan in its many business enterprises.

G. B. Goes Into Indigo Business as a Trust For example, although the fact may not be generally known, the government of Great Britain has taken over the entire indigo business from planting to marketing. To do this it formed a great stock company, subscribed for a majority of the stock, and offered the rest to the public. It is, in fact, merely a trust, organized and conducted by the government.

In an entirely different way it put its hand upon the banks and sustained the nation's credit. The wary gentlemen that conduct the government did not want to do any of these things; before each step they apologized and explained, like one saying grace before meals. But they did them, just the same, and they will go more of the like.

Already this assumes very great changes in the relations of government to labor. For some years now government has been more and more the buffer between employer and employee. When labor has been denied better pay or shorter hours, it has fallen into a way of voting a strike and leaving the government to find a way out of the row.

Now government is becoming itself an employer, and how will that be when the row starts? Longer Hours for Patriotism's Sake At present it is makeshifting along on the basis of sentiment. Patriotism, that is. Early in the war, by making an appeal to the patriotic feelings of the people, it secured amendments to the factory acts so as to extend the working hours far beyond the regulation eight-hour day. Under this change Prime Minister Asquith boasted in his speech at New-



William Russell in the \$50,000 "Flying A" Photoplay "THE DIAMOND FROM THE SKY"

castle that in the armament factories each worker had been averaging 67 to 69 hours a week.

He was treading delicate ground. For the sake of the war and the country the workers submitted to the surrender of their eight hour day, but they did not like it.

The other day a workman in the royal arms factory at Enfield died of overwork. Since August he had averaged 80 hours a week. The coroner piously remarked that he had died for his country, but the workmen plainly do not regard that verdict with enthusiasm.

A girl less than 18 years old worked in an ammunition factory at Leeds from 6 o'clock one morning until 7 o'clock the next morning, when she was disabled by an accident. Another girl in the same factory worked 29 hours continuously. Workmen now compare these conditions with the great dividends declared by the armament companies and the result is not reassuring.

The fact is, the government is becoming a great employer at a troublesome time in the history of labor. Already it is walking the slack wire and juggling hard to keep its balance between labor organizations that are powerful and those that are not.

Strong Union Wins; Weak One Loses It lost no time in giving the railroad men what they wanted; they are strongly organized. But when the postoffice workers, being but ill-organized, represented that as the war had greatly increased their labors and lengthened their hours they should have the same war bonus that had been allowed the railroad men, the government coldly turned them down.

Recently the government negotiated with the strongly organized miners for a longer working day.

The miners demurred, and pointed to the law.

"Oh, we'll have the law amended," said the government agents, cheerfully.

"If you do, we'll strike," said the miners.

The law has not been amended, but the miners are demanding that the mine owners share with them the great increase in profits the owners have raked off from the war and an alarmed government is sitting on the safety valve.

Other conditions contribute to an uneasy situation.

Women Take Men's Places At the instance of the government, some employers have all but driven employees into the army.

Sometimes the vacancies thus made have been filled with women—at lower wages.

At the end of April it was estimated that more than 100,000 women had gone to work in places previously filled by men.

Bitter complaint was made that many employers would not promise places after the war to men that enlisted.

The harassed government took this up and started a reforming crusade among employers. In a way it was too late. Most of the harm has been done and astute labor men understand that women have come to stay in most of the industries they have entered.

All these things point to further changes. The gravest of the indications now is the increasing demand on the part of workers that the increased cost of living shall be met with war bonuses. At this moment these demands, sometimes backed with strikes or the promise of strikes, come up from all part of the country.

Make War Bonuses Permanent If the war bonus is granted it must, in all probability become a per-

manent increase. The government is finding it more and more difficult to grant the increase to one class of applicants and to deny it to another.

As was pointed out in the reply to the postoffice workers, to grant war bonuses all along the line would embarrass a government that is under a war expense of \$10,000,000 a day.

Yet, on the other hand, here is the always growing burden of the living cost, pressing upon every toiler, when the old wages are sometimes insufficient to support life under the new prices of necessities.

Few governments have faced a more perplexing situation. Nor is this all that thoughtful men see. The nation's debt burden is of necessity mounting up in a way beyond all precedent in history. More debts mean more taxes, more taxes mean more poverty and a further segregation of wealth in the hands of a few.

Clearly, we go not begin to pay our war bills when we pay for the armies in the field. Immensely bigger bills remain behind for generation after generation to meet.

And yet out of even this gloomy slough into which civilization has plunged there is beginning to appear the promise of something like a way out, and about that I hope to tell before I conclude this series.

SUBMARINES SINK SIX BRITISH SHIPS IN PAST FEW DAYS

LONDON, May 31.—German submarines have been unusually busy while the German foreign office was engaged in the preparation of its answer to the Washington not on the Lusitania incident. The last few days, it is pointed out in London, provided them with a heavy bag of big merchant ships. These include the steamer Ethiope, 3700 tons; and the Tullochmor, 3500 tons, which were sunk by submarines Friday in the approach of the English channel.

On Saturday the British steamer Ping Suey, belonging to the Holt line, was attacked twice by German undersea boats within five hours, but she succeeded in escaping into Plymouth. Another victim was the steamer Glenlee of 4000 tons which was sunk somewhere between the British and French coasts recently.

In the North sea a German submarine sent the Russian ship Mars to the bottom a few days ago and the losses of the British steamers Spenny-moor and Cadby also have been reported. Thus within the space of three days six ships of considerable size have been sent to the bottom by German submarines and six lives have been lost. Furthermore the trans-Atlantic liner Mexantle had a narrow escape from an attack by a German submarine.

London observers are drawing attention to those cases, particularly in connection with the presentation of the German note.

MARKET REPORT

Prices Paid by Dealers

EGGS—17½¢.
BUTTER—Dairy, two pounds 45¢.
POTATOES—\$1.75 per 100 lbs.
ONIONS—1½¢ per lb.
HONEY—12¢ per lb.
CIDER—25¢.
PORK—8½¢.
BEEF—9½¢.

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Twelve tables brimfull of Summer Wash Materials put out at specially reduced prices for a quick riddance.

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TABLE NO. 4

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TABLE NO. 7

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TABLE NO. 10

Fancy Cotton Foulards, in a mercerized cloth, 27 inches wide, in the light and darker shades of blue, makes a nice fabric for summer wear, worth 25¢—special 9¢

TABLE NO. 13

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COWS—Alive, 5¢@5½¢.
VEAL—Dressed, 10¢@12¢.
HENS—Large, over 4 lbs., 11¢; small, 10¢; old roosters, 6¢; broilers, 1¼ to 2 lbs., 18¢.
DUCKS—Fat, 8¢.
TURKEYS, 13¢.
BELGIAN HARES, 7¢.
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