

# SHORTENING OF GERMAN LINE DISTRESS SIGN

### Germany's New Power Weakens as America Draws Near Combat—Can't Take Men Workers to Strengthen Line—British Begin to Dominate Situation.

By J.W.T. MASON

NEW YORK, March 15.—As America moves nearer and nearer to war with Germany, Germany's resources in man-power are growing seriously less and her resources in munitions are decreasing proportionately below those of the allies.

Furthermore, the war is tending at important places to leave the trenches and emerge into the open. If it does this on an extensive scale, Germany's most efficient tactics, big gun bombardments and machine gun fire from behind scientifically constructed shelter, will be made of little use.

The past month wherein Germany tried to do unprecedented damage with her submarines, cannot have diverted attention in Germany from the fact that the central powers have suffered at both ends of the European-Asiatic battle lines, two of the most serious defeats of the war.

The retirement of the Germans for over two miles along a 12-mile front in the vicinity of Bapaume on the western front, is an important victory for the British, but it is by no means as significant as the defeat of the Turks at Kut-el-Amara and the British capture of Bagdad.

With Bagdad wrested from the Turks, the Germans cannot hope to create a great militaristic colony in Mesopotamia and thus become the dominant power in the middle east.

It is probable that the German retirement in the west is for the principle purpose of releasing men and munitions, badly needed in reinforcing the Turks. Every mile of trenching whereby the western front facing the British, is shortened, means the Germans can save 6000 men.

**Believing the Pressure.**  
The position to which the Germans have retreated in the vicinity of Bapaume does not require so intricate a network of winding trenches to defend as it did on the line given up. As a result of this retreat the Germans can send perhaps 50,000 men from the west to Mesopotamia.

The shortening of the German line in the west, coming simultaneously with the British victory at Kut-el-Amara, is the most complete evidence the war has produced of the serious decrease of man-power within Germany. There are, of course, enough actual men at home in the German empire to provide an extra 50,440 men for Mesopotamia, but there is not enough civilians left in Germany to withstand the extra killing, and leave a safe margin for German industries when the war is over.

The general staff cannot risk killing off to great a proportion of the German males. For this reason it can no longer conduct offensives in several places at once.

When a part of the German line begins to weaken dangerously, the central reservoir of man-power inside Germany cannot be tapped. The men must be taken from some other section of the battle front.

**Limit of Man-Power.**  
Germany did not begin to deport the Belgians until she had reached the limit of her own available man-power.

Germany's Casualties are now over twice the losses of Great Britain. To increase this disproportion will be so greatly to England's advantage after the war, that the German government has shown it prefers to shorten its trench lines, as the less dangerous alternative.

This does not mean the German army is on its last legs and in imminent danger of being compelled to accept unconditional surrender.

But, it does mean that Germany's wounds are bleeding internally, and that every strong offensive she henceforth is compelled to oppose with one hand means a lessening of the strength of the other hand.

With the fighting now taking place in the open, as is the case in Mesopotamia, the physical stamina required for stand-up warfare must inevitably favor the British.

# WAR INVOLVES EVERY FACTORY AND WORKER, SAYS LEADER OF INDUSTRIAL PREPAREDNESS



HOWARD COFFIN

BY HOWARD E. COFFIN, Chairman Committee on Industrial Board of United States.

NEW YORK, March 14.—Wars, as now waged, involve every human and material resource of a belligerent nation. Every shrewd industry, of transportation and of finance must be harnessed in the country's service, to the one end, and for the common good.

In England two years and a half ago there were three government arsenals. Today thousands of England's industrial plants are being operated as government factories, for the production of war materials, and many other thousands of plants, still under private control, are centering their energies in this same direction.

**Industrial Organization.**  
The teaching of the munitions making art to these thousands of industrial workers, both men and women, has called for a work in industrial organization and education such as

well fed soldier starts with a big advantage.

Everywhere than along the British fronts, there are no signs of serious activity. Russia, Rumania, Italy and France are resting, and are not showing sufficient recuperative powers to warrant expectations that they will engage in large spring offensives. The British army is now beginning to dominate the situation, and whatever hopes exist of the war's ending being freed by a military decision this summer must rest upon Tommy Atkins.

## AMERICAN FLAG AT EDENBOWER DESECRATED

ROSEBURG, Ore., March 15.—An American flag was found hauled to the ground and trampled in the dust today at the foot of a school-house pole from which it waved last night at Edenbower, a village adjoining Roseburg. Edenbower citizens today mailed the flag back onto the pole and asked the sheriff and the United States district attorney to investigate the incident. It is not known who tore the flag down.

## BRITISH RECAPTURE TOWNSHEND'S GUNS

LONDON, March 15.—The British have advanced thirty miles above Bagdad, it is announced officially. The statement says that the British artillery taken by the Turks at the time of the surrender of General Townshend's army at Kut-el-Amara, had been captured at Bagdad by the British.

## DENVER WOMAN MURDERED BY FIEND WITH HAMMER

DENVER, Colo., Mar. 15.—Mrs. C. Whitson was found dead in her home at Sheridan, a suburb of Denver, tonight when her husband returned from a motion picture show with the children. She apparently had been beaten to death with a hammer, which was found near the body. Whitson notified the police authorities. Mrs. Whitson was last seen alive by her husband, he told the police, when he left the house early in the evening.

peace time commercial line to the quantity production of war materials for which is had no previous training. Delays of this kind in time of emergency cannot but result in closed plants, in the disruption of labor organizations built up over a period of years, in a loss of skilled men through enlistment for the fighting front, in great financial shock to manufacturers, and in those same chaotic conditions which wrought near national disasters to several of the countries at the outbreak of the European struggle in 1914.

Each manufacturing plant must be taught how to make that particular part or thing for which its equipment is best suited and for which, by a carefully prepared classification, it is to be held accountable in time of war.

Where necessary, annual educational orders, of such small size as not to interfere with the commercial products, must be delivered each year under government inspection.

Skilled labor in every line must be so enrolled in an industrial reserve as to insure against its loss to industry through enlistment in the fighting forces.

There exists no other means of harnessing industry in the defensive service of this government.

**War Insurance.**  
Every manufacturing institution in the country carries fire insurance—for the future it must demand that it be given war insurance as well.

To each community must be brought home the part it must play in the event of national emergency. To urge and aid in pushing to speedy completion comprehensive plans for the education and organization of American manufacturers, for the production of governmental materials, would seem the dictate of plain business sense.

There is no mystery in the job of preparing this country for defense. Secrecy in movement and accomplishment is largely unbecome. We deceive and can deceive the American people only.

Our national safety lies in the thoroughness with which American business men do their "bit" and in the manner in which we advertise to the other nations of the world our business-like plans for the national defense.

## FLOUNCE ROCK FRILLS

Mrs. Kay Kincaid came home Tuesday from her school on the Apple-gate.

Gus Ditsworth made a business trip to the valley last week. Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Broomfield are glad to know they have a 10-pound daughter born Thursday.

Mr. Kincaid has sold his farm to Carl Richardson and the family will leave for Roseburg as soon as they can travel. We exceedingly regret the departure of the Kincaids from our neighborhood, but wish them happiness in their new home.

Mrs. Stinson and little son came up to Trail on the stage Monday and Mr. Stinson met them there and brought them home in his Ford.

The roads are not very good for auto travel or any other kind now. Mr. Carlton brought a large bunch of cattle up to his ranch last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Kincaid, son Howard, and daughter, Kay, and James Schaffer, spent the day Saturday with the Peeler and Kincaids.

There was a pleasant party Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peyton. About 35 guests were present and they played some carefully planned new games. Refreshments of sandwiches, cake and coffee were served at midnight.

Mrs. Sam Walker went to Trail Monday in the auto with Mr. Stinson.

## ANTIOCH ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Will Hanscom and family of Agate spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives of Antioch, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Glass.

Claude Chapman and Miss Jennie Whipple of Medford motored out and spent Sunday with W. C. Chapman and family.

Ersel Lewis of Central Point was doing business in Antioch one day last week.

Harold Shook of southern California was visiting home folks at Grants Pass and friends in Sams Valley one day the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Seabrook of Table Rock passed through the valley last Sunday.

Clarence Wilbite of Beagle was trading in town Saturday.

Jesse Glass hauled a load of grain to the Table Rock store one day last week.

Walter Frank, who is working in

Ralph Russell is now in charge of the Hill Cottrell ranch which Bill traded for the Joe Hanna ranch at Riverdale. We are all sorry to lose Bill and family who have moved to the new ranch.

The "72" cinnabar claims, which were sold last fall by Willis Hayes and Ned Potter to R. H. Spencer and associates are forging ahead and are now busily engaged in installing retorts to treat their ore which runs high in mercury. This property adjoins the Big Mountain King property which is under sale to eastern parties with the prospects that there will be heavy operations there the coming summer.

At the Utah mines S. F. Sims of Grants Pass, who is a partner of Robert E. Doane, is pushing the mining work with great success. The progress is rapid and the ore body is growing with each foot of depth gained. There are now at the property from the outside, Samuel Bertelson of Tacoma, his son Carroll, Geo. Lovell, S. F. Sims and W. Weybright who together with all the men who can be spared from ranch work in the Meadows are pushing the work at top speed. The new battery of retorts will be in place as soon as the

ground permits, being already on the snow near the foot of the hill where they were stalled by deep snow. The ore which is gaining rapidly in value shows a permanent vein of 24 per cent to 30 per cent cinnabar ore which has a width of 6 to 7 feet, this is in the side vein while the big vein is over 100 feet in width. It is worthy of note that these Meadow cinnabar mines, with quicksilver selling at \$150 per flask of 75 pounds, are the richest mines in the state. Large quantities of the ore carries \$1200 per ton in values and the means of reducing are such that there is little expense in getting the returns started into the pockets of the owners. Since Mr. Doane has taken an interest in the property it has been put into "mining shape" and a great improvement is seen in the progress made.

Dave Cottrell was a Medford visitor Friday and Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Layne Wyland drove to the valley Friday morning.

Our storekeeper, Jasper Rodgers, spent Saturday night in Medford, the roads making the getting of supplies quite a problem.

Hay hauling is the main ranchers' diversion this year and it is an unusual condition.

Theo and Gladys Ice visited Beagle Friday.

The miners are proving good customers for the ranchers' eggs and butter this spring, taking all that can be spared.

Dr. Chisholm of Gold Hill has two men at work on his property although the snow is a great handicap.

Bill Pomeroy has been hauling retorts to the Ralmer mine of the Utah quicksilver Company but was unable to deliver them further than the intersection of the Meadows road and Mill Hollow. The snow is too deep to get along the trail and operations are therefore held up for the present although the tunnel is still going forward.

Ralph and Ed Russell are planning to farm a large amount of land and are leasing some of the nearby ranches for the season.

School is again in session although the condition of the roads makes attendance small.

John Greive of Prospect, the veteran road builder and supervisor, who has been spending a couple of days in Medford, returned home Thursday. He states that snow is three feet deep at Prospect, and the roads nearly impassable.

Frederick and Theo Glass were transacting business in Medford one day last week.

Finis Mayfield went to Central Point Friday for a visit with the folks who are wintering there.

**THE MEADOWS**

W. Weybright, who has been in charge of operations on the Utah quicksilver Company mines, is spending a few days between Medford and Grants Pass this week.

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