

How the United States Can Help

(The New York Journal of Commerce).

By an overwhelming vote in both houses of Congress and the approval of the President a state of war, "thrust upon the United States" by the Imperial Government of Germany, has been "formally declared." In the resolution by which this is done the President is "authorized and directed" by Congress "to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the Government to carry on war against the Imperial German Government"; and, to bring the conflict to a successful termination, "all the resources of the country" are declared to be pledged.

While this momentous resolution was under consideration, the Secretary of the Treasury, after conferring with other heads of departments directly concerned, submitted to the House of Representatives estimates for appropriations that may have to be made first and last for the purpose of giving effect to the declaration, amounting to over \$3,400,000,000. How that amount is to be raised is left for further consideration. At the same time a completely formulated bill has been submitted to the chairmen of the Military Committee of each house for increasing the strength of the army while in a separation measure provision is made for further development of naval forces.

The army bill is especially significant, as it implies a purpose of preparing a large military force to be sent to the aid of the powers allied against the Teutonic despotism, if that should be found necessary to effect the avowed purpose of terminating the war against the Imperial German Government. It is to be assumed that it must be accomplished on terms acceptable to the nations allied in support of free government by the people to be governed. This army bill provides for raising the regular organization to the full strength already authorized by the National Defense act of last year, 287,846 men, and the National Guard to the full war strength of 440,000. Two reserve forces of 500,000 each are to be organized on the plan of selective drafting from young men of 19 to 52, to be subjected to training in one year, the first "additional force" in the first half of the year, when it will presumably be made fit for service, and the other in the subsequent half. Then if it appears to be desirable another million men will be put in training.

All of this and more in the way of preparation, if it proves necessary, is contemplated, in the expenditures to be authorized. How much of that to be prepared for will be brought into actual service at home and abroad, depends upon events; but it is well to have it authorized and its cost duly provided for.

That is a task for Congress to take up without delay and the more promptly and unitedly it acts to give it effect, the greater will be the credit to the Government and people of the country, the more honorable will be the achievement in the eyes of the world, and the less the ultimate cost.

In the meantime there are other forces that can be mobilized without delay and with immediate effect, which may shorten the struggle and lessen the cost still more. We can give material and financial support to the armed forces already in the conflict on land and sea. In that all our people can take a patriotic and loyal part with little sacrifice for themselves. Our industries and our trade can be so directed as to serve the Government with the best effect and with the least waste, not only in its work of preparation, but in the aid to be rendered at once to those who are fighting for the common cause. They are already displaying the proper spirit in efforts to create and forward all needed supplies for the armies abroad, which have been exhausting the resources of their lands and the credit of their nations during these months of struggle. Vast relief may come to them by the support that we can give, with their own co-operation. This should be afforded with an eye to patriotic duty and national honor and not to mere personal profit.

Our most powerful weapon for present use in this cause of free government and future security for the nations, lies in our financial power. No small share of that we have gained from the nations which need our help, during this very war, and we should now use it with a generous but well guarded hand in helping to attain the victory. That will be our victory as well as their, and that of just government for all the world, which is to be advanced as never before. Here is a mobilization for which we have the largest means and for which organization already exists and is ready for action.

Our banking and other financial interests are displaying a spirit of co-operation among themselves, and with the Government and all the other forces at work, worthy of the cause and of the character and destiny of the American Republic. There is every prospect that our share in this struggle may yet be of a kind to elevate and strengthen the quality of our citizenship and give new vigor and higher spirit to the mass of our people. It will be good for them to sacrifice luxury and ease and be spurred up to zeal and striving in a better cause than personal, local or even national self-interest, that of the world's progress and an exalting of human government.

Germany's Food Crop Problem

Few people have had greater opportunities in years to gain first hand knowledge of Germany's agricultural methods and practices than Robert S. Bradley, chairman of the Board of the American Agricultural Chemical Co. Asked for his opinion regarding the food problem of Germany, Mr. Bradley said to the Boston News Bureau:

"While Germany may break the laws of humanity with impunity she cannot successfully combat the laws of nature. Food sufficient to support human life is no more essential Germany than are fertilizers to grow her crops upon lands whose natural fertility has long ago been exhausted by constant cropping and where the soil has been forced to yield abnormal crops through a system of the most intensive kind of farming—thorough cultivation, heavy fertilization and a systematic rotation of crops.

"By such methods Germany has been able to produce wheat at the rate of over 30 bushels per acre, against the average yield of the United States of but 12 to 14, other crops being produced in a like ratio. In this way, Germany has been able to produce about 85% of her requirements of food crops under normal conditions.

"At present, however, she lacks the labor for elaborate cultivation of her fields and must grow the crops most needed regardless of their economical rotation. But these are of minor importance compared with her need of plant foods required to maintain the extraordinary productiveness of her fields, which has only been made possible heretofore by the use of enormous quantities of nitrates, phosphates and potash.

"While Germany controls practically the world's supply of potash she has no deposits of nitrates or phosphates and has to depend upon other countries for these plant foods, both of which are far more important to the growing of crops than potash. In fact, potash was never used as a fertilizer until about 1875, while the manufacture of chemical fertilizers was begun about 1845 and became a thriving industry long before the discovery of potash.

"While nitrogen gives the plant a quick start, imparts vitality and grows the foliage, and while potash strengthens the stalk and fiber and improves the quality of some crops, it is the phosphoric acid which produces the grains, tubers and fruits and matures the crops.

"Germany has imported no nitrates or phosphates for two and a half years, and without these essential plant foods she cannot maintain her abnormal crop production. Lands which have been heavily fertilized for many years past lose their productiveness when fed on short and incomplete rations, especially after the first year of such curtailment.

"Under existing conditions, therefore, it is hardly possible that Germany can produce over 50% of her required food crops, as against 85% in normal times. This shortage must be increasing rapidly and is reflected in the food riots, the protests of the socialists of the Reichstag and even in the admissions of the comptroller of foods as well as in the recent seizing of all food supplies by the government. It may also account in large measure for the ruthless and desperate methods to which the German army and navy

have resorted to end the war.

"It has been claimed that Germany is obtaining her nitrate from the air. She started this process long before the war, but its manufacture is expensive and the output limited to the amount of electricity available for its production. It is very doubtful if Germany produces much more nitrate from the air than she requires for her enormous demands for explosives.

"Again it is argued that Germany is using basic slag in place of phosphates. This slag is a by-product from the manufacture of steel from phosphatic iron ores, and its supply is therefore dependent upon that industry. Germany has for many years used large quantities of this phosphatic slag on certain soils and crops, but it is wholly insoluble in water and does not take the place of the soluble superphosphates, which she has heretofore used in addition to the slag and which can only be produce from mineral phosphates, imported principally from the United States, Algeria and Tunis.

"To feed her people Germany must grow food crops, and to grow food crops she must feed her lands. The latter is as vital to her existence as the former."

The Barren Lands Caribou

(Special Correspondence).

A new danger threatening the wild life of Canada is now under careful and eager discussion in those official circles in Ottawa that are most concerned in such matters. It is said that authentic information has reached the government that parties in certain cities of the American West are organizing for a big "clean-up" of game in the North. Just what this may mean is not known outside, but there is reason to fear that one feature of it may be an onslaught upon the Barren Lands caribou east of the Mackenzie river. The stories told even in grave official reports of these wild reindeer are almost unbelievable. Vast herds move slowly to and fro between the southern limits of the Barren Lands and the shores of the Arctic ocean. It has been stated in public addresses by responsible officials that the caribou in these herds number millions and that it is seriously proposed to have them slaughtered on conservation principles as an addition to the flesh meat supply of the Dominion.

The rapid extension of railways and steamer lines in the direction of the Barren Lands would furnish means for getting in supplies for hunters and for shipping out skins, while modern "pump guns", as conservationists bitterly describe them, would furnish engines of destruction ten times as rapid as that which wiped out the buffalo of the plains.

Wicked and selfish destruction such as this need not be submitted to, of course, in these days. The right of the whole people in a resource of this kind is universally recognized, and that right is asserted by the law. No question of divided authority intervenes, for the sovereignty and ownership of the Dominion in these lands is unquestioned. But that the law is not self-enforcing is shown by the fate of other

great herds of caribou which, even in recent years, roamed the plateau east of the Mackenzie. The pot hunter with his "pump gun" has wiped out these creatures almost to the last specimen.

This matter has been placed in the hands of a committee of civil servants whose official positions give them special knowledge or special powers. The chairman is Mr. James White, Secretary of the Commission of Conservation. Mr. Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs; Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Dominion Parks; Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, Dominion Entomologist, and Dr. R. M. Anderson, a member of the Stefansson expedition, make up the list. This committee is known as the Wild Life Board. They have advisory jurisdiction over the wild life of Canada generally and have taken special interest in the caribou. Administrative control is in the Minister of the Interior. The Dominion Parks Branch will be the instrument of control. Operation will be under authority of the Northwest Game Act. The Mounted Police have complete jurisdiction in the territory frequented by the caribou. The pot hunters are the same daring and conscienceless breed as have exterminated whales, seals, deer and buffalo elsewhere, but they will find Canadian law with an aroused public sentiment behind it, especially as explained in the level voice and official manner of the Royal Mounted, rather different from anything they have encountered before. It is understood that, in order to make sure that there shall be no lack and no confusion of authority Parliament will be asked to amend the Northwest Game Act before the close of the present session.