

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

UNHAPPY POLAND.

The Daily Chronicle, of England, recently published the following graphic description of the condition of the ancient nation of Poland, after seven months of fighting, which is an awful indictment of the ravages caused by war.—Ed.

"For no country, not even stricken Belgium, has the war spelt greater tragedy than for unhappy Poland. The people of Belgium, despite their intense sufferings, can find some comfort in the knowledge that their misfortunes spring from a common cause and are mitigated by a common inspiration, but the Poles have no such satisfaction. An appeal by the general relief committee for the victims of the war in Poland brings home the meaning of the war to that distracted country.

"Over a line of 650 miles some 3,000,000 Austro-Germans and four million Russians are fighting each other. For more than six months they have been treading down and tearing up in turn the Polish land and famishing and exterminating its inhabitants. Forced to a cause which is not their own, the Poles must engage in fratricidal strife and put both sides in the first line of battle, they very often kill one another in bayonet charges.

"The Poles have hitherto furnished 1,500,000 soldiers, almost equally divided between the Russian and Austro-German armies. Up to now four hundred thousand of them have been lost, killed, wounded or taken prisoners. Everywhere the tide of fighting has repeatedly over-run the country. It has submerged about 200 towns and 9,000 villages. The material damages amount to more than \$600,000,000. About five thousand of these villages have been razed to the ground either in battle or in retreat. To stay pursuit, innumerable country houses and farms have been burned. More than one hundred churches have been pulled down, and more than one thousand badly damaged.

"All stores of corn and forage have been seized or destroyed, and one million horses and two million cattle have been taken for the armies, or have perished for want of pasture. Ruin has come equally upon the peasant population and the great land-owners, who have forfeited considerable investments. The rural population of 7,000,000 is reduced to beggary.

"Three-quarters of the towns are equally in the midst of the operations of war. Some, like Kalise, with 50,000 inhabitants, have been destroyed. Others, great industrial centres, such as Czenstochowa and Sosnowice, of 70,000 inhabitants each, and Lodz, which was twice captured with 450,000 inhabitants, are suffering a terrible financial crisis. Warsaw, the capital, with its 900,000 inhabitants, nearly twice as populous as Brussels or Rome, has also been sorely tried by being constantly threatened with capture, overwhelmed by aerial bombardment and cut off from the wealthiest western districts of the country.

"All factories have stopped working. Many are greatly damaged; one hundred very important ones have been destroyed. The whole of the industrial production, amounting to above \$400,000,000 yearly, has been ruined, and 400,000 workmen are now without means of subsistence, together with a multitude of artisans and tradesmen deprived with their families of any earnings. The great majority of townsmen, three million in number, are destitute."

GERMAN TOWN PLANNING.

In a recent lecture on German town planning at Birmingham University, Mr. Raymond Unwin said the same spirit had been shown by the Germans in their town planning as in their army planning. Mr. Unwin remarked they have planned their cities with a thoroughness and concentration entirely creditable, but lacking that touch of imagination which has given opportunity for the development of the social instinct as evidenced in English garden suburbs. The Germans have made much of wide main streets, producing great effects, but resulting in congested tenement holdings and high land prices. Giving first regard to transit problems, and also to facilitate for physical recreation, they have in practically all their schemes ignored the human side of life. In this we have a strong contrast to the German ideals of two generations ago, when the domestic side of the Fatherland was more akin to that of our own. In later years the Germans have lost that in their search for power and military greatness.

SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE.

The future of South Africa, economically, is bound up in the development of our industrial activities. This view

appears to have been entirely overlooked by our would-be guides and counsellors. Given suitable conditions—protection for capital and labor—we can manufacture what we now import, and so provide employment for skilled artisans at good wages, which would necessitate immigration, and provide the country with the one element which counts for national progress, viz., a virile race of workers. We have made a start in this direction, and if a census of production was taken it would be found that the production of the various factories of the Union would reach a very big figure—probably approximating to some forty million sterling annually. And yet, an oversea scribe tells his readers that "British South Africa is a country of great actual and potential wealth, but it is not a manufacturing country, and therefore has to import a large number of commodities that its people require."—South African Commerce.

RUSSIAN EX-MAYOR RESPONSIBLE FOR BAN ON VODKA.

Michael D. Tchelisheg, the man responsible for the present Governmental ban on vodka, the demoralizing Russian drink, is a peasant by birth and originally a house painter. Then he became mayor of the City of Saamara and is now a millionaire. Physically he is a giant, standing over six feet four inches in stocking feet and of powerful build. Although he is fifty-five years old, he looks much younger.

Eleven years ago he began the campaign which resulted in the official order against liquor soon after war was declared. Following his term of office as mayor of Samara he was elected to the Duma on an anti-vodka platform, and managed to secure the passage of a bill bearing on the question, which was finally tabled in the imperial council.

Nothing daunted, he secured an audience, after a time, with the Czar and has at last seen his efforts crowned with success—for the period of the war at least.—Montreal Mail.

REFUSE DISPOSAL IN SMALL CITIES AND TOWNS.

To the Editor,—

In reviewing the article on the above subject, published in your issue of March, while agreeing with the writer on the whole, I am of the opinion that the possibility of small towns adopting disposal by destructions of all noxious matters, is I think, produced by the figures given as the cost of erection of incinerator capable of destroying noxious matters.

As small communities below 5,000 population and even communities of 10,000, do not have sufficient garbage and destructible refuse to keep an Incinerator running continuously, it is not economical to build an incinerator that will be an emergency producing one.

Nor is the intermittent use of an incinerator advisable from a maintenance point of view.

The incinerator erected at St. Lambert, P.Q., in 1913, illustrated and described in your issue of March, 1914, is dealing with the garbage from a population of over 4,000 and is not run more than 20 hours per week. It reduces to clinker all noxious and destructible matter, without creating any nuisance to the district, notwithstanding that the stack is only 50 feet high.

This incinerator has one natural draught, and the amount of coal used costs 6c per ton of garbage destroyed, and the operating charges are, for the year, 40c per ton.

The garbage is dumped into chamber and, being under, burning dries out as it is consumed. The flame passes over a bridge into the combustion chamber, where it comes into contact with steam and gases from drying garbage, where secondary combustion takes place, both in chamber and flue leading to stack where the heat generated is such that a cast iron flue placed at a distance of 15 feet from combustion chamber was melted and collapsed, and the metal stack 25 feet away had to be ventilated to prevent it from buckling and collapsing owing to overheating.

The whole of the incinerator is built below the ground level, this to a great extent prevents damage to Brickwork from expansion. The total repairs for 18 months has not totalled \$20.00, and the initial cost was about \$300.00. Under any circumstances this plant could be erected for a sum not exceeding \$600.00. The President of the Municipal Journal is familiar with this plant, and I think would verify the above statements.

Yours truly,

E. DRINKWATER,
Town Engineer, St. Lambert, P.Q.