

many again—even down to the merchant marine of England who have sworn not to carry German goods for ten years.

Even with Peace still unsigned, trading had already begun. Statesmen who before denounced, state openly we must trade because unless Germany can manufacture for the markets of the world, she cannot possibly pay her debts. Commonsense told us this; we knew it all along. It is ever the old story, Countries cannot be boycotted or tabooed in this age of industrialism, however much we may wish that to be done. However much it goes against our grain—and God knows it does—it would appear we are powerless. I doubt if any sober-thinking, intelligent man thought otherwise. In view of this it will be interesting to watch the stand that the merchant service take and the Seaman's Union.

May the Kaiser Get Back to Berlin?

What is to be the fate of the Kaiser? Is he going to be tried for his crime against the world? It does not look like it. He is dying a natural death, quickly in Amerongen, and one of these days you will see him back in Berlin. The Dutch Government state he is not a prisoner, but a guest and free to go or come, and that he will not be given up. Does it not strike one that the reason Germany spared Holland, never invading her borders once (she who had so ruthlessly broken every treaty) was just for this, that in the event of her losing the war, the Kaiser would have a safe refuge? It looks strangely like it.

In a current issue of a magazine, I read that in Berlin the electric signs of theatres and restaurants, clubs, establishments, etc., named after the Kaiser, have not taken down the glass bulbs that spell his name, they are only temporarily covered or blocked out by canvas cloth tacked over them. They are ready then for any emergency.

A plain statement of Germany today does not show her to us as a beaten or a crushed country whatever she may try to lead us to think. She has a debt to pay that no nation was ever loaded with in all history. It should be enough to keep the heel of the League of Nations on her neck for the next century; but will it? As Mr. Kipling would say "that is another story."

No one ever dreamed of the fabulous wealth hidden in the heart of Britain. The billions of dollars she poured forth was one of the most amazing tributes to her greatness that could possibly be given. The world was astonished. Canada, our own fair Dominion, that used in pre-war days to float her little ten and twenty million dollar loans in the mother country, found that all unknowingly she had a mine of undiscovered wealth here in her own home, and we produced two or three billions of dollars. South Africa, Australia, New Zealand found their feet the same way. From every corner money poured in an unending stream.

Taking this as a basis it is possible that Germany is not nearly as "broke" as we think she is.

Whatever Happens, Germany Needs Watching.

American correspondents tell us gaiety and pleasure rule in Leipsic, in Stuttgart, Wiemar, Berlin, and other centres, and that the people seem utterly oblivious of the precipice upon whose edge they are standing. Possibly the precipice exists only in the American mind, and not in the Germans. It may be that Germany is like unto Nero who fiddled when Rome burned and that she is dancing at her own funeral, so to speak, but I doubt it. I think there is either a "joker in the deck" or she will stage a "come-back" that will astonish the civilised world. In any event she must be watched, and watched narrowly. "The Day" for Germany was extinguished in the blackest of nights; but they are already looking for dawn, and Peace unsigned. Despite the fact that the League of Nations limited the standing Army to about 100,000, Hindenburg has today some 700,000 men under his standard in and around Berlin. Germany is like the god Janus, she has two faces, one for Allies and one for the German people; both will bear watching with the strictest vigilance.

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