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1918 Looking Backward—

AMONG the many important reviews of 1917, the backward look of the Christian Science Monitor is most eloquent.

Another year, says the writer on New Year's Eve, in the way the Christian nations to-day divide time, is passing away to-night. Like the last four Christmases, it is passing away in the turmoil and agony of Armageddon. And the ordinary man, waiting and watching for the dawn of the new year, sees no rent, no not so big as that of a man's hand, in the rolling war clouds. If, then, the prospect is viewed through the veiled eyes of humanity, there is as little hope in the future as in the past. But if the onlooker possesses eyes which see and an understanding heart, then, beyond or through the tragedy of the nations, he will become conscious of the rider on the white horse.

The world war of to-day is no mere crashing together of material forces, it is not beast fighting beast, it cannot even be comfortably defined as the struggle of the autocratic nations to crush the world's democracies, and to inaugurate the rule of the material superman. Superficially it is this last, but metaphysically it is something far deeper. For almost three and a half years this paper has been insisting that the battle was joined not merely between the nations which had espoused the cause of autocracy and those which were championing freedom, but between the forces of evil and the forces of good wherever they were to be found. At the beginning of the war this was not so obvious as it is this New Year's eve. But during the last three and a half years the pen of the recorder has been writing, writing, silently and without favor. The page of history is turned and blotted, and nothing can alter the story of recorded events.

When the war first broke out, the despotic power of Russia stood leagued with the Republic of France against the two great autocracies of Austria-Hungary and Germany. Gradually from that moment the countries of the world began to gather themselves to the contending forces, and the grouping which followed is itself eloquent with meaning. Into the German alliance went "the unspeakable" Turk, his hands red with the massacres of a generation, piled upon the massacres of centuries, and soon to be redder still with the murders of Armenia. He went in, too, with murder and worse in his heart, binding the green turban round his head, in token of this, and waving the green flag. And with him went his old victim, now his ally in dishonor, the Bulgar, for the Bulgar, whatever else may be said, owed his very existence as a nation to Russia. It may be said that Russia had exacted her pound of flesh, and if you mean by Russia the Deutschtum, the element which in Russia, to-day, is laboring to overthrow the revolution, and to reseat upon the throne a Tzar pensioner of Berlin, this in a measure is true. But if by Russia you mean the Russian people who gave themselves, generously and without stint, to force the Turk to take his murderous hands from the throat of Bulgaria, in the campaign of 1877-8, then it is a ridiculous libel.

Meantime the European democracies were rallying to the side of France. First Great Britain with her children the world Dominions. The little Republic of Portugal and what may be termed Garibaldian Italy. And then, after two more awful years, the great republics of the far east and the far west, the United States, China, and Brazil.

Such are the forces as they face one another in the arena of the world this New Year's Eve. And they are fighting not merely for autocracy

or materiality, not only for the triumph of animality, on the one side, and, on the other side, of Freedom and a purer sense of Principle, but they have taken up arms also, quite unwittingly, against sensuality and selfishness, against all that is tyrannical and vicious in themselves. Every nation engaged in the war to-day is, like Dives, in hell in torment, in other words it is passing through the fire of the refiner, Truth, and is learning, on the touchstone of Principle, to say "These be thy gods, oh, Israel!" and to cast aside the fatted calf and the golden calf, to cut down the groves of Ashtaroath, and to overthrow the altars of Baal.

To-day the riders on the red, black and the pale horses are riding through the world. War, famine, and death stare mankind in the face. But the rider on the white horse is there also, and those who understand realize that he has really gone forth conquering and to conquer. Every man in the trenches abroad, every man in the shop, factory, or office at home, who has had the slightest vision of what the war means, sees in it the opportunity for learning more of Principle. The beast may become more beastlike, but that is only bringing him nearer to his inevitable doom. For out in the trenches, looking perpetually across the awful desolation of "no man's land," men are beginning once more to find God. And are finding God not in the emotional excitement of a revivalist meeting, but surrounded by hell let loose. So that they will be no more inclined to let go the vision of Truth with the coming of peace than was Jacob, at the coming of day, to lose his hold on the angel with whom he wrestled, in his sleep, by the brook Jabbok, and whom he held until he was blessed by Principle. This is the lesson of the year 1917.

Plundering Pacifism

IN an exposition of the real meaning of the great "pacifist offensive" now being pressed by Germany, Andre Cheradame, writing in the Atlantic Monthly, brands as utter hypocrisy the slogan "Peace without annexations and indemnities," which, he says, regarded even in the most favorable light would allow Germany to make off with immense booty.

Many people are still ignorant of the vast advantages gained by Germany from the war

because they do not yet realize that "the Quadruple Alliance of Central Europe is simply a great illusion, studiously fostered by William II, for by its means his plans are vastly facilitated. As a matter of fact, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria-Hungary are not the allies, but the vassals, of Berlin, and their influence with her is less than that of Saxony or Bavaria." The long-cherished dream of a Pan-Germany is to-day a realization, a fact accomplished; and Germany is fighting to maintain her far-flung dominion, and to extend it to the domination of the world.

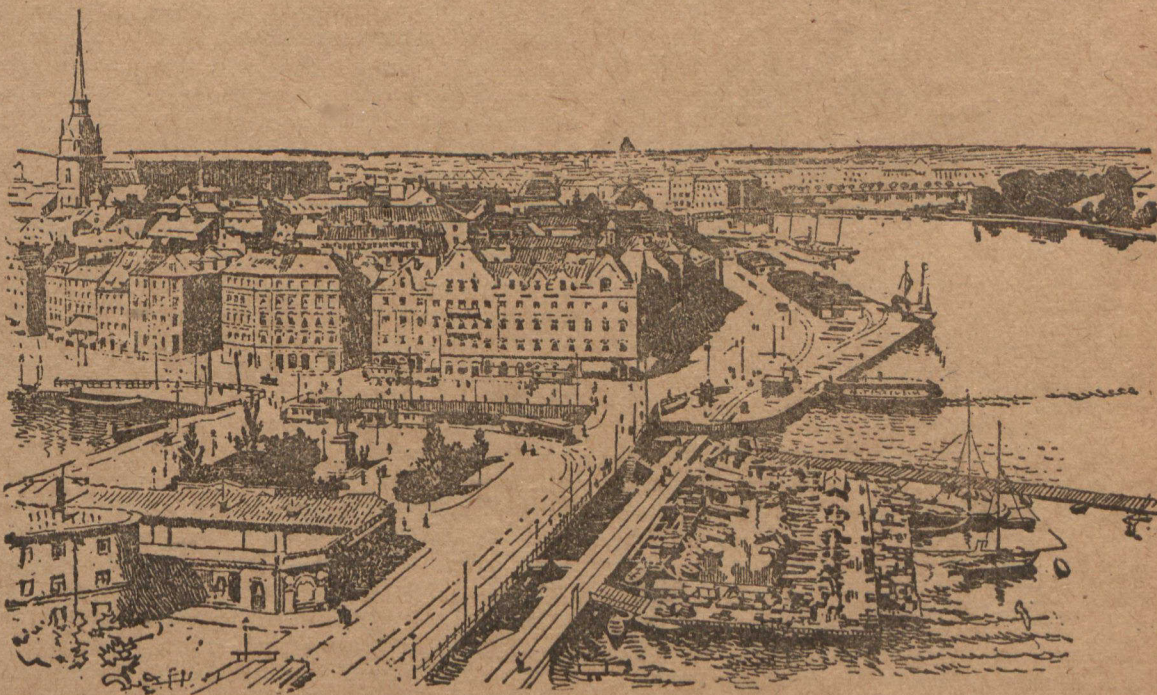
By the creation of this Pan-Germany certain advantages have been assured which far outbalance all Germany's losses and expenses in the war.

As to the advantages, which Germany has reaped from the war, these consist of seven principal elements. And the last six of these depend solely on the existence of central Pan-Germany—that is, on the hegemony exercised by Germany over Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, the so-called vassal states.

The first element of German advantage considered by M. Cheradame is the booty acquired from the occupation of enemy territory. Germany is getting direct war profits from enemy lands amounting to a total of 500,000 square kilometres; and this plunder is itemized as coming from nine principal sources: 1. Seizure of Human Material—In the occupied territory the Germans have scientifically enslaved 42,000,000 human beings, who furnish a vast amount of labor—this labor being all the cheaper because the slaves are robbed in various ways. 2. Seizure of War Material—In Belgium, France, Serbia, Roumania, the Germans have taken possession of vast stores of cannon, rifles, munitions, waggons, locomotives, cars, as well as thousands of kilometres of railway, representing several billions in value. 3. Seizure of Foodstuffs. 4. Theft of Raw Materials. 5. Theft of Finished Products. 6. Theft of Personal Property. 7. Seizure of Works of Art. 8. War Imposts. 9. Theft of Specie, Jewels, and Securities. The total of this plunder has mounted up into the tens of billions.

The second element of German advantage enumerated is the Pan-German loans.

In brief summary, the other elements of German advantage are: 3. The value of a monopoly in exploiting the latent resources of the Balkans and Asia Minor. 4. The value resulting



HERE is the city of Socialistic conferences, the perpetual Mecca of those who want to get peace without justice. The Premier of France has recently forbidden passports to French Socialists wanting to go to Stockholm. From a drawing made for the Christian Science Monitor.