

## LONDON GOSSIP.

LONDON, July 29th, 1918.

## GERMANY'S "PEACE" EFFORT.

From an authoritative source it is learned that the Allies expect Germany to make a determined "peace" effort immediately, if the present phase of operations on the Western front goes against her, or later on in the autumn, when, as we confidently anticipate, the present campaigning season will have closed without advantage to the enemy. Whether this "peace" manoeuvre will be merely a repetition of former clumsy attempts to bring the Allies or a serious effort which would require serious consideration from the Allies is of course not known, but it is well known in diplomatic circles here that Austria, which is passing through a period of great distress, is exerting great pressure on the powerful master to persuade him to make "definite approaches" to us on an honest offer as the basis of negotiation. Germany is fully aware of the only terms upon which we would consent to open negotiations, unless her rulers at last realized the incoming of America, means the complete defeat, she is little likely to make any "offer" to which the Allies could safely attach the least importance. At any rate we must be on our guard against a German "peace" campaign—neither sincere nor honest—undertaken by an arrogant, undefeated military power. In other words, we must be on the look out, for if Germany falls in the war she will try and win the peace.

## HAPPY GERMAN PRISONERS.

For all the German prisoners in this country want to leave it and return to their own. A soldier friend, who was connected with a prisoners' camp near London in England, told me that "chaps" protested emphatically the day against the suggestion that they should shortly be returning home. The burden of their answer was: "England is a very nice country, and we are happy." I can quite believe that. When journeying across the country one frequently comes across German soldiers driving leisurely, and in a trifle lazily, to and from their work, gazing contentedly at the English overhead, and looking at the English more happily than the English are sometimes with and sometimes not with them. In fact, one does not know they were prisoners for the tell-tale identification

## FINLAND AND GERMAN FINANCE.

Who has arrived here from Finland by way of Copenhagen, that there is a growing feeling of anxiety in Sweden and Denmark, and especially in the former, regarding the payment of bills which mature on the 1st of each month until the close of the year. The total amount, as far as is concerned, is not large, but the anxiety is not small, for the payments in Sweden are so heavy, and as is feared at Stockholm may be the case, they are not distributed in full and according to time. Financial crisis may be predicted. It is already known that the Germans intend to pay, if possible, in paper mark basis, and the above anxiety has declared that feeling in the country—a feeling which the Allies have engaged in promoting in the country—a feeling which has become more pronounced as a result of the past fortnight's news from the Western front.

## THE TRUTH FOR GERMANS.

The latest allusion to the subject

of the U-boat "warfare," Captain Persim, the newspaper naval writer of Berlin, bluntly tells very nearly the whole truth. The significance of this departure from Teutonic precedent is probably that the official intention is before long to break the news of the submarine's complete failure to the German public. "No earnest student can ignore the fact," he says, "that it is foolish to threaten Great Britain, rob her of the mastery of the seas, and condemn her to starvation by simply applying U-boat warfare." There is no doubt about that. "But," Berlin's best-known naval critic goes on as if he had just taken another look at his instructions—"if our U-boats can continue to weaken the commercial shipping of the enemy as they have done so far, we may hope to reach our goal, which reasonably can only be that the submarine, together with military and political action, will bring us such a peace as will ensure the existence of the German Empire." On this showing the "goal" is clearly our enemy, because the submarine is not weakening the commercial shipping of the Allies. The United Kingdom's contribution is still far from satisfactory, but the Allies as a whole are building merchant ships more quickly than U-boats are sinking them. The balance is against the enemy, and is steadily becoming more pronounced.

## CURRENTS.

It is a sign of the general improvement in the food situation that newspaper controversy is now reduced to such points as the shortage of currants. The cake in the shops seems to be gradually recovering some of its early war richness, but it is still adorned by currants or raisins, and if things do not improve the next Christmas puddings will be but shadowy reminders of old times. There is a great deal of disappointment because the Food Ministry has not yet succeeded in supplying the shops with dried fruit in any quantity, in spite of optimistic forecasts. I believe it is entirely a question of shipping. There are plenty of currants, and so on, in Greece and other places if we could get them here. The Ministry at present is able to do little more than keep the army, navy and munition centres supplied. The surplus, amounting to about 7 per cent of the normal supplies, is in process of being distributed to the ordinary consumer, but owing to transport difficulties the stuff has not got round to all the shops yet. The big cake manufacturers have taken a good deal of what is available, so that although we cannot buy currants in the shops we may soon eat them in our cakes, and the good old currant loaf may come in again. In the autumn, if the shipping improvement continues, things will be better.

## THE OFFICE TEAPOT.

The application of the rationing system to tea has led to a minor crisis in the great world of Government offices, where cups and saucers are as much a part of the furniture as typewriters. At the beginning of last week the usual collections were taken from the staff and people went out to buy tea—and realized that to buy tea in these days you must use a ration book. "Representations" were made, and I am told that the whole question has been referred to the Food Controller's headquarters for decision, and tens of thousands of typists and secretaries and heads of departments are waiting to know whether or not they will get their afternoon tea in the future. "Pending the arrival of the decision," as they say in such places, various members of the staffs are

discussing little hoards of tea and bringing stealthy little parcels with them when they come to work. I am informed that unless Mr. Clynes (the Food Controller) can find supplies for them the quality of the work done in our innumerable Ministries will decline severely after four o'clock every afternoon.

## BULGARIAN RUMOURS.

The announcement in the Bulgarian official paper that King Ferdinand has suddenly left Sofia for an unknown place outside Bulgaria on account of his bad health arouses again rumours of internal trouble in Bulgaria. It is known that the resignation of Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Premier, was precipitated by a strong denunciation from the army, which threatened to depose Ferdinand if Radoslavoff was not dismissed and his place taken by Malinoff. Among the reasons given, apart from the Turkish muddle, for the popular anger against Radoslavoff one is very typical of the Bulgarian rulers and the strange situation of the country. It was said that Radoslavoff, with the favor of the King, who was financially concerned, was sending every pound of food to Germany that he could corner, all for the benefit of a small syndicate which had been operating for two years. One story that aroused special indignation was that Radoslavoff had been buying geese in Bulgaria at 1½ franc and selling them to Germany for 45 marks and that a flock of 15,000 geese had been exploited in this way.

## Blame the Nerves

When you cannot sleep and are easily irritated and worried you have reason to suspect that the nerves are below normal. They are not getting proper nourishment from the food you eat and need a little special help. A few weeks' treatment with Dr. Chase's Nerve Food will do wonders for anyone in this condition. Note your increase in weight while using this food cure.

## Lloyd's.

The Corporation of Lloyd's has a vast organization for the collection of intelligence. Intelligence has always been of supreme importance to the merchant, the insurer, and the shipowner, and thus from the very day when Edward Lloyd, in the latter part of the 17th century, made the old coffee-house in Tower Street, London, the resort of men influential in the world of shipping, the system of intelligence has grown. The navy has always gained advantage from the efficiency and accuracy of Lloyd's information. It is recorded that, in 1759, the Corporation of Lloyd's informed the Admiralty of the capture of Porto Bello by Vernon before the Government received news of the event. Lloyd's have always worked in close touch with the Admiralty, day by day and hour by hour, and never more closely than at the present time when the movements of shipping are of such supreme importance and are so vitally secret. Lloyd's signal stations have been established and maintained in every part of the world, and in a single year over 240,000 ships' movements have been reported through these stations. In addition to this, there is a Lloyd's agent or sub-agent at every port in the world, and these number over 1,500. Every Lloyd's agent reports regularly by telegram and letter all shipping movements and shipping casualties in his district, and before the war nearly 4,000 shipping movements and reports were received daily at Lloyd's. It was estimated before the war that no one vessel in 10,000 was not previously reported to Lloyd's. Obviously this system of intelligence requires special care and pains to keep it in its present state of efficiency. It will be readily understood that the intelligence system of Lloyd's is of extreme value to the Naval authorities who are responsible for the safety of British shipping in every part of the world. The introduction of wireless telegraphy, enabling direct communication to be made, has been of value to Lloyd's system of intelligence, and some of Lloyd's stations are equipped with wireless apparatus. It is hardly necessary to say how highly advantageous to the war is a great organization developed from small beginnings, and conducting a colossal business in the affairs of the sea, which is still known, and will always be known, by the name of "Lloyd's"—Shipping.

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## Bull Durham Cigarette Tobacco.

You can make for yourself with your own hands the mildest, most fragrant, most enjoyable cigarette in the world. Machines cannot imitate it. The only way to get this freshness—that lasting satisfaction—is to roll your own with Genuine Bull Durham Tobacco, the sack. For sale at CASH'S East End Tobacco Store, Water Street.

## The Lodge of Death.

"Hail!" said the sentry of the Lodge of Death. "Who stands without and seeks admittance here?" "A pilgrim soldier from the Land of Breath." The outer guard replied in accents clear. "Is he of age and properly prepared?" "He stands erect. To death his breast is bared." "What does he seek from us that men deny?" And is it of his own free will he comes? "What with his life, does he expect to buy? And has he ever marched to rolling drums?" "He answers that his life he waits to buy. That other men in happiness may live." "And he has marched for many weary miles Sustained alone by love of truth and light. Hungry and footsore still he bravely smiles. Admit him to our company this night. I vouch for him. He well deserves our trust. Long has he fought against the tyrant's lust." "Pilgrim, it is my duty now to say. 'There ere you join this splendid Lodge of Death.' There is a price supreme that you must pay. For freedom you must leave the land of Breath. There yet remains one cruel, bitter task. Are you prepared to die for what is best?" "I am!" "Remove the hoodwink from his eyes! Receive him, brothers, as his life he gives! Pilgrim, from death's dark cavern now arise. And learn that he who dies for freedom lives. Behold the splendid souls who died for truth. And take your place among them, noble youth."

## Baku-A Brilliant Stroke.

(From the Boston Transcript.) The astonishing nature of the British appearance at Baku, on the Caspian Sea, Russia's oil and Asiatic metropolis, may be indicated to the American mind by an imaginary comparison. Let us suppose that the United States were at war with Great Britain, and were busily engaged in trying to stop the progress of an expedition which had managed to land on the coast of Maine, when suddenly another British expedition, having crossed Canada and sailed in boats from Saint Ste. Marie, swooped down on Chicago and took possession of that city. Such an exploit, indeed, would not quite match the performance of the British at Baku, for in that case the expedition would be marching across a British and a civilized country, whereas the Baku expedition has had to traverse an ill-settled, mostly desolate and foreign country. It is a remarkable and brilliant military achievement, with its political side. It readily admits Great Britain to leadership from now on in the Russian situation. It outranks in importance the occupation of Vladivostok by Japanese, British and Americans. It is not to be supposed that the British have gone to the Caspian Sea without an adequate force to maintain themselves on Russian soil. We are bound to suppose that they have made sure their communications, via Rehit, their Persian port, with Bagdad and Borne, their base on the Persian gulf. This being the case, they are just as well situated to occupy Astrakhan as they are to occupy Baku. Astrakhan is being in touch with the Don Cossacks; it means Tartaria and the whole valley of the Volga, with close touch with the main body of the Czechoslovaks, and the back door of Moscow wide open. Taken in connection with the rapid movement of the British southward from Archangel, and with the Siberian expedition, it may be said at

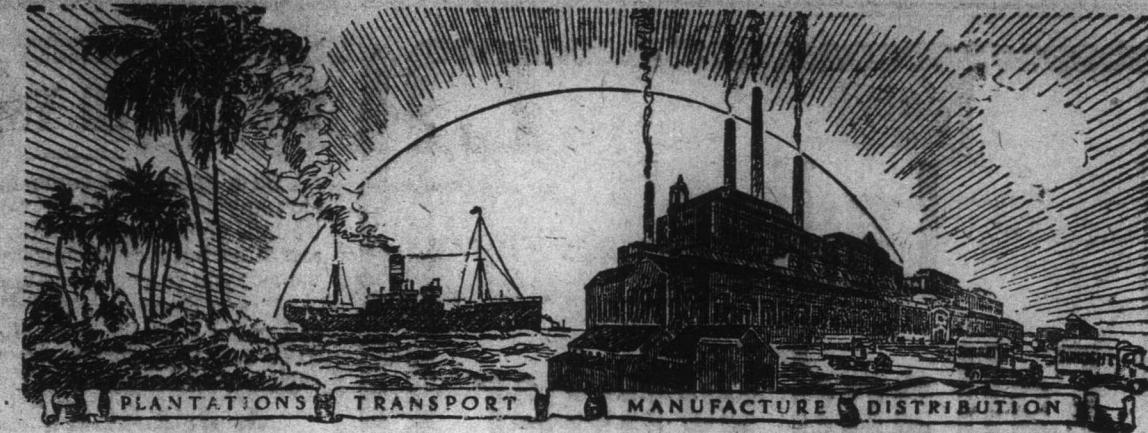
## German Liars Overworked.

German officers threaten their men with death if they do not fight resolutely, thinking that Fritz might prefer to be killed by the enemy rather than by his own officers. Since early in the war German soldiers have been told that the Allies execute or torture their prisoners. Recently an American Colonel asked a captured German officer if his men had not been told that they would be shot if taken by the Americans. The German replied quickly in the affirmative, and asked: "Don't you tell your men the same thing about the Germans?"

It is related that when a New Zealand regiment recently brought in a number of prisoners they noticed that the Hunns appeared unusually depressed. Careful questioning elicited the information that these men had been told that if they fell into the hands of the wild men from New Zealand they would be killed and eaten, as it was the invariable custom of the New Zealanders to make a feast of foes taken in battle. When these Germans received cigarettes and food instead of being butchered they appeared overcome with surprise and relief.

These stories sound overdrawn, but there is abundant evidence that the Germans are arid as well as constant liars. The mentality of the average German common soldier makes it easy to play upon his fears, and his attitude toward authority makes him accept without question much that his officers tell him, foolish as it would sound to fighting men with more knowledge of the world.

Behind the German lines the campaign of falsehood never ceases. At the time a million Americans had landed in France the German people were still being assured that the United States was the scene of anti-war rioting, that submarines controlled the Atlantic, and that New York and other cities had been bombarded. At the present time the most expert liars in Germany are employed in explaining the retreat of their armies, but not even the thousands of liars who are engaged in this work can produce satisfactory results. No lying, however wholesale or cunning, can conjure away the war map, the cas-



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The name Lever on Soap is a Guarantee of Purity and Excellence. LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED, PORT SUNLIGHT, ENGLAND.

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## The Comrade-

## ship of Empire.

The Comrades of the Great War organization entertained the representatives of the Oversea Dominions at a dinner at the Naval and Military Club, Piccadilly. Captain E. B. B. Towse, V. C. presided. Mr. W. F. Lloyd (Prime Minister of Newfoundland), responding to the toast of "Our Guests," proposed by Colonel W. Ashley, M.P., said that the idea of comradeship was born amid the equality of service and sacrifice in the trenches, and it was an inspiration which was having a vast influence throughout the Empire. The representatives of comrade nations were trying to recognize that they had common duties to perform one to another, vast resources which should not be selfishly kept for one nation but should be the common heritage of the whole Empire, and which should not be left to be exploited by their enemies. He thought that one result of the Imperial Conference would be that enemy exploitation of our resources was at an end.—The Times.

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In making chicken salad, do not take out every atom of bone, skin and skin

To keep lemons put them in a jar of clean white sand, so that they do not touch.