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The German Case.

Sidney Coryn, who writes of the war with the authority of an expert military critic and not merely as superficial observer, recently estimated that of late Germany has been "losing ten thousand men a day in her incessant counter-attacks upon positions that were taken by her enemies with comparative ease." Possibly Mr. Coryn's estimate is too high, but there can be no doubt that during the few weeks preceding the British drive which is now in progress Germany's casualties must have run into many thousands. Bitter experience has shown all the belligerents that unless the artillery supporting the attackers has superiority over the artillery of troops defending a position an advancing force must suffer far more severely than their foes, and in their counter-attacks following the British success in the Vimy Ridge area the Germans were seeking to advance in the face of British artillery supremacy. It is reasonable to assume, then, that the German losses must have been heavy in the extreme, and the losses have been sustained without any compensating gain over the British forces.

Enough is already known of the new British operations in the Messines region to show that here, too, the Germans have lost most heavily. The number of prisoners falling into British hands runs up toward the ten thousand mark, but the German losses in killed and wounded must far exceed ten thousand. The statements of captured Huns supports this view. These

men agree that the fury of the British artillery fire was almost incredible, overwhelming the German guns almost completely, and the toll exacted by this deluge of death must have been enormous. For a Germany which now has all its available troops under arms the losses sustained in fruitless counter-attacks of recent weeks and the losses inflicted by the advancing British must be a matter of the greatest gravity. How long can such losses be endured?

It is not yet clear how great a readjustment of the enemy's lines will be necessitated by the new British success. Writing two weeks before General Plumer's troops struck their blow at Messines Mr. Coryn pointed out that "it is not for nothing that Hindenburg is making such desperate efforts to maintain his hold upon the few wretched villages that have suddenly sprung into immortality." The Allies had been "steadily gnawing" at the German line and "a British gain of even a mile may at any moment compel the evacuation of France." The British have now advanced more than a mile, and though there is probably no likelihood that the success will have any such staggering consequences as Mr. Coryn discussed as possible it must, at least, immensely increase the difficulty of the German position and stand as a big step toward ultimate complete triumph.

It is only a few days ago that Emperor William was boasting of German success in stopping completely the Allied advance on the western front. The German people will now have new opportunity, if the truth is allowed to reach them, to estimate the value which is to be attached to the words of the "All Highest." The truth must immeasurably increase the unrest among them. The probability, however, is that their leaders will still try to keep truth from them, cheering their flagging spirits with exaggerated reports of submarine successes and false statements. But the truth cannot always be concealed. When concealment ends, what will follow in Germany? Will it be revolution and the end of the Hohenzollerns as a ruling house?—Sydney Record.

Shows How Germany Can Profit by a Draw.

French Writer Explains Why the War Has Been More Costly to Allies Than to Their Foe.

Paris, May 12. (Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—On the supposition that Germany would be glad to call the war a draw, Andre Cheradame, an author and journalist, points out some advantages that Germany would gain from such a settlement, the principal of which is the relatively low cost of the war to Germany, up to this time, as compared with the outlay of the Entente Allies. There are six fundamental reasons why Germany has been able, in his opinion, to conduct the war with less expenditure than any one of the Entente Allies, in proportion to the number of men put into the field. Absence of improvisation in the German effort. Salaries well established for the production of armament and munitions. Absence of wastage due to the absence of improvisation. Economical labor. Free iron ore and coal from the invaded regions. Economical transportation by reason of the grouping of the Central Powers inside the battle lines. Germany, he asserts, had only to develop with machine tools built on

its own territory its manufacture of war material that was already considerable before the opening of hostilities, in order to produce the enormous series of types of cannon and the different calibres of projectiles that were needed. All these had been carefully and minutely worked out in peace times, while the production of war material was insignificant in France and almost nothing in Great Britain and Russia at the beginning of the struggle. In all of the Entente countries it was necessary to improvise, to construct rapidly new works, to equip old ones with new machine tools brought from America at enormous expense and, at the same time, to improvise new types of cannon and projectiles.

This improvisation, M. Cheradame declares, in time of war occasions a great many false steps, inevitable wastage of material, and an immense increase in general expenses. The remarkable extension to a state of war of industrial methods that were highly developed and systematized in time of peace, says M. Cheradame, enabled Germany to avoid in every branch of construction enormous losses of raw materials of every kind from which all the Entente Allies have suffered.

So far as labor is concerned, the Germans have been able to utilize a force of about 2,000,000 prisoners of war. The official report of the investigating commission appointed by the French Government and dated April 12, 1917, concerning acts committed by the Germans contrary to international law, shows how they utilize this labor in the manufacture of munitions as well as in the construction of defense works. Besides these 2,000,000 prisoners of war, the Germans had under their control 7,500,000 Belgians, 3,000,000 Frenchmen, 4,500,000 Serbians, 5,000,000 Rumanians and 22,000,000 Poles, in the invaded regions.

To show how they utilize these civilians in work connected with the war, M. Cheradame cites an example of a girl from Lille, 20 years old, who was obliged to work six months during the harvest season digging potatoes or at similar tasks from six in the morning until dusk. The amount the Germans paid her for this six months labor was equivalent to less than \$2.

While the Entente Allies have been obliged to pay the high ocean freights on coal and iron ore, Germany found in the invaded region of France all the iron ore she needed, and in Belgium and Poland immense quantities of coal that she had only to take paying the laborer at very low rates, bringing down the raw materials that enter into her munitions to a very low figure.

M. Cheradame estimates that, when Germany expends 100,000,000 francs for war material, France must spend 150,000,000, which would make the war cost between the two countries in the proportion of two for Germany to three for France.

M. Cheradame surmises that the peace formula now going the round of Socialist organizations of "Peace without annexations and without indemnities" means that Germany, feeling she is beaten would be glad to call the game a draw and escape with her own low cost of prosecuting the war.

German Nature Past and Present.

(Liverpool Daily Post.)

The Rogation days of 1917 have just passed by, and it may, therefore, be timely to mention that on these anniversaries a custom used to prevail of whipping boys at boundaries, a ceremonial believed by some folklorists to be a merciful survival of the cruel superstition which prompted the men of yore to bury some living being, a child, a woman, or an animal, at the boundary of a property or in the foundation of a new building. This barbarous method of consecrating the boundary and establishing the house was not confined to any one European race; but it is not without significance that the most vivid traditions concerning it which have come down to our times are localised in Germany. All races appear to have been possessed by cruel instincts when they emerged from the brute creation, and of all races the Germans appear to have made the slightest effort to emancipate themselves from these bestial bonds. To the Kelt and Slav it is a vile, inhuman thing to ravage a defenceless land, to slaughter and enslave an unresisting folk, to torture and kill wounded soldiers, to sink hospital ships, and to prey on peaceful commerce after the manner of the Moorish pirates; but the average German is honestly unable to see any wrong in such deeds if they offer him any prospect of advantage in war. His code of morals, if by any process of imagination we can suppose him to have one, never opposes, and never has opposed, any obstacle to the commission of brutal excesses through which he has hoped he could win his way to success.

This is a fact which should not be lost sight of when well-meaning pa-



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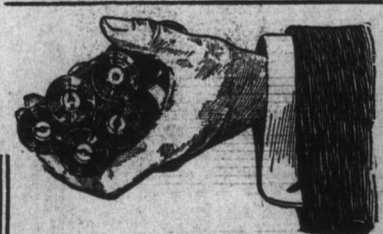
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