

FAMOUS SKI CORPS OF SWISS BORDER GUARDS KEEP WATCH ON ALPINE PEAKS



Many of Switzerland's soldiers travel swiftly on skis. The photograph shows a ski corps of Swiss Border Guard.

S. R. Tarr on Outlook in The West

"No one can doubt Canada's ultimate material prosperity," writes S. R. Tarr, editor Canadian Finance of Winnipeg, in reply to an enquiry from The Montreal Financial Times for an opinion on the western outlook. "Development of agricultural resources in itself assures it. Of an arable area estimated at over 440,000,000 acres, less than 10 per cent is under cultivation. What, however, of the immediate outlook? Never was answer more difficult to make. Even the most explicit factors in the situation cannot be gauged as to their relative strength—consequently their 'resultant of forces' is non calculable.

"Conditions generally are giving an impetus to agricultural production. The middle west produces something under half the agricultural wealth of the dominion—which for 1914 reached about \$800,000,000. But the increase of around twenty million dollars in returns to western farmers last year over the preceding year (owing to higher prices), in itself means relatively much more to the commercial community on this side of the Great Lakes than any similar, or even greater increase does to the east, because in the west agriculture is the chief industry, while, taking the dominion as a whole, agriculture contributes one-quarter, or less of the country's total production from forests, fisheries, mines, fields and factories. It is therefore axiomatic that the agricultural property in sight for 1915 will contribute relatively more to the prairie provinces than it will to the rest of Canada. In this connection, however, it is not to be overlooked that eastern manufacturers as well as Pacific coast lumbermen and fruit growers—and ultimately business interests through Canada—are vitally concerned in anything that adds to the western farmers' buying power. It means more to them than government war orders—welcome as the latter are in days of industrial quietness.

"Actual production and active development of its own resources must necessarily be Canada's chief dependence from now on. And signs of distinct encouragement are not lacking in this direction. Western crop acreage for this year is variously estimated at from 15 to 25 per cent greater than that of 1914. With 25,000,000 acres under grain this year the prairie provinces (granted average growing conditions) should have a total grain yield materially over the half-billion bushel mark. The course of grain prices is impossible to forecast—but the interruption to last year's European harvesting and to cultivating for this year's crop practically ensures high prices. How much more the 1915 yield will be worth than the west's quarter-billion dollar crop of 1914 (including feed to live stock) it would be foolish to forecast—but the difference will almost certainly run into many millions of dollars. Indeed, were increased agricultural production—including, raising of live stock—the sole factor in the situation it might confidently be said that a return to general business activity in the west would come during 1915.

Indebtedness Largely Liquidated

"If the car of business moves slowly, and even seems almost to stop now and again, recent months have materially steadied the track and road-bed along which the west is groping its way to recovery. The indebtedness of the farming and mercantile communities alike has been largely liquidated. Buying of additional land by farmers for speculative holding rather than for actual cultivation has been curbed and retailers have been buying cautiously and more generally asking for spot cash from their customers. Still it is not possible to say that readjustment has altogether run its course—and that, in certain urban centres at least, there will be a further falling off in trade before an increase again sets in. Weeding out of the weaker re-

tailers is not yet completed, and the hard economic law of the survival of the fittest is likely still to be in evidence during the next few months in not a few western towns and cities. The country dealer, speaking generally, is in much better shape; even in districts hit by the drought last year, government aid to homesteaders (in the form largely of supplies from local dealers) together with the forbearance being generally shown by wholesale houses and financial institutions, will enable the great majority of country merchants to stand the strain until next year's crop returns are available.

Betterment in Business

"In most rural districts in the middle west, recent business betterment is already apparent and it is to be remembered that about one-tenth of the cultivated area of the prairie provinces had a crop failure from drought. The smaller towns which are the local business centres for farming districts are also picking up. The larger distributing centres must be affected somewhat in their turn. The war will bring increased returns to farmers and will stimulate agriculture, trade growing out of the raising, distributing and manufacturing of foodstuffs will be stimulated, and the buying power of those directly affected thereby will be well sustained. But even from this class the demand for luxuries has lessened—the impulse to economize being general.

"And this is to be recognised with regard to western towns and cities, that so far as there still remains in them a class dependent upon the more speculative form of business prevalent a year or two ago, the pinch of further stringency is likely to be felt.

If the war should happily end before next fall, and if an average yield is given by the west's increased acreage under crop, there is good reason to hope for basis improvement in the latter half of this year, at least. The day, however, we know not—no one of us doubts that Winnipeg's turn is coming."

GERMANY'S CLAIMS

Maine Professor Says Nation Never Was a Peaceful One

Few Early Intellectual and Religious Movements, He Says, Have Developed in Kaiser's Land

(Bangor Commercial)

Prof. J. B. Segall of the University of Maine, was the speaker at the meeting of the Men's Club of the Universalist church, held Sunday noon in the main auditorium of the church, in which he discussed in detail the German claims of culture, enlightenment and general civilization. Dr. Segall asserted that Germany had never been a peaceful nation and that the Germans have been simply a conquered people.

Dr. Segall's opening said that only a few moments had been allotted for a very big subject. He would start on one point, that is, it is a claim of Germany in civilization. If it were merely a claim of excellence, he stated, he would not discuss it here, for it is a claim of Germany in civilization. He would not be able to go through the history of Europe, he said, but would touch only a few points. In the early days of German history it is found that the Germans were the destroyers of civilization, the Romans falling before the invasion of the Teutons. Christianity was certainly not the contribution of the Germans. They were civilized and Christianized by the Gauls and other races.

The great civilization of the medieval period was not German; the great industrial developments not German. They were found in Italy and France. The great revolutions and epochs in history were not of German origin. The Renaissance period was an example; it was Italian.

The various Reformation movements were discussed from the 12th century to later days, from which it was learned that Germany is half Catholic today and Austria wholly Catholic.

The period of the colonization of foreign lands was mentioned. When other nations were colonizing the Germans stayed at home. They did not participate in the great world work of establishing new nations.

The German literature from the 18th century down was contrasted with the French and English literature, the German to the 18th century being of little consequence. The French language today is the language of all the cultured classes in Europe, as has been the case for centuries, succeeding Latin. German literature and philosophy have been only lately developed. The great modern inventions of steam, electricity, railways, steam navigation, telegraph, wireless, telephone, dreadnoughts, submarines, cables, radium, etc. are not of German origin.

There is culture, it is true, in Germany and great industrial development. The Germans claim to have introduced freedom into Europe, but that freedom was that of the feudal barons. The great struggles for freedom in Europe

were not due to the Germans and the German politics of freedom of today is due to the movements in other nations. The importance to other countries of the great French revolution was mentioned. The political system of Germany is much behind that of other countries.

Germany claims that Russia meant that country by a plan to consolidate all the Slavs under one rule. It is not a case of the Slavs threatening the Teutons, but quite the contrary. Russian development has been slow and has not been appreciated to its full extent. The speaker believed, however, that a democratic revolution for political liberation would come in Russia before it would be seen in Germany.

The comparative sea power of Germany and England was discussed and it was shown that at no time when peace reigned did the great English sea power interfere with the enormous industrial growth of Germany or any other nation. In time of war the English sea power could sweep German commerce off the seas. The iron ring, encompassing Germany is a figure of speech used by the Germans in describing the Triple Entente. France was isolated after the war of 1871 from the rest of Europe and was in fear of another Teu-

tonic invasion. The alliance with Russia came later and events took such a turn that England joined also.

Never a Peaceful Nation

Dr. Segall then discussed Germany as a peace nation. He contended that Germany was not a peaceful but a conquering nation. It is maintained that in forty-three years Germany has not had a great war, but if we look back forty-nine years we find that Germany had three great wars, and during forty-three years past she has had lots of trouble with her colonies, and the terrible massacre of a negro nation in Africa was a matter which the Germans don't mention. A nation that goes around constantly with a gun on its shoulder is not to be considered as a peaceful nation. In England there is no conscription. Men do not have to serve in the army if they do not so desire. In Germany military service is compulsory, and the Germans are full of a warlike spirit.

In regard to population, it is claimed by Germany that she needs more elbow room. The fact is that Germany today is a country of immigration instead of emigration; but the Germans wish to dominate the Balkans, Belgium and Holland, and reduce France and England to third rate powers. Germany is a great world power and the question is as to

whether it will be the greatest world power. She claims that other countries are tired nations, yet France built up a colonial empire after being crushed by Germany. If there is any danger to the smaller nations of Europe it will not come from the Triple Entente but from Germany, the speaker claimed.

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