

Sees United States On Brink of War

LORD ROOSEBERT, in an impressive speech in Bath, England, said:

"A black cloud is overhanging all the world. Think what a vast, ghastly whirlpool this war is. Beginning with five of the greatest nations of Europe, it is gradually

sucking in all those who would willingly remain outside. It is impossible that the remaining Balkan States will long be able to refrain from active participation in the struggle.

"The United States seems hovering on the brink, although that country is so remote that it may well be spared the agony of these dark days."

Importance of Coal in War

Teuton Controls Rich Fields in Belgium and Northern France.

London, July 22.—The situation as regards coal, which, with iron, forms one of England's chief sources of power, has suddenly taken on a sinister aspect, as England begins to realize that the dominance in this basic element which creates the sea power of British naval industries of Lancashire, Yorkshire and the country at large, has passed by the fortunes of war from the Anglo-French allies and rests to-day under Austro-German control.

This is one of the facts, not openly revealed, which has filtered to the surface during the recent strike in the Welsh coal fields. While continuance of the strike itself has been averted, yet the menace of the coal situation in its broader aspects has been made apparent for the first time. This situation, broadly stated, stands thus:

Before the war, the Anglo-French allies dominated the coal resources and power of England, France, Belgium and Russian Poland, aggregating an output of 300 million tons annually, or about 65 per cent of the coal power of Europe, while the Austro-German allies controlled the German, Austrian and Hungarian fields aggregating an output of 117 million tons, or about 35 per cent of Europe's coal product.

The Belgian Coal Fields

To-day, however, the German occupation of Belgium has given them the great Belgian coal fields of Hainaut, Antwerp and Liège—fourth largest in Europe—their advance in Flanders has given them the rich coal fields of the Pas de Calais district, and, as Mr. Lloyd George states, "The French coal fields are now held by the enemy"; while the Austro-German sweep in Russian Poland has enveloped the chief coal fields of Russia, located in Poland, those of the caucasus being minor in comparison.

This change in the control of the coal fields, since the war began, has exactly reversed the position of the two parties to the conflict, so that the former Anglo-French dominance of 65 per cent against Austro-German 35 per cent—an Austro-German dominance of 65 per cent—a complete changing about in the control of this elemental agency of power.

As indicating how this change has come about, the following shows the normal output of each side before the war:

	Million tons.
United Kingdom	236
France	35
Belgium	22
Russian Poland	15
Total	308

Germany	175
Austria	36
Hungary	6
Total	217

Before The War

Compared with this condition of the coal fields before the war, the following shows the coal condition since Germany's inroads on the coal fields of Belgium, Flanders and Poland:

	Million tons.
United Kingdom total	236
Germany	175
Austria	36
Hungary	6
France	35
Belgium	22
Poland	15

Austro-German control 239

That is, the Austro-German coal resources in the fields dominated by them is now about three to two of the Anglo-French resources, which are restricted principally to the United Kingdom. This was so apparent that M. Lloyd George warned the Welsh miners that France was now looking to England for her coal, and five French transports were waiting at Cardiff to take on coal for France when the strike was called.

Importance To Fleets

In view of the importance of coal in supplying the allied fleets with their motive power, a power quite as essential to the ships as their shooting power, a parliamentary commission has recently made a thorough inquiry into conditions in the British coal fields. This has brought out some interesting facts, showing that out of 999,000 coal miners at work before the war, 184,000 have answered the call to enlist, or over 18 per cent of the coal miners, now in the trenches at the Dardanelles.

For example, in the one country of Wales, Glamorgan, the heart of the coal industry, there are upwards of 30,000 miners enlisted, or over 19 per cent of the mining force. The enlistments, too, are the pick of the miners, between the ages of 19 and

35. Since the parliamentary commission made their inquiry, the number of miner enlistments has risen to 250,000.

Singularly, refugee Belgian miners have helped fill the ranks in Wales. But this has been far from sufficient, and the output of the Welsh mines has fallen off 35 million tons since the war began. This has led to proposals to stop enlistments from coal miners; to permit woman labor, in some of the lighter surface operations, and to temporarily take off the restrictions on boy labor under 14 years. But while the parliamentary committee suggested these remedies, it does not recommend them. Its chief recommendation is to stop "absenteeism"—a practice of the miners of taking a week or more off at Easter time, August bank holiday, and other holiday seasons. But this would have to be voluntary with the miners. And if it brought the British output up to normal again, the fact would still remain that this is practically the one source of coal power remaining to the Entente Allies. There are of course distant coal resources of the allies in India, Japan, Canada and Australia, with difficulties of transportation not making them practical, but in Europe the shift of war has brought the great coal-producing fields largely under Austro-German control.

Desolation On North Baltic

Warsaw Papers Tell of Distress Wrought by the Enemy.

London, August 9 (correspondence).—The desolation along the northern Baltic from Memmel to Libau and as far north as the Gulf of Riga, overrun by the German forces from the land side and bombarded by the German fleet from the sea side, are vividly described in Warsaw papers received here. They state that a trip from Memmel to Libau shows the terrible distress left in the wake of the advancing army. Entire villages of several hundred houses, like Kunigiski, are totally burned, having suffered most from the fire of the ships. One of the most noted seashore resorts, Pologna, was bombarded and 60 of its principle summer villas destroyed. The palaces of Count Felix Tyszkiewicz, where family has intermarried in America, escaped from destruction, but the chapel of the palace was partly destroyed. The hotels and casino and most of the villas stretching along the sea front were burned, and portions of the hotel remaining were later used as barracks for Gen. Von Buelow's cavalry forces. Many were killed, including a number of children, during the occupation of Pologna.

Bread Supply of Baltic.

At Libau a monopoly of the bread supply was established under German military direction, all flour being taken by them except two kilos allowed to each inhabitant. Among the many arrested were two orthodox Russian pastors who were accused of praying to be saved from the invaders, but were released, on the plea that their prayers were against invaders of all nationalities. The fortifications of Libau, particularly on the sea front, were strengthened by large forces of men. The visit to Libau of Prince Henry, brother of the Kaiser, for a conference with Field Marshal von Hindenburg, was the occasion of much ceremony, and prolonged discussion between the prince and the commander of the military forces in the north, presumably on the campaign which soon after developed northward to Riga and then in a great circle southward around Warsaw.

Outside of Libau the surrounding country is devastated and abandoned. This is especially true of the districts of Kalvaria and Marjampel, the grain fields, usually richly productive, being unown and in places blackened from fires. The districts of Suwalki and Kovno have similarly suffered. Many incidents are given of bandit who have made their appearance in the country districts owing to the distress and complete prostration of the civil organization, and commit widespread depredations.

On Discrimination.

The Warsaw Kourier prints a statement from Petrograd giving official reply to attacks on the Central Committee of Warsaw charging that

they discriminate against Jews, not giving them a fair share of the emergency food supplies from the committee warehouses, and limiting the distributions to the afternoons. The reply states that the committee keeps the warehouses open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily, and makes distributions without any distinction of nationality or religion. The only restriction is against applicants who seek to get supplies for the purposes of speculation, and the reply says there are unfortunately many Jews in this class. The warehouses, it is explained, are meant only to meet the daily needs of the poorer classes. As evidence of their impartiality it is cited that from May 31 to June 4, out of a total of 97,877 people thus assisted, 36,860 were Christians and 31,017, or 31 per cent, were Jews. The reply maintains this is a sufficient answer to charges of discrimination against the Jews. Also it is pointed out that the Jews have a number of their own relief organizations.

A report is given of an address at Cracow by Dr. Lydowsky on the destruction of many art treasures and historic monuments during the campaign in West Galicia. Many of the fine old paintings in the churches of that locality, as well as the churches themselves and the richly carved altars have disappeared before the passing armies.

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