Serious and Frivolous Sides of European Conflict Received by Cable

MUST WIN IN 1916 OR LOSE, GERMAN FEAR

If New Year Does Not Bring Teutonic Victory on Land, Great Britain Will Conquer Through Sea Power in 1917, View in Fatherland.

(Special Dispatch.)

LONDON, Jan. 22.

The conditions under which Germany and Austria will enter upon the campaign of 1916 is the subject of a letter from a correspondent in Milan, who gives some illuminating information he has obtained from intelligent observers of the situation.

"I met in Milan a few days ago," he writes, "a gentleman who for thirty years was technical adviser of one of the largest German engineering undertakings which secured for Germany a commercial footing not only in South America but in several of the now belligerent European States. He has recently travelled in Switzerland, where he has had opportunities of obtaining first hand information regarding the internal conditions of Germany and of the attitude of the German people toward the war.

"He is convinced that the Allies have a heavy task ahead of them in the coming year, and attributes this to the encouragement that the German people have obtained through the successes of the army, which have led them to believe that things are going better than they really are and have steeled them up to bear sacrifices against which otherwise they might have revolted.

"His views receive a general confirmation in a lengthy interview published in the Secolo with a Scandinavian who has recently visited Hamburg, Berlin, Munich, and other German cities. 'War is being successfully waged by the Germans,' he said, 'on every front. Every German you speak to will tell you he is satisfied in a general way with the progress of events, but most of them have something to grumble or pick a quarrel about. One is dissatisfied with the Chancellor, another with the diplomatists, the socialists, the agrarians or the speculators. One complains about the lack of action on the western front, another at the halt in the offensive against Russia, or at the folly of the speeches announcing the Asiatic campaign. "Certainly the war is going all right," they say; "but where are we? What is going to be the end?" Germans scan the horizon for light and turn away convinced that the answer must come from beyond.'"

Question of Men Serious.

Asked whether he thought German opinion would remain tranquil and confident for another year, the correspondent said that a military reverse (regarded as improbable), a false step, or an unforeseen complication might change the entire situation.

"'The question of men,' he says, 'is very grave. Already, if there are not signs of scarcity of troops, prudent economy is being shown in their employment. Hindenburg has fought his latest battle with Landwehr, while Mackensen has spared his infantry in Serbia by using artillery almost exclusively. The problem is causing concern because there are limits to the withdrawal of men from industry and agriculture.

"'Austria does not provide a promising field for the filling up of gaps; the Turks cannot be transferred into Germany if there is to be an Egyptian expedition; the Bulgars are scarcely sufficient to face the situation as it exists in the Balkans. On the other hand, France is the only one of the Allies that has got under arms practically all her reserve of men. Great Britain has three millions ready, while Italy, engaged up to the present on her own frontier alone, has a large reserve to fall back upon.'

"The correspondent was not in Berlin at the time of the food demonstrations, but believes that the news published concerning them is correct. Food was getting scarce. One did not notice it in the restaurants, where one could get anything one wanted, though in reduced portions at increased prices. To have an idea of the scarcity it was necessary to go into working class quarters, small towns and the country.

Great Britain Is Feared.

"August Winning, secretary of the German socialist party, told him that the question of living had become so menacing that its solution was not only a national but a humanitarian duty.

"What is causing anxiety to Germany now is time—that is, England. You can have no idea of the hatred of Germany for England, hatred and apprehension. There is proof of it in all the political speeches delivered and in newspaper articles. After having accused Great Britain of seeking the war, they are now accusing her of wanting to prolong it to the point of exhaustion.

"In the latter accusation they are perhaps more correct than the former. The Germans know the English well; they know their defects and their virtues. They know and fear above all the cool and resolute perseverance of the British. If Britain and her allies succeed in maintaining their resistance beyond 1916 I do not see how Germany can still hope to win. The Germans admit now, with clenched teeth, that the worst blows they have had have been delivered by the English. The blockade has been and is much more efficacious than the Germans would have it believed abroad.

"The Balkan enterprise was undertaken to break the blockade, but even if they reach Asia the Germans will not have the sea power. The war either will be won on land in 1916 by the Germans or will be won on the seas by the British in 1917. That is what is thought and feared by Germany."

CHARLIE CHAPLIN AMUSES THE WOUNDED. FROM THE SPHERE, LONDON

THE PERSONALITY OF CHARLIE CHAPLIN, THE FAMOUS "MOVIE" ACTOR, WHOSE BOWLER HAT AND STICK ARE KNOWN WHEREVER THE CINEMA UNREELS ITS MYRIAD FEET, IS VERY POPULAR AMONG THE BRITISH SOLDIERS, AND BEHIND THE LINES DURING THE LULL OF BATTLE SOME SOLDIER WHO HAS THE GIFT OF MIMICRY WILL "TAKE OFF" CHARLIE TO THE GREAT AMUSEMENT OF HIS AUDIENCE. ALSO AMONG THE WOUNDED IN THE HOSPITAL THE WELL KNOWN CLOWN-ACTOR IS MADE THE SUBJECT OF GENERAL MERRIMENT. IN THE ABOVE PICTURE PRIVATE J. GALLAGHER, OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS, IS SEEN DRAWING HIS LIKENESS ON A PLATE.

FRENCH VETERAN AT 76 WORKS IN THE TRENCHES

Corporal Surrugue, Still Hale and Hearty, Does His Bit Like the Rest in Defence of His Country.

(Special Dispatch.)

PARIS, Jan. 22.

The Paris Journal Officiel recently published the following honorable mention in army orders:—

"Corporal Surrugue, Charles, entered under No. 9,131, in company 9-2 T of the Sixth regiment of Engineers, second company of the corps, veteran soldier of 1870, chevalier of the Legion of Honor, enlisted as volunteer for the duration of the war at the age of seventy-six years, asked to go to the front as second sapper and miner, takes part without any physical weakness in all the work carried on day and night under fire of the enemy, animated with the highest conscientiousness and the most noble conception of his duty toward his country, and offers to his younger comrades a model of discipline, of dash and of energy."

Seeing this description of the old young man a correspondent of the Illustration, of Paris, set out for the front to find him. After wandering about the trenches in zigzag fashion the correspondent saw a rather small man with white beard and the insignia of an engineer on his cap. Remembering Stanley's description of how he met Livingstone in the heart of Africa and walked up to him, saying, "Mr. Livingstone, I presume?" the correspondent accosted the engineer:—"Corporal Surrugue, are you not?"

The engineer was completely taken aback at the idea that any one would want to interview him, but finally led the newspaper man into a subterranean shelter, which was very humid and from the roof of which large drops of water fell on the correspondent's note book.

Walking Keeps Him Young.

Asked how he kept so well, Corporal Surrugue replied that he did it by walking. Having been occupied with work on country roads, a thirty mile walk was nothing to him.

For twelve years before the war he had been Mayor of Auxerre, in the Department of the Yonne. Before that, as a civil engineer, he had been engaged in railroad construction, and especially on the railway from Arras to Etaples, for which he offered the plans in 1872. That year he drove the first spade at the station of St. Pol-en-Ternoise, in the same place where forty-four years later he has come to handle the spade and pick as an ordinary sapper.

In 1871 he belonged to the army of Faidherbe and was captain of engineers engaged in constructing defence works in the valley of Scarpe. He was twice honorably mentioned then, once for having remained at his post when the other workers fled, fearing a German advance on Athies, near Arras, and again for having saved a wounded officer by carrying him to the rear.

In 1875 Mr. Surrugue entered the service of public roads in the Dordogne, where he remained six years, and then took up the same kind of work in the Yonne for twenty years. Elected member of the Municipal Council of Auxerre, he soon became the leading man and was Mayor of the town from 1900 to 1912. His administration of public roads and works caused him to be attached to the inspection department of the Ministry of the Interior.

Does His Bit, Like the Others.

Such was the civil career of this modest and brave man. When asked about his present service and whether his companions knew who he was, he said:—"They don't know much about me and I am not going to tell them. I am Surrugue, who does his bit of trench work like the rest, and that is all. These days what one has done in civil life doesn't count. Everybody is equal in the common effort. When a man has physical vigor which can be used there should be no hesitation.

"The war cross which they have given to me surprised me, for I did nothing for that. I have done less than others who have been here since the beginning. I know they are decorating my years, but as my age does not count with me I am a little ashamed before my comrades.

"The only advantage of age is to have a little influence over the younger ones. When they grow impatient I tell them of 1870 and contrast it with what we have done to-day. We, who were not ready, have stopped at the Marne and the Yser an enemy superior in numbers and formidably organized. We have imposed on him our will. He has submitted to our law and when the time has come we will crush him!"

Deep Russian Snows Put End to German Dreams of Victory

With Severest Part of Winter at Hand, the Kaiser's Armies Not Only Are Checked, but Find Their Advance Positions Untenable.

(Special Dispatch.)

LONDON, Jan. 22.

Discussing Germany's winter problem, Mr. Waclaw Czerniewski, in an article in the Daily Graphic, says that in the eastern theatre of war the most severe part of the winter is approaching. It sets in about the present time and lasts until the end of January, and everything this year indicates that it will be harder than usual. In such circumstances it is doubtful if any important actions will occur.

"The frosts of winter impose obstacles at every step," he says. "The snows in the Lithuanian fields are waist deep, so that no attacks are possible. The ground is frozen, and no trenches can be dug. Clothing must be thick and heavy, and this hampers movements of the body. Heavy artillery cannot move, as the wheels are buried in snow axle deep. All this renders the campaign impossible and leaves everything at a standstill. The German intention to take advantage of ice on the Dvina and to cross this river while frozen must for the moment fail, and without this movement the German campaign on the eastern front cannot be accomplished.

"The German army might have stayed its advance on the second Russian defensive line, which follows the Niemen and Bug rivers. However, their success has tempted them to march further, and they were often in hopes of enveloping parts of the Russian army. The third line of defence in Western Russia follows the Dvina and Dneiper rivers.

Alternatives for Germans.

"The Germans thus have to face two alternatives—either they have to gain this line or retire to the Niemen. Their present positions are untenable for any length of time, as they require such a number of troops in the trenches that Germany is unable to organize an offensive movement on this or any other front. The Germans, realizing this fact, are prepared for any event, and have been fortifying the Niemen River. Notwithstanding these precautions, the German General Staff is afraid of public opinion in Germany, and will make every sacrifice to conquer the Dvina line together with Riga, the most important Russian port in the Baltic.

"However, we can look into the future with confidence. The Russians prove to be very strong on this front. The retirement of General Ruszky, who has been intimate with the defence of the Russian capital, shows that everything in the Northern Russian army must be in perfect order.

"Although it is usual to attribute the retirement of generals, even when dismissed, to bad health, this is not applicable in the present case. The Emperor, on relieving him, expressed hopes of seeing him again at his post. It is the second time since the beginning of the war that General Ruszky has been obliged to retire from active service on account of his health. His first retirement was during the early spring of this year. He is one of the best Russian commanders, and his strenuous work has seriously affected his bodily health. Such a general would certainly not leave his post without being absolutely confident of the future of his army.

Further south the German line is facing the Pinsk marshes. It is the only time of the year when it is possible to cross these regions. Deep snow is very trying and perilous for marching armies. It is easier, however, to overcome such obstacles than to cross bottomless marshes in which men, horses and guns are unavoidably ingulfed. Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether Germany will undertake such a titanic task; no wheels will be of any use; the guns would have to be fixed on sledges and pulled by horses and men.

"Moreover, there is a hidden danger for the invading army. Supposing the Germans should not be able to reach the Dneiper River before the coming of spring they might be caught in the marshes as in a trap. Hundreds of thousands of troops would be obliged to face death by being either ingulfed in mud or marooned and starved on desolate islands.

"On the southern front, again, things are not very promising, either, for our enemies. It is a long way to Kieff, and without it they cannot be masters of the situation in Southern Russia. Moreover, the exhausted Germans are badly in need of every man they can put in the field. They have to leave the Austrians to their fate, and Austria, which was unable to withstand Russian pressure at the time when Italy had not yet joined us, is in a still worse position now, when the Italians are continually, if slowly, advancing against the Hapsburg monarchy.

"There is news from Russia that the Austrians are purposely creating an impression that the Russians intend to make a new invasion of Galicia. But that is doubtful. The Austrians are actually preparing for the Russian advance and are evacuating Lemberg, not on account of any Russian intentions, but on account of German plans, which necessitate the accumulation of German forces as well. The Austrians alone will be unable to withstand even the present pressure of the Russians. Moreover, they are in need of reinforcements in the Bukowina, where the Russians are expected to deal a blow to help Roumania. The severe winter enables Russia to complete her organizations and to bestow her attention elsewhere."

GERMAN SANITARY DRINKING STATION WHERE TROOPS GET DRINKING WATER WITHOUT DANGER OF TYPHOID.

SENTIMENT FOR ANNEXATION IS GROWING IN GERMANY

(Special Dispatch.)

BERLIN, Jan. 22.

In Germany the annexationists are becoming more active as tentative peace conditions are being discussed. Regular organizations have been formed for the purpose of arousing sentiment in favor of territorial expansion. Not long ago the liberal conservative faction, the leaders of which are Count von Moltke and Baron von Zedlitz, held a conference, when a resolution was adopted which the government has endeavored to keep from the public by all available means. It is well known in political circles, however, where it has caused considerable comment, mostly of a favorable kind. The resolution contained this passage:

"The German people is unanimous and firm in its resolution that the great sacrifices, in lives and goods, which it has made and will continue to make, voluntarily and even with enthusiasm, shall not have been made in vain. It demands as conditions of peace that Germany be indemnified financially, that it be strengthened in every possible way in its position of predominating power, and that its territory be extended beyond its former boundaries by annexing those parts of foreign countries which have been actually conquered during the war."

Along the same lines run the ambitions of leading men in some of the labor unions. Six of the latter already have memorialized the Imperial Chancellor on the subject of peace, expressing their expectations in regard to eventual terms in a language similar to that in the above resolution. The Iron and Steel Workers' Union held a general meeting in December at which a message was formulated and immediately communicated by wire to the Chancellor. One phrase of it is enough to denote its character. "The workingmen of this union," it reads, "are convinced that our long military successes will enable us to conclude a peace which will give to the German nation a guarantee of its supremacy for all future, assuring it against any further attacks by its enemies and allowing it to develop in peace its industries, commerce and agriculture, after our frontiers have been extended according to our wishes and needs."

Medical Science Is Constantly Lowering Risk of Death in War

Much Less Than Fifteen or Even Five Months Ago, Dr. C. W. Saleeby Says, English Ratio of Dead to Wounded Was Lowest of All.

(Special Dispatch.)

LONDON, Jan. 22.

How the lives of soldiers at the battle front are safeguarded, not from shell or bullet but from disease, is the subject of an interesting article by Dr. C. W. Saleeby in the Daily Chronicle.

It is curious, writes the eminent physician, "that, when I was a medical student in Lister's, Edinburgh, fifteen years ago, iodine was used by the dermatologists to destroy ringworm, but the surgeons never thought of it. A simpler, safer, quicker, cleaner and more convenient antiseptic could scarcely exist. To-day all our men, as every one knows, are provided with it. As an immediate application to wounds it is likely long to hold the field, and, though no one but the expert is a hundredth part as grateful for prevention as for cure, the soldier may know that, thus armed, he has the means which, in hosts of cases now, must save not only limbs but even lives.

"Far too many men in our original expeditionary force were without specific protection against typhoid. To-day it is estimated that ninety-four per cent of our forces have been fully inoculated against this once deadly disease. Would that modern medicine had any such specific for dysentery!

"The dreadful cases of lockjaw, or tetanus, which began to horrify us somewhere about this time a year ago are now no longer known. The soldier with a wound in itself not serious, invalided home to hospital, need not be watched in dread lest the early symptoms of tetanic spasms should supervene. Of the various measures which have been taken—and which must also be taken in every case, however baffling to the judgment of the observer—it is practically certain that the quick application of tetanus antitoxin, as part of the constant routine for the wounded, is by far the most important. Bacteriologically and also in terms of glorious results this antitoxin ranks with the antitoxin of diphtheria. If only other microbes produced soluble toxins of similar types similar antitoxins to this priceless pair could doubtless be provided, but they do not.

"Therefore, since we have no antitoxin worthy of the name for pneumonia or for other infections due chiefly to cold, we must redouble our efforts to provide the soldier with adequate protection against the cold and wet which wrought such havoc among our men last winter, both at home and abroad. This is being done with much success, as the figures, in due course, will surely show.

"According to some carefully considered figures lately published by a general in the United States Army, our own ratio of dead to wounded is by far the lowest of all among the combatant nations. Our superiority is so striking, according to his figures, that it may well furnish the chief fact of the medical history of the war, which is now being officially compiled in this country. After all, England led and leads the world in primary sanitation, as the name of Edwin Chadwick should suffice to remind us. Lister is ours; and it is remarkable that, though the German officers were largely protected against typhoid by the Anglo-French invention of inoculation, the men mostly were not.

"On the other hand, the Germans have had until lately an immense advantage in artillery and the valuable protection of steel helmets against our shrapnel. But the times are changing. The ancient principle of providing the soft skin of man with a defensive armor is being applied. Very happy results indeed are to be expected from the steel helmets which are now being served out to our men, and with which, it is to be expected, they will all be duly provided on due occasion. The cranium is itself a wonderful piece of armor for the 'all baffling brain,' but a steel helmet of the right kind may often be worth far more than its weight in gold as a first line of defence. That the heart may soon be similarly armored is my earnest hope.

"On such grounds as these it is most confidently to be asserted that the risk of death for the man who joins to-day is quite extraordinarily lower than fifteen or even five months ago."

KREIBITZ TOWN CARES FOR REAL WAR BABY

(Special Dispatch.)

BERLIN, Jan. 22.

At the beginning of the war Adolf Pilz, an electrician, of Kreibitz, was called to the front and took active part in the defence of Permysl. When that fortification was captured by the Russians Pilz was made a prisoner and sent to Siberia. Through worry and grief his young wife became ill and died, leaving her little child. Recently there arrived in Kreibitz a letter announcing the death of Pilz in a concentration camp in Russia.

The residents of Kreibitz have made arrangements to take care of the child, which has the distinction of being a real war baby.

GERMANY GETS 500,000 PIGS FROM THE BALKANS

(Special Dispatch.)

BERLIN, Jan. 22.

By transports on the Danube River there are now 500,000 pigs on their way to Germany from Bulgaria and Roumania. The German government has made special arrangements for the delivery of the pigs as quickly as possible. To fatten these pigs large quantities of fodder have also been bought from these Balkan States.

The Prussian Minister of the Interior has, by special provision, completed the financial arrangements to pay for this large consignment in the hope that it will alleviate considerably the scarcity of pork and fat in the German Empire. These articles of food are now very high in price, and it is expected that they will go still higher, until the time when these 500,000 pigs will be in condition to be placed on sale.

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City Solicitor Henderson has called the attention of the Courier to an article in the Illustrated London News entitled "Irritant Gases in War." In it the writer, an expert on the subject places sulphuretted hydrogen as the third in the catalogue of dangerous gases. This is the brand which Brantfordites by sanction of Mayor Bowlby, are now once more having poured into their homes from the Tilbury field.

Following is the article in full.

"The word asphyxia, which to the ordinary man is equivalent to suffocation, merely means pulselessness, and may be caused by a shot through the brain or heart, by loss of blood, or by a complete or "dead" fainting-fit, a good deal more rapidly than by the inhalation of noxious gases. Hence, although the term "asphyxiating gases" is used in the Hague Convention, it is by no means specially descriptive of those which the Germans have pumped into the trenches. It may even be said that any gas which can be taken into the human lungs will sooner or later cause death by asphyxia, with the exception of the peculiar mixture of oxygen and nitrogen which forms the basis of atmospheric air.

The noxious gases which can be produced in the quantity and conditions inseparable from their employment in war are, in fact, very few, and of "frightfulness" At the bottom stands carbonic acid gas or the "choke damp" dreaded by miners. This is as imagined, its effects resembling those of narcotic poison. When administered to animals, it produces for a few moments laboured breathing, quickly passing into insensibility and death unaccompanied by convulsions. The subject appears as if he had died in his slee
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MONTENEGRIN KING IN ROME

Received by Victor Emmanuel Amid Cheers of Vast Crowd.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Rome, Jan. 23—King Nicholas of Montenegro, accompanied by his son, Prince Peter, and by three officers of his suite, arrived in Rome to-day from Brindisi in the royal train, which had been put at his disposal to emphasize the purpose of the Italian government in wishing to do him honor. King Nicholas who was dressed in the national costume, with black cap, white jacket and red sash, looked very worn as a result of his hurried trip on horse back from Podgoritza to the sea and the subsequent passage and the trip from Brindisi.

King Victor Emmanuel met the King of Montenegro at the Termini terminal station, where an immense crowd had gathered to applaud him. They proceeded in an automobile to the Villa Savoia, where Queen Helena, daughter of King Nicholas, awaited him with her four children. The exiled Monarch will leave Rome at 9 o'clock to-night to join his wife and two daughters in Lyons.

Winnipeg Man Dead.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Winnipeg, Jan. 24—A. A. Aird, secretary of the Winnipeg Police Commission, clerk of the city police court, is dead, aged 61. He was born at Grafton, Ontario.

Bread Goes Up.

By Special Wire to the Courier.

Quebec, Jan. 24—The local bread bakers at a recent meeting have practically decided to raise the price of bread from 20 cents to 22 cents a loaf.

The stork left a baby giraffe at Barnum and Bailey's winter quarters at Bridgeport, Conn.

Theodore G. Bilbo has been inaugurated Governor of Mississippi, succeeding Governor Brewer.

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