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## Germany Loses Five Billions of Trade

**MILITARISM** Pays the Price in Trade Losses Which Cannot be Counterbalanced by Closer Economic Ties with Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria—Bright Outlook for Britain and the Allies.

GERMANY has lost, since the beginning of the war, about \$5,000,000,000 worth of trade. The British Export Gazette, in disclosing the above conditions, says the supreme folly and madness of the Prussian military hierarchy in precipitating the world war cannot be better illustrated than by the figures of the commerce the German nation has absolutely thrown away since it started. Judging from the actual trade volumes of 1913, the last normal year before hostilities broke out, the enemy's total loss at date, if imports and exports are included, cannot be less than the stupendous sum of \$5,000,000,000 in regard to transactions with the Allies alone, or about half what would have been Germany's total trade with all countries for the period in question. None of this huge loss can, of course, ever be recovered. Put into concrete form, and taking 1913 as a standard for calculation, Germany so far has lost \$935,000,000 in exports to the British Empire; \$402,500,000 to France and French possessions; \$480,000,000 to Russia; \$270,000,000 to Belgium; \$100,000,000 to Italy; and another \$100,000,000 to the other countries with which she is at war, or, in round figures, nearly \$2,500,000,000. In return she would have received raw materials, produce and manufactures to the value of \$585,000,000 from the British Empire, \$330,000,000 from France and French possessions, \$722,500,000 from Russia, \$170,000,000 from Belgium, \$77,500,000 from Italy, and \$55,000,000 from other countries she is fighting—another \$2,500,000,000 in round figures.

We need scarcely point out how preposterous it is for Germany to imagine that such gigantic losses can be commercially compensated by the suggested closer economic ties with her own allies, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. Her normal trade with these three countries amounted to only a little more than \$500,000,000, including both imports and exports. How much of the commerce of these derelict nations do German manufacturers imagine will remain to them after the war? From the economic point of view they will possess practically no value as trade factors for decades, all being virtually bankrupt and absolutely devoid of all credit.

On the other hand, the figures we have quoted should provide nothing but encouragement for Great Britain and her Allies. Germany's annual loss of \$500,000,000 in exports alone will, when conditions are once again normal, and she finds herself cut off for decades from all com-

mercial intercourse with the entente powers, mean just so much additional interchange of trade between the nations now fighting side by side for the salvation of the world from Prussian dominance. That is a prospect of inspiring significance, and should act as a clarion call to the manufacturers and workers of the allied powers for the utmost exertion of output in the days that will follow the coming peace.

The idea of a Central European commercial union between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey is discussed in the German press, but no record of official action corresponding to that taken by the Entente Allies is to be found in the European press. Franz Koehler, in a book entitled "The New Triple Alliance," wrote:

"It will be the principal aim of this combination to regulate offer and demand between the individual countries according to their mutual interests and needs. So, for instance, the demand for breadstuffs satisfied up till now by Russian and American imports, will have to be filled by the newly acquired eastern countries and also by Turkey. This will lead principally to a regulation of the imports from the individual states which will have to be suited to the demand of the others. Egypt and Turkey are the only countries in this combination of states producing cotton.\* Copper will be found in future to some extent in Serbia and still more in Turkey. Besides copper, Turkey also will be able to supply paraffin in sufficient quantity to make independent the new combination from foreign supplies."

It is also contemplated by those who support such a scheme to turn Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria into an economic unit, self-containing, and self-supporting, independent from the other countries.

While this idea certainly finds considerable support from certain German interests others have pointed out the difficulties of such an enterprise. Also they have shown that even if carried to completion, it hardly would compensate Germany for the loss of her ante-bellum commercial position.

Many objections against it have been raised not only by German economists, but also by merchants and manufacturers interested in the continuation of German foreign trade. Owing to the interruption of the mail service and

\*Practically all German comment dates back several months and was based on the German hope then entertained of a return of Egypt to Turkey.