

High Estimation of Britain by Russia

Dr. Mark L. Barst examines the Anglo-Russian friendship to ascertain upon what ground relation is based.

(The Christian Science Monitor.) London, April 8.—Dr. Mark L. Barst, until a short time ago editor of the Anglo-Russian Gazette, contributes a special article to a recent issue of the Daily Chronicle dealing with the question of Anglo-Russian friendship.

Is the present Anglo-Russian rapprochement, Dr. Barst writes, only the result of forced co-operation thrust upon the two great countries by their common foe, but without a sound base, or is it the outcome of a better understanding which was impending, has matured, and come to the surface at the moment when it could no longer be delayed. The majority of the English nation have a settled opinion about this question, but now and then a solitary voice is heard protesting against the alliance between civilized England and "barbarous" Russia, and trying to prove that this most unnatural match is bound to prove a failure, that as soon as the mutual and necessary help has been given, and when the time comes to divide the "spoils," England and Russia must disagree, with disastrous results.

How far are these views justifiable? Do those who advance them know the spirit of the Russian people? (I am not concerned with the government.) That is a thing which must be set out distinctly before the average Englishman, who can easily be misled by statements that are, to say the least, erroneous.

Slaves

The present war, Dr. Barst continues is least of all possible wars an armed conflict between different nations, mutually friendly, but forced to fight by their respective governments. There have always been murmurs in Russia against the Austrian persecution of the many Slav nationalities under her rule. The trial of some Slav "rebels" and "plotters" in Hungary, when many innocent Serbs have been sentenced to long terms of penal servitude, on the sole allegations of an "agent provocateur," overfilled the cup of patience. Then could be foreseen the time when the great Slav races would settle their grievances by force of arms. There is no doubt that Austria's behaviour towards Serbia, the arrogant demands which surpassed anything acceptable to even the smallest, but independent country, were not calculated to bring a peaceful solution. The war was accepted by the Russian people as a great evil, but an inevitable one, and as a just and only solution of the racial problem, which was subject to different interpretations in Austria.

Proceeding, Dr. Barst contends that as to Germany, Russians know only too well what they owe to German advice and influence. The reaction in Russia, he says, which set in after the short flash of liberty in 1900 and which, ever since, has been weighing down the Russian people, was mainly due to the "wise counsels" tendered by the Kaiser during the interview in the Finnish waters between both rulers. The Russian intellectual, who thus saw all his hopes crumpled, knew that it was the Kaiser who was the real cause of the change in the home policy of the Russian government, and when war was declared against those whom he rightly considers the principal cause of his country's misfortunes he could only rejoice.

The Russian looks upon this war not merely as a war of revenge on the German, who was, by moral support, responsible for the thousands of exiles from his country, but for the beginning of a new era for his nation. That the allied nations will come out victorious from the immense struggles, Dr. Barst insists, no Russian doubts. The Russian, moreover, he says, fervently hopes and believes that after the victory, France, no longer depending upon Russia, will be able, with England, to influence the Russian government.

After pointing out that the Russians never disliked England, and insisting that any distrust that might have existed in the past was due to the fact that he did not know anything of the English, Dr. Barst says: After the Franco-Russian alliance the Frenchman became quite familiar to the Russian, besides having always been the model western civilization which the Russians sought to imitate. But the Englishman to the Russian remained an unknown being, as the latter to the former. It is only of late that these two great nations have begun to appreciate each other's qualities and if Tchekhoff, Gorky, or Dostoevsky are no longer foreign to the English reader, the best English writers have gained quite an assured place on the shelves of the book-loving Russian's library.

Only those who deliberately shut their eyes to the contributions of Russia to the world's treasury of learning and literature, only those who look upon Russia through the artificial and false lenses manufactured by avowed Russo-phobes for consumption, by people utterly ignorant of that great country, speak of "barbarous" Russia. Russia is no longer barbarous. The greatest asset of England in the eyes of Russia, the writer says in conclusion, is her behavior as the defender of Belgium's rights. The word "gentleman" is used in Russian with the same meaning as in English, and on the Russian's lips always means the highest praise. The Russians now unanimously say that the English people proved themselves to be "gentlemen" in the purest and highest sense of that word.

BERLIN WRITER TELLS OF IRON RULE ON BREAD

Article in Dutch Paper Shows That in Germany There is Also a Lack of Potatoes Through Speculative Tendencies.

The Hague, Holland, April 5.—The Berlin correspondent of the Dutch Nieuwe Courant, dealing with recent developments in connection with the food problem in Germany, writes: Without a ticket, no bread! This is the iron rule, and applies equally to the household of the Kaiser as to that of the poorest inhabitant. No one in all Berlin can now secretly evade the regulation. Every adult person has a right to his four pounds of bread, any one not having eaten his full share the previous week losing his right to it. The tickets are not transferable, any violation of this rule being threatened with severe punishment. The distribution of the bread seems to be rather impractical for general use. On my ticket, for instance, I can obtain my weekly ration of 2,000 grammes of bread in eight portions of 25 grammes, eight of 50 grammes, four of 100 grammes, and four of 250 grammes. A great deal of anxiety is needed to insure a satisfactory supply, for if by the end of the week I

have no small coupons left I must use a big one to secure a small sandwich. Only in a few of the Berlin suburbs has the seller the right to give the buyer "change" for large coupons in smaller tickets. In hotels the inhabitant of Berlin brings his own bread ticket, whilst the stranger receives a daily ticket of 275 grammes. In all the imperial palaces a ticket is delivered for each member of the family and court.

Potatoes

The question has been raised whether the ration is sufficient, and, indeed, for poor families with a few children it is not. Added to this there is the difficulty of laying hands on a few pounds of potatoes, at maximum prices of course. For if there is no real lack of daily bread, there certainly is a lack of potatoes, which is all the more regrettable since it is not caused by the fact that Germany is cut off from supplies, but by the speculative tendencies of wholesale and retail dealers. The fixing of maximum prices made many a retail dealer wait for higher prices. A number of them appeared on the market with carts full of potatoes, hoping to make a larger profit, but the police kept strict watch and they had to leave again. Crowds of women stand in the market hails all night on the chance of being able to buy a few pounds of potatoes the next morning. The fact that the potato stock cannot be seized is a serious matter. There is some anxiety as to potatoes being used for cattle food.

Professor Ellsbacher, writing in the Deutsche Tageszeitung, says that just as the pigs have been eating a large part of the rye, so they are now eating the potatoes. The vice-president of the Prussian cabinet, however, declares that insuperable difficulties would be met with if the potato stock were seized. In times of peace 7,000,000 tons are used for seed purposes, 14,000,000 tons for human consumption, and 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 for other purposes. The remainder, viz., some 22,000,000 tons, was used for cattle food. As a result of the unfavorable crop of 1914, however, there is only 17,000,000 tons for cattle food, and while, since October, 1914, only 8,000,000 tons ought to have been used, actually 12,000,000 tons have been consumed, to which must be added 500,000 used in the preparation of bread.

Supplies

At this moment there is in Germany 8,000,000 tons for human food, and 8,000,000 tons for cattle food, and at

the present rate of consumption this stock will have been used up within three and three quarter months. Added to this there is the enormous rise in most prices, more particularly pork. These high prices might be attributed to the increased manufacture of preserved meats, and it might be supposed that they are not exclusively a result of unfair speculation, but in part they certainly are. Naturally in a country such as Germany it must be assumed that the necessary measures will be taken in time. Yet, for the looker-on, the situation is not at all reassuring.

POLICE COURT SATURDAY.

Barney Barry and James Boyd, who were remanded on the charge of escaping from the chain gang, were committed for trial Saturday morning.

Hop Lee, charged with being the proprietor of an opium joint, was further remanded.

James Ward, who was arrested for drunkenness and also charged with rioting last July, was remanded.

Gertrude Nugent, charged with being a common vagrant and lurking in Park street, was remanded.

Two drunks were fined \$8 with the option of spending two months as the guests of the city.

Arthur Marshall, charged with drunkenness and breaking windows in Harry Donahue's coach, was sentenced to a fine of \$8 or two months in jail.

A. L. See, one of the Chinamen of the Hochelaga, who was remanded on the charges of refusing duty and inciting other members of the crew to riot, was sentenced to eight weeks' imprisonment.

David Jones, who was remanded on a charge of not supporting his wife, was allowed to go on suspended sen-

tence of \$500 fine or six months' imprisonment, on condition that he support his wife and children in the future and try to avoid quarrelling with his wife.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA

The 79th annual statement of the Bank of British North America, which appears elsewhere in these columns, affords striking evidence of this staunch old institution under the most trying circumstances.

During the last two years, the Bank has wisely shaped its policy to cope with the period of reaction which invariably succeeds a long spell of exuberant prosperity, and which was already evidencing itself in no uncertain manner. The reasonable requirements of customers for legitimate business purposes, however, have suffered no curtailment, but no encouragement has been given to transactions of a speculative character.

It has always been the policy of the Bank to maintain a large proportion of its assets in liquid shape, and the consequence was that the outbreak of war found the Bank of British North America in a singularly strong position, which was still further improved, so that at the close of its year, November 30th, 1914, the cash and legal tender notes on hand, with the bank balances, were equal to no less than 64 per cent. of immediate liabilities. The investments appearing in the Balance Sheet are of the highest class, including Exchequer Bonds, and Dominion of Canada 3 3/4 per cent. Bonds, while the Bank has subscribed for \$500,000 of the War Loan.

Striking evidence of the confidence

reposed in the Bank of British North America by the depositing public is afforded by the fact that the total on deposit, which now stands at over \$42,000,000, represents an increase of more than \$4,000,000 over the figures for the previous year. Current Loans in Canada show but a slight decrease, and it is evident that the legitimate requirements of borrowing customers have received full consideration.

Net profits for the year, which amount to \$645,000 have naturally been affected by the struggle in Europe, but the previous dividend of 8 per cent. has been maintained, and, in addition to making liberal appropriations for the various funds for the benefit of the staff, the Bank has contributed \$25,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund and Canadian Red Cross Society.

The staff of the Bank has responded patriotically to the call for volunteers for the defence of the Empire, and about fifteen per cent have gone to the front.

Public Health.

Reports to Registrar Jones for the week ending Saturday were of ten marriages and twenty-five births, fifteen males and ten females.

T. M. Burns, secretary of the Board of Health, reports twelve deaths for the week. The causes were:

Pneumonia	4
Broncho-pneumonia	2
Old age	1
Paresis	1
Menigitis	1
Tuberculosis of kidneys	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1
Cerebral spinal meningitis	1

The E. S. Fluke Memorial. The Women's Suffrage Association, in furtherance of plans for the E. S. Fluke memorial, has been actively

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working all winter making up new material for the poor children of the city for distribution by the Associated Charities. The last parcel sent in since the beginning of April, contained three baby's nightdresses, eight squares, two boy's blouses, one pair of knickers, one pair of pillow slips and thirteen bloomers.

Order Your Daily Paper Now!

THE GREAT ADVANCE AGAINST GERMANY will, it is believed, commence in a very few weeks. No one can afford to be without the latest news of these world-stirring events. Kitchener's new army is now in France. The Canadians are there. Our New Brunswick boys are drawing nearer and nearer to the firing line.

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This news can reach you only by means of a daily paper. There is none better than The Standard, nor any which can be so promptly obtained at so low a price. The Daily Standard is sold by mail outside the city of St. John at Three Dollars per year. We are, for the purpose of reaching those who may not be personally acquainted with this paper, making

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