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**POLAND UNDER GERMAN RULE.**

After the German atrocities in Belgium it is rather an anachronism to mention the methods which the Germans have adopted in Poland. We have no record of them murdering children and violating women in Poland, for Poland did not fight them like Belgium did, but it is interesting to consider some of the results of their occupation of territory that was formerly Russian in view of the fact that Germany has pretended to be a sort of deliverer of Poland. She herself has millions of Polish subjects; Austria has more millions. Russia has many. From several quarters has come the suggestion that after the war Poland may be re-established as a kingdom under German or Russian protection depends wholly upon the result of the war. Anyway, all the combatants that have a large Polish population have tried to show that one of the certain results of the war would be an improvement in the condition of the Polish people.

**Murder Appeals for Victim**  
Germany's actions in Poland have belied the benevolent professions she has made. She has called attention to the sad plight of the Poles who have come under her jurisdiction, and at the same time has continued unwearily in her endeavours to make their plight more sad. As the London Times remarked in an article on the subject: "Never before have murderers at large had either the audacity or the humor to appeal on behalf of the widowed wives and bereaved orphans of their victims." An idea of the plight of the City of Warsaw, with a population of one million people now in the hands of the enemy, was presented in a recent article in the Cracow (Czas). Mutilated as it was by the Austrian censor, this recital of the plight of a great Polish city forms a biting commentary on the efforts of the Teutons to relieve the Poles from Russian oppression.

**Burdens on Warsaw**  
Careful perusal of it shows why relief is needed in Poland and why the German authorities are so keen on getting it. Besides the ordinary expenditure of £2,754,315—about £400,000 above the average of the last three years—the city of Warsaw has to bear an equally heavy burden of extraordinary expenses. Every month £100,000 is spent on poor relief, £28,000 on separation allowance, etc. "Finally, one has to add the expense of complying with the different demands of the German authorities. Their exact amount cannot be estimated in advance, but between August 5, 1915, and March 14, 1916, it was £368,400." Against this enormous expenditure there is only a small and uncertain income. "The house-owners pay no taxes, as most of them receive no income. Hence, though the income of the city, including the sums to be repaid to it by the German authorities, was estimated for the coming year at £789,596, it is very questionable whether more than a part of it will be collected, in view of the steadily increasing pauperization of the city."

**Growing Death-rate**  
The misery is indescribable. In August, 1915—that is, in the first month of the German occupation—the death-rate was 15.88 per 1,000 (calculated to the year). It has risen steadily since October, 1915, and has now reached the figure of 34 per 1,000. (Here follows a significant deletion by the Austrian censor in the text of the memorandum as published in the (Czas).) At the time when Warsaw passed into the hands of the Germans about £4,814 a month was being spent by the city on the free-feeding of the population; by March, 1916, this item of expenditure had risen to £51,680! In view of the rapid pauperization of the city, its financial needs could not (and cannot) be met by fresh taxation. Recourse was inevitably had to loans. Two loans have been raised since Warsaw has passed under German rule, one amounting to £500,000, the other to £1,000,000. At the present rate of expenditure a third loan would be necessary, and should it not be successful "the city will be faced in the near future by financial ruin, of which the economic and social effects will be incalculable."

**The Warsawians' Request**  
The City Council, therefore, suggests to the German authorities a list of measures which would help towards relieving its financial distress. The list in itself is a most eloquent summary of some of the German financial feelings and exactions.  
1. That the German authorities should return to the city the £138,825 which they owe it.  
2. That the city be freed from all requisitions and orders to provide supplies, especially beyond its own boundaries.  
3. That the German authorities should pay back the money due to

city for supplies received.  
4. That the city should be freed from the duty of feeding the garrison.  
5. Also from building expenses and repairs of barracks, Government buildings, etc., and should be compensated for similar expenses in the past.

6. That the expense of repairing the Prince Ponitowski Bridge should be borne by the German authorities as under the present conditions it is not required by the city.

7. That the city should be assisted in the payments of separation allowances and pensions, as by their character these are charges incumbent on the State and not on the city.  
But even more important than all these purely financial questions is the fundamental problem of the economic recovery of the city itself. "A city with a million inhabitants," the memorandum says, "cannot be fed except by a revival of its own activities." These came to a standstill when the battlefront crossed Warsaw, and have never been resumed, as was hoped. At present only about 10 per cent of the normal number of workmen are employed in the Warsaw factories. And money that is to be made in the city goes to Germany, and yet Germany now appeals to the world to help the poor Poles.

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**FIGHTING IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA IS ALMOST UNRIVALLED IN ROMANCES OF JULES VERNE**

While the eyes of the world have been fixed on the absorbing events at Verdun, there has been enacted, unnoticed and in a far theatre of the war scarcely laid down in maps, a drama of arms almost unrivalled in the romances of Jules Verne. A British expedition, consisting of only 27 officers and men, after a journey of a year, penetrated to the heart of Africa, and brought to it successful conclusion operations, that transferred from German to British control a region immeasurably greater than the entire territory for which vast armies are now battling on the Western European front.  
The goal of the expedition was Lake Tanganyika, on the flank of the German East African colony. To reach it the expedition, which in numbers and in the almost fantastic nature of its design resembles the band of adventurers which Clive led into India, undertook a railway journey from Cape Town to Fungerumee, which lies north of Rhodesia, from which point it had to literally hew its way through the bush for 166 miles to the Lusaba River, which flows into Lake Tanganyika 360 miles further on. Over this entire distance the expedition transported two armed motor boats, the Mimi and the Tou-Tou, dragging them through the bush by ox team and traction engines, hewing roads, bridging gullies and streams and overcoming difficulties that would seem almost insuperable in a country of civilization where every aid

of engineering was instantly at hand. The water supply failed, not enough being found even for the boilers of the tractors, and hundreds of natives had to be impressed to carry water in jars for miles through the jungle. When the river was reached one set of troubles was merely exchanged for another. The boats were launched, but mud bars, treacherous currents and numerous obstructions made the journey by water almost as slow as that through the bush. Even when the lake was reached it was found necessary to construct harbor works to protect the craft from the sudden and violent storms of the region.  
At length the Mimi and the Tou-Tou were got in fighting trim and the hunt for the German flotilla began. The day after Christmas the German gunboat Kingani was sighted and after a spirited fight was captured. A six weeks' cruise of the lake followed before this victory was clinched by the sinking of the Von Weiksmann, the German flagship in the East African waters. It was the Trafalgar of Africa, leaving the British in complete possession of the region.  
The account of this extraordinary expedition, when it shall be written, will prove more interesting to lovers of the adventurous than many greater operations in better known fields. It is exploits like this that give the touch of romance to war which the gigantic struggles in the European theatres have failed to impart.

**DESCRIBES THE LAST MOMENTS ON BOARD THE "QUEEN MARY."**

Among the very few survivors of the great battle cruiser Queen Mary, sunk in the naval action off Jutland, was a midshipman who relates his experience in the action as follows:  
"At 3.40 p.m. we all went off to our stations, where we stood kicking our heels until a quarter to five when the order came to load guns. We loaded both guns and I asked the officer of the turret what was happening. He told me the enemy had been sighted. About seven minutes after we opened fire with our forward guns and three minutes afterwards my turret in the aft part of the ship began firing.  
"After we had been fighting for about twenty minutes a salvo of German shells hit the quarter-deck, setting the whole of that part on fire. A few minutes afterwards a terrific explosion occurred in the second magazine. Both our slides were then right back on their slides and out of action. The general opinion was that the whole turret had been unseated by the German salvo.  
"The officer of the turret told me that the ship was sinking rapidly and that I was to get the turret crew out as quickly as possible, which I did. The officer then told me to carry out the usual routine. "Very man for himself!" I left the turret through the hatch in the top and found the ship was lying on her side.  
"She was broken amidships with the stern and bows, both sticking out of the water at an acute angle. I sat on the turret for a few moments, and while there I thought I saw several men fall into the water. The

stern was on fire and red hot. Then an explosion blew the whole bow right out of the water, causing the aft part of the ship to give a tremendous lurch and throwing me off the turret into the water.  
**Blown From a Spar.**  
"Just before I struck the water I heard another terrific explosion above my head so apparently the aft magazine exploded. When I came to the surface of the water nothing of the Queen Mary was to be seen except a lot of wreckage, spars and that sort of thing.  
"The Tiger was steaming behind us during the action and probably passed right over the spot where the Queen Mary had gone down. The Queen Mary took only about a minute to sink. I remained in the water a long time clinging to a spar and saw a destroyer come up and saw her turn round and make off again. A few minutes afterwards the Fifth Battle Squadron, comprising the four Queen Elizabeth type ships, steamed past at about twenty-five knots and firing continually.  
"The enemy shots were mostly falling short. One enemy shell exploded in the water close to where I was and the concussion knocked me off my spar, causing me to lose consciousness. The next thing, I remember was finding myself about four hours later, in the forecabin of a destroyer. I was told that I had been picked up by their whaler about thirty-five minutes after the Queen Mary had been blown up. I was found on a large hatch that was floating in the water."

**Commercial War to Follow Peace**

Both the French and German newspapers agree that a commercial war in Europe will follow the declaration of peace. German merchants already have prepared for it, and after the last gun is fired in the present conflict all arrangements are complete to flood the world markets with German goods. The German newspapers mention the fact that the German mercantile marine is still intact, and hundreds of big ships will be available to carry merchandise. There is rejoicing in Germany at the fact that the world is dependent upon her for so many necessary things, especially in the line of machinery and chemicals and drugs, and these particular industries are expected to do a thriving business.  
In France there is the same feeling regarding a bitter commercial warfare. The Revue Parlementaire, in a recent issue, has a strong leading article on the subject.  
"After the war," says the Revue Parlementaire, "a commercial war of intense bitterness will begin. Machin-

ery will take the place of cannon, and in this respect French industry is wanting. For years France has been beaten commercially by both Britain and America. We need modern machinery to take the place of men. Shall France continue to pay tribute to Germany and America? We need new ideas, new inventions, and we want the banks to finance industrial and commercial enterprises and not the savings of the people. Otherwise the government will be obliged to protect the industries. The matter is worthy of careful thought."  
Son (enthusiastically)—Yes, father, I have fully made up my mind to adopt music as a career. I feel it is the only one in which my soul can find its full expansion.  
Father (indignantly)—Very well, sir; if you will persist a year or two in these courses, instead of following your father in an honest hardware business, let me tell you that when you have reached the height of your ambition, you needn't come playing before my door expecting to get any coppers.

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