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## Germany's Doom Coming From the North, Says a Well Known Writer

Well May Germany Want to Get Out of the War This Year—She Has Nothing to Gain by Continuing It and Will Have More and More to Lose—Germany Has Come to the Cruc—Whence Can She Expect Any Solution in Her Favor?—The British Army is Going to Help to Make History

(By J. L. Garvin, in New York Tribune).  
LONDON, July 15.—Through all the accidents of this struggle I have insisted on a fundamental fact. Unless Germany could break Russia she could not win even the land war. Not only so. If the Central League could not break Russia in the present campaign all the hopes based on their previous progress would be broken sooner or later by the action of the Czar's armies with the other allies. From that standpoint this month of July seems likely to be perhaps the most critical period of the whole conflict. The general soundness of that judgment stands verified, but in how different a manner from anything imagined!

All life, but especially war and politics, is an astonishing interplay of the calculable and the incalculable. Many persons foresaw with a vision as intense and sure as that of the Old Testament prophets the coming of this war, but no one anticipated its occasion or its character. The last Lord Salisbury, indeed, with that brooding sagacity he had often predicted that Armageddon would break over some sudden issue coming sideways. But even he could not have anticipated that the assassination of an Austrian Archduke two years ago would summon armies not only from the older nations but from the ends of the earth and would send millions to their graves. Thus, if we say that things are constantly turning out as piercing thinkers warned the world for years beforehand we are half right. And if we repeat that "it is the unexpected that happens" we are half wrong. In spite of Disraeli and the attractions of epigram.

**The Unknown Factor.**  
Like the heaven and the dough, there is always the mingling of some unknown factor with circumstances that were plain and obvious. The war, parallel with its dreadful practical concerns, keeps us musing about old human questions of fate and destiny, lay and chance. It brings to mind what wise physicians used to tell us in peace—that men who walk the hospitals, with their scenes of healing or of doom, are apt to become either mystics or materialists.

The recovered strength of Russia was obvious, indeed, but we all knew it to be still far from its maximum. The smashing force of General Brusiloff's onslaught was a surprise almost as startling to the Western Powers as to the Central Empires themselves. The Russians have far surpassed all reasonable calculations based on Western standards. On the other hand, though no one could admire more than myself the magnificent achievement of our Eastern ally or take a firmer view of the ultimate effect of the Russian factor will be enormous. I am not among those who look for the total debacle of Austria during the coming months. It is better to keep to measured views, though to sketch dazzling theories would be much easier.

**Journalistic Romance.**  
There has, of course, been the usual effervescence of optimistic romance on the part of the more facile journalists. The Russian offensive had scarcely gone twenty miles forward when the headlines were crediting it once more with the weight of the old familiar steam roller and the speed of a high-powered motor car. Pictures were conjured up of Russian infantry divisions sweeping over the rivers as though every man were shod with seven league boots. As for cannon and shell, they were doubtless coming on at a rare rate by some means left vague. Nothing in this corresponds to the ponderous and deliberate realities of war.

Even if the most sober view be taken, the Russian operations are bound to have a far-reaching, perhaps a transforming effect in favor of the Allies as a whole. What has happened on land, in conjunction with the clenching of British sea power against Germany, and with the Allies' reassertion of their trade power, seems bound to shorten the war and to modify all previous speculation. Neither the Western nations nor the Central Empires had supposed that Russia—though believed to be impregnable against the defence—could strike any blow like General Brusiloff's before the beginning of next year.

**Germany's Mistake.**  
Hence the practical and moral preparation in the West for the continuation of a four years' war under conditions that would relieve the appalling strain on France. Hence also the profound, strategic mistake, as we held hold to be, of Germany's de-

termination to concentrate against Verdun the masses of guns and men which might have been employed with far more formidable effect upon some sector in the east but for the infatuation under estimate of Russia, which possessed Berlin and Vienna alike.

This is another of Germany's "psychological blunders," and its origins go back for years, almost for generations. Frederick the Great met his bloodiest checks because he despised the warnings of General Manteuffel, who had served in Russia. The Germans assume a tone of overweening superiority towards all Slavs, despite the remarkable Slavs of the highest practical ability given by Poles and Czechs as education increases among them. The present German Emperor was surrounded for years by persons like Professor Schiemann, who held that the Czar's army, in conflict with Prussian organization, would prove little better than a rabble. Last August it was believed that for all serious purposes the "rabble" was permanently dispersed.

**The Russian Fallacy.**  
American visitors to Berlin during the last nine months have been assured again and again on the highest authority that there was no further danger, nor the slightest, to either Austria or Germany from the Russian side. Even more extreme views were held by the incorrigible anti-Russian fanatics in Vienna and Budapest. General Konrad von Hoetzendorf was telling a Swedish interviewer, just before the thunderclap, that the Muscovite barbarians must, of course, be thrust back toward Asia. It was implicitly assumed, when batteries and battalions were amassed for the attack on Verdun and the great adventure in the TREATY, that the Russians had not a real kick left in them.

We thought this a stupidly arrogant view and only hoped that the ironic fates would keep the Central Empires in the same complacent mood until circumstances were ripe, but very few in the West, even among the better informed, thought that the Czar's armies were yet in a position to shatter the enemy's defence on any sector.

**Czar Settles Gun Problem.**  
The question of rifles in Russia was no longer a serious difficulty. The supply of field artillery and shells was excellent. But, arguing from Western standards, more big guns and still more big guns would be wanted for a long time to come. There could never be too many. From the Baltic to Rumania the armies of the two Kaisers had walled themselves up behind successive lines of extraordinary solid and elaborate defences. It seemed probable, that the means for smashing those defences could yet exist.

Then Brusiloff struck with a vengeance. He opened an overwhelming fire along an immense stretch of front and in a few days he had done what had been thought impossible in the West: for twenty and thirty miles ahead, not at one point only, but on three different sectors, he had swept everything before him, and thrown his cavalry through the gaps. In ten days over 120,000 Austrian and German prisoners had been taken; the enemy's dead and wounded were reckoned in addition at as many again. It was a stark blow such as had not been struck at Austria since the Grand Duke's first invasion of Galicia.

**Turning Point of War.**  
Evidently this event must upset all calculations in favor of the Central Empires. It is an unmistakable turning point in the whole European struggle. This is true independently of all extravagant anticipation with regard to immediate Russian progress. If our allies indeed sweep once more across the Carpathians—if on the other wing they break the direct Austro-German communications south of Brest-Litovsk and if, as in the autumn of 1914, they take Lemberg, so much the better such events would speak for themselves: there would be no need to explain their bearing on the war, or to enter into any balanced discussion of contingencies.

But take the more cautious view. Suppose that the Czar's armies by the end of July were held up or even had to recede; the conclusions adverse to the Central Empires would not be altered. Conceive as possible a formidable concentration of Krupp-power, which Brusiloff for the present, could not overcome. What would it prove? Nothing but that Russia, in order to strike a great blow for the relief of her French and Italian allies, had moved in a loyalty as splendid as her prowess a little before the time that

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would have been best for herself.

The chief advantage of the surprise is over. German and Austrian transport facilities are still incomparably superior. Prodigious is the output of heavy batteries by Krupp and the Skoda works. The Russian guns can only be brought up gradually to create an artillery situation as favorable as that which existed when Brusiloff, with accumulated stocks of ammunition in hand, opened the destroying fire of his preparatory bombardments.

**Russia's Great Task.**  
The further the Russians advance toward the enemy's chief railway centres in Galicia and South Poland. All that might mean that there would be long pauses for organization between the Russian whirlwind attacks. There might even be fluctuations and oscillations of fortune.

The rising forces might be delayed. Their nature would not be altered. Their pressure would continue: sooner or later their advance would be resumed with more crushing weight and more sustaining progress. Examine the hypothesis on which some friends of the Central Empires still build. Suppose Hindenburg attempts the perilous adventure of an offensive seeking to cross the Drina. He might expose his flanks and endanger his connections unless the redoubtable Brusiloff could be surely contained—a guarantee no longer easy to insure. But even if Hindenburg could advance a certain way—the Russians might well choose to draw him on—what would he gain? We may take it for granted, I think, that by no human possibility, can the Teutons repeat Mackensen's and Hindenburg's triumphs after the Galician "Durchbruch" of last year.

**East Front Situation Changed.**  
The entire situation is different. Then the Russians had just made their greatest strategic mistake at the very time of the disastrous breakdown of their internal organization; their military position was about as bad from every point of view as an army ever stood in. They had fought their way across the Carpathians at the price of 500,000 casualties. Exhausted by these losses, their lines of retreat through the mountain passes became precarious as soon as Mackensen broke through. On the other side their armies in the Polish salient were immediately threatened by envelopment. At such a moment the munitions supply failed.

Now their front is fairly straight. Their communications are everywhere secure. They have behind them what they believe to be an impregnable series of prepared lines to fall back upon with immovable stolidity if any thing goes very wrong with the sequel of their present offensive. Grant another stiff check, and what then? Still Russia would get stronger and stronger, not only in equipped reserves, but in big guns, munitions and every appliance of war.

Take one very suggestive comparison: Russia has already inflicted nearly as much loss on the Central Empires as Germany in the last four months has inflicted on the western allies. Again, Russia must have added to her equipped numbers in the last four months as many fresh men of the prime fighting age as the Germans before Verdun have lost in casualties, though these by now must amount at the very least to well over 400,000 men.

**Russia's Strength Increasing.**  
It is a moderate conclusion to say that Russia's relative fighting strength would be twice as great by this time next year if the war went on. Nothing then could prevent her, in conjunction with her allies, from overthrowing Turkey, mastering the Balkans and destroying Austria also—whose destruction, indeed, may be the only means of enabling a permanent settlement and reconstruction to be reached in Europe.

Thus, even if Russia were held up for a time, worse storms would burst again from that quarter. Certainly her Hapsburg troops could not stand up, right against them and Germany, with her dwindling reserves, will be less and less able to provide for safety in her before next winter, apart from everywhere, I might have pointed out

the doubled track to Archangel, Russia will have at the terminus of the Kola railway a new ice-free port in Europe. All the supplies she requires to make final use of her trained numbers will come in more rapidly than ever. That is the prospect in the East. No matter how you look at it, the prospect is worse for the Central Empires than it has been.

Well may Germany want to get out of the war this year. She has nothing to gain by continuing it and will have more and more to lose. Germany has come to the cruc. Whence can she expect any solution in her favor? Not by the surrender of France. It is always just possible that the enemy may take Verdun. Dearly as we hope the French may hold it to the end, its local defence, in view of the larger purposes of the war, is not worth more than a certain cost in lives. By raising the bid the Germans may come nearer their object.

But even the fall of Verdun would not bring one inch nearer the surrender of France nor relax her grip on Germany. After the galling disadvantage in artillery during the last few months her relative gun power will begin to increase again from now on. The Italians have secured an invaluable breathing space, thanks both to their own tenacity and the Russian intervention.

Every day has contributed to build up the resources in men and guns of the British army. It is able to strike hard, as the last few days have proved. Britain, like Russia, will in various ways be very much stronger three months hence than now, and stronger again six months hence, and still stronger later. Nothing Germany can do will alter that process. The British army has reserves enough for a four years' war or a five years' war, and in equipment it is going to be second to none in the world. We rather think that is going to help in making of history. Germany and her confederates will soon be kicking all around against the prick—the harder the kicking the worse the consequence for the Central League.

So much for the land situation. Now add the sea situation. If we had to fight Germany single-handed it would be a comparatively cheap war which we could continue indefinitely. She never can resume normal commerce with the world at large before she has conceded satisfactory terms of peace. She cannot get out into the Atlantic either by the Strait of Dover or by the north passage. Austria cannot use either the Adriatic Sea or the Egean.

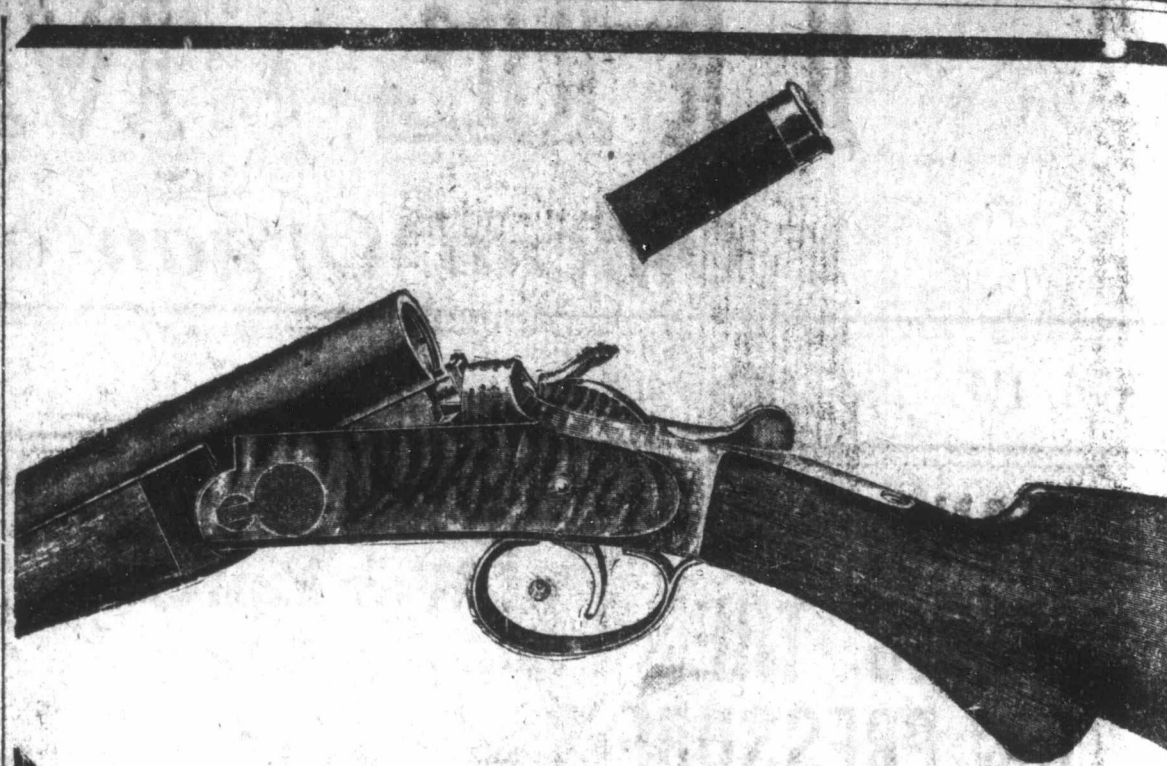
**Turkey Throttled.**  
The throttle grip on Turkish maritime commerce closes the Dardanelles, the Gulf of Smyrna, the Syrian Levant, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf. If the war goes on the Allies with absolute certainty can dispose of Turkey. They can debar the Central Empires from intercourse with nine-tenths of the world. Their trade power is even more invulnerable than their sea power. Not a single inch of colonial ground throughout the world can be recovered by German force. We have heard German efficiency extolled, and within its technical limits it deserves admiration—but in combined judgment and energy Britain has been too much for Germany.

We are inclined to think that peace is nearer, not for Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg's reasons, but for others the clean contrary. The German Chancellor thought that the war map as it stood a few weeks ago must be taken as the basis of negotiation. We emphatically reject that basis. Herr Bethmann imagined that the war map could only be modified in favor of the Central Empires. We think that the longer the war continues the worse it must be for the enemy in every way—military, maritime, commercial, social—and the more will the war map be modified in favor of the Allies.

**Changes Before Autumn.**  
In at least one of the outlying theatres, and perhaps in all of them, a complete change of the existing position will be effected or insured before the end of the autumn. By that time Germany, we believe, will be ready to offer terms that would have been unthinkable in Berlin and Vienna a fortnight ago. Whether the terms will be sufficient even then to form the basis of a good and lasting peace has yet to be seen. If not, the war will go on—and that, as we hold, could only mean a darkening prospect for Germany herself and death to both of Germany's partners. We begin to see the possibility of a nearer peace as sailors, after a long voyage, might descry the first dim signs that prove indeed to be not cloud, but land.

**Romance of an Orilla Girl**

Orilla, Ont., Packet.  
An Orilla girl knitted a pair of socks and sent them off to the war, with a note tucked in, the face of which gave her address. She has just received a message from the soldier at the front who got them. He writes: "Received your socks, I am wearing them now—one on my head and the other on my arm. Who told you could knit socks?"



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