

Britain Grapples With After-the-War Problems

Country Faces Situation With Cheerful Heart

By W. E. DOWDING, London, Eng.

August 1st, 1916.

There are pretty clear signs that the British Government thinks we are at last at the top of the crest. I am not thinking of the military indications, though they are good enough; and, in spite of the heavy losses they have caused, the country is still as confident as ever that the end is drawing in sight. Nor am I speaking of the words that have fallen from the lips of men in high position who have told us at odd times recently that the dawn is coming. It is perfectly astounding to see in what good heart the nation is. One cause of this, as I have said more than once, is the eager diligence with which we all devote ourselves to war work of multitudinous variety. A Canadian editor in London has just published from the offices of The Canadian News an illustrated record entitled, "Women of the Empire in War-Time." It is a mass of information of the way in which women in particular have turned their energies to useful work in every direction. The part which the women of Canada are taking in all this fine effort is well described, yet the record is by no means complete. Indeed, it never will be possible to describe fully all that has been done and is still going on. We did hear a good deal of the completeness with which the women of Germany were enlisted in the enemy's service, but I question whether with all her vaunted skill in organization Germany has persuaded her women to do more than British women are doing throughout the world.

The significant indications to which I wished to point are of another kind. Now that we have won through the severe strain of preparation and are beginning to reap the results of two years' labour, we are turning our attention more thoroughly to the problems which the European volcano has thrown to the surface. At this moment the brains of our best men outside the army are being turned methodically and earnestly to the vast problems of education, commerce, (including our basic industries of all kinds), and to the problems also of social welfare. Much of this work is being done quietly and remote from public notice. Some of it is being done by councils and committees unknown to the public, and most of it is being done voluntarily by men who are only too

proud to be able to devote their genius and knowledge to the country's welfare. I think it will be found when the time comes that what we now call the after-the-war problems will have been considered with wonderful completeness, and that very few things will happen that have not been anticipated and as far as possible prepared for. At no time in history has the whole mind of a country been so bent in one intent direction as now. You may not notice signs of it in our press, although many of our most talented editors are engaged with the others in dealing with the very problems I have referred to. Our press is a war press, and in its single-mindedness and almost complete unanimity fairly represents the attitude of the nation; and I think it is a tribute to that wholeness to find so little inclination on the part of our press to do other than keep the nation in the right mood for the full prosecution of its purpose. The ordinary man is not moved in these times by the ordinary political impulses. He is content to leave the consideration of after-the-war problems to those competent people who are effectively working them out.

In one direction a curious, though not unexpected change has come over public sentiment. At any time before the war any assembly of Englishmen would have agreed that it would be well for us to imitate Germany—her educational methods, her scientific research, her commercial methods, even her military methods, although the last was a less popular cry than the others. To-day, there is not so much readiness to look upon Germany as an example of all that it is desirable to obtain in the life of a nation. Even the protectionists are handicapped by the popular reflexion that it may not always be wise to tread in foot-prints that lead to war. But above this there is the almost unconscious but universal confidence in our national ability to work out our own ways without imitating anyone. The inexhaustible resourcefulness, the unexpected adaptability which the war has proved to be in us, has somehow or other increased our self-reliance. We face the problems of the future with so much the greater confidence, backed by this knowledge of what we have done in an unexampled emergency.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

During the coming month there will meet in New York City a special Commission of three men appointed to investigate the baffling transportation problems of the Dominion of Canada and attempt to recommend plans that will transform its railroads from failures into success.

The three men chosen for this prodigious task are: Mr. Alfred H. Smith, president of the New York Central Lines; Sir Henry Drayton, chief Commissioner of the Railroad Commission of Canada, and Sir George Paish, editor of "The Statist" of London, England, and an economist and statistician of international fame.

When Alfred H. Smith was selected it wrote another chapter in an American "success story" that is inspiring. It may serve to encourage some boys who are near the bottom of the ladder and hoping that hard work, loyalty, courage and thoroughness do pay.

For this Alfred H. Smith began as a messenger boy. Yes, and later he was a laborer on a construction gang, working from this position on up, step by step, to the position of foreman, superintendent, general manager and finally president. Therefore, he "knows the game" of railroading, including the laying of rails and the running of trains, literally "from ground up".

Today A. H. Smith, as president of the New York Central system and all its subsidiaries, is the "boss" of over 100,000 employees, who with their families outnumber many a kingdom. He is executive director and custodian of some 26,000 miles of trackage and other properties representing an investment of about \$1,400,000,000, the same earning an annual revenue of about \$300,000,000.

He still, at his office in Grand Central Terminal

or out on the road, works hard from ten to sixteen hours a day—longer hours than any clerk on the system—and his pace is so fast that not many can keep up with it. He enjoys it and thrives on it, though he is spare and wiry. His hobby is farming and his favorite pastime is investigating fine live stock.

Sir George Paish is coming to America from London about September 1st., when the work of probing the Canadian railroad puzzle will get under way. The Commission is charged with wide discretionary powers, including the question of reorganizing any or all of the three transcontinental lines of Canada, or their acquisition by the government, with the best plan for their operation if the latter is decided upon.

There are 22,135 persons named "Smith" in New York City, to say nothing of the Smithes, Smythes, Van Smythes, Schmidts, etc.

What's in a name?

GUESSING AT WAR LOSSES.

Major-General Hugh Scott, U. S. A., has compiled from various returns and news despatches the following estimate of losses in the war:

	Killed	Wounded or Missing	Total
Germany	907,327	2,255,300	3,162,627
Austria-Hungary	500,000	1,500,000	2,000,000
Turkey	60,000	240,000	300,000
Bulgaria	40,000	110,000	150,000
France	800,000	1,200,000	2,000,000
Great Britain	150,000	470,000	620,000
Russia	1,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000
Italy	35,000	140,000	175,000
Belgium	30,000	120,000	150,000
Total	3,522,327	10,035,300	13,557,627

WAR, THE GREAT STEEL CONSUMER.

Another buying movement in munitions by European governments, now apparently at its height, differs in a number of important respects from its predecessors. Contracts now being placed are confined almost exclusively to the large-sized and high-explosive types of shells and shell forgings, ranging from 6 to 12-inch. Very little of the smaller and shrapnel types, which were ordered so freely from this country earlier in the war, are now included. There are at least two important reasons for this change. One is that mobilization of industrial plants for the needs of war by the various belligerents has put them in a more independent position on these needs. Furthermore, it appears there is an ample supply of raw material in hand or being produced at home to cover them. The principal reason, however, seems to be that first decisions of the Allies as to the necessities for breaking the lines of a determined and well-equipped enemy have undergone considerable revision. Greater destructive power is called for by the strength of modern trench works.

The more one studies the war commerce between European countries and the United States the stronger becomes the impression that it is the shortage of steel with the former that is at the root of much of the buying of munitions on this side. Germany and her allies, according to all statistical authority, still hold by a wide margin the upper hand over their foes in iron and steel capacity. Without the United States to draw upon for the basic metal of warfare to supplement their own inferior output, England and her allies unquestionably could not carry on their operations, on the scale now adopted. The steel being here, as well as tremendous mechanical capacity for shaping it to the needs of war, it would seem to be good strategy that a certain proportion of it at least should be finished in this country, thereby maintaining a constant source of great reserve power. Manifestly it is to the advantage of the Allies to keep a certain amount of munition capacity in this country keyed to a high state of efficiency.

As the relative strength in iron and steel resources of the opposing groups of nations now stands, there is sound reason to expect that liberal buying of the wares of war in this country will continue indefinitely, perhaps to the conclusion of the peace. —The Iron Trade Review.

WALL STREET UNIVERSITY.

It was in a brokerage office, and the time-worn arguments for and against a college education were being aired. The conversation was, as usual, led principally by one man, a somewhat moody individual whose stock market successes had won him the respect and cordial attention of his fellows. He said:

"If I had a boy to bring up, and had all the money necessary to give him the finest sort of education, I should never think of sending him to college. Instead, after putting him through a good secondary school, I should set him to work in the most enlightening business district in the world, where he would, in four years' time, have opportunity to pick up more mind-broadening education than any college could give him; where he would be thrown with thousands of hustling business men, any one of whom would make as good a friend as he could possibly find on a campus, and where he would, above all things, get a broad general grasp of the important phases of economics, politics and business ethics such as no college could ever give.

"Of course, I refer to Wall Street. I should give him a few hundred dollars, and advise him to invest it, making it plain that that was all the money he was going to get for four years, and in that way give him opportunity to learn how completely, although quite delicately, one may be 'shorn.' I should insist that he choose his own friends, but would take good care that I knew what kind he was choosing. Let me put a normal young man through such a course of training, and, by the end of four years, I'd be willing to match him against a graduate of any college in the country."—Wall Street Journal.

UNITED STATES PIG IRON PRODUCTION.

Production of pig iron in the United States in the first half of 1916, according to figures published by the American Iron and Steel Institute, totalled 19,619,522 tons, compared with 17,682,422 tons in the previous six months' period and 12,233,791 tons in the first half of 1915.

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