

THE NIGHTMARE OF CIVILIZATION

In the meantime the main army passed on, every step being marked with that horrible frightfulness that even now is the nightmare of the civilized world. The people fled by the hundreds of thousands to Holland, France and England, the pitiable march being marked by the unburied bodies of thousands lying on the roadside. Carrying rapine, murder and devastation among the non-combatant population, the Huns finally overran that once happy and prosperous country, and for four years ruled the remnant of its people with an iron hand. The relentless force was used to levy ever-increasing contributions from every town and village. The official statement issued by the Belgian government shows that exclusive of the last year, these contributions and requisitions amounted to £384,000,000 sterling.

In round figures this represents two thousand million dollars, \$2,000,000,000. This is the German standard of what a devastated, destitute and depopulated nation, not now exceeding three million souls, could pay in the form of a war indemnity at the demand of Hun administrators.

WHAT GERMANY CAN AFFORD

What then by this standard can the Central Powers contribute as a war indemnity to the civilization which they have outraged, having a population of one hundred millions, and with none of their territory devastated or destroyed by war, nor their population scattered as refugees to all parts of the world? The proposition resolves itself into a simple mathematical calculation, and the answer is that, Germany and Austria can pay sixty-six thousand million dollars,—\$66,000,000,000. During the past two years, on more than one occasion, high German officials have promised that nation that the Allies would be made to pay an indemnity of six thousand million pounds sterling, or \$30,000,000,000.

If a further exemplification of the application of the "German standard" is necessary, look at prostrate Russia. Six thousand millions of roubles, territory containing 58,000,000