

WHEN THE SPRING COMES—AND AFTER

Germany Has Failed to Accomplish Their Design for Swift Crushing of Foes, and Summer Will Increase Forces Against Her, and Demonstrate Her Hopeless Case.

BY BENJAMIN A. GOULD

ALMOST all the progress which Germany has succeeded in making was accomplished during the first six weeks of the war. Since then the Allies have been able to prevent any further considerable invasion of their territory, and in several places German and Austrian land has in turn been invaded.

This initial success emphasizes the advantage of knowing a couple of years in advance the date on which war is to occur. In this instance it gave Germany an advantage which to say the least was not fair play. But the world has come to realize that Fair Play and Kultur (spelled with a K) are not always synonymous.

Caste Feared Socialism.

So many volumes have been written about the responsibility for beginning the war that it is futile to go over the matter again. The impartial world has weighed the matter carefully, and has come to the unbiased conclusion that the fault was Germany's, and that Austria was merely used as a catspaw; that the war was determined upon some time in advance; and that every preparation for it had been made by Germany which could be effected without making clear to other nations that war was intended.

Two governing factors decided the time when war was wanted, as it is now easy to see by looking back. The first of these, which made it necessary for the militaristic oligarchy to bring the war on as soon as possible, was the constant growth of socialism in Germany.

This growth was taking place in spite of the absence of a free press, and was the outlet for the ever-fermenting forces striving for democracy, forces always at work in an autocracy. It was merely another manifestation of

the inherent desires for liberty which was the cause of the German revolution of 1848.

The socialistic movement was beginning to threaten the supremacy of the military clique, and if allowed to continue unchecked might even have become a menace to the whole imperial system of government. The release of Germany from absolutism, which is going to be accomplished through the slaughter and defeat of this war, stood a good chance of being brought about internally by the socialists.

Might Have Been Revolt.

The final overthrow would undoubtedly have been through revolution, and would unquestionably have involved bloodshed, but its cost to Germany in lives would have been a mere nothing in comparison with the losses of the war. There never yet has been an autocracy which had enough patriotism to be willing to sacrifice itself for the sake of the people, and the Junker element did not hesitate to involve the country in war to save their own precious necks and positions.

To be sure, they thought that the outcome of the war would be very different from what it will be, but none the less they knew that it would cost the people heavily. They were well aware that even if their armies were supremely successful the people of the country would get nothing out of it to repay the cost of war; all the advantage in added wealth and power would be absorbed by the Junker leaders.

They realized fully that the call to arms and the pathos of the appeals for the Vaterland would arouse a spirit of patriotism which would for the time being utterly overwhelm the socialists, who had not yet become strong enough to resist such an appeal. They also knew that the longer