

THROUGH GERMAN SPECTACLES

"Hidden and Sinister Forces" at Work — Riding Roughshod Over the German People.

So far as its activities are reflected in the press, the wheels of the great German machine seem to be creaking ominously.

The revolt of the rich against what they perceive as a harsh and arbitrary method of taxing their wealth, the storm of protest aroused in South Germany by the efforts of Prussia to draw to itself all available supplies of food and money, and the Government's "obstinate refusal"—the phrase significantly enough, is from the "Cologne Gazette"—to permit any discussion of war aims, are all contributing, according to the Berlin "Tagblatt," to the letting loose of certain sinister forces which can lead to nothing but disaster.

Internal Domestic Chaos.

The "Tagblatt" is exceedingly frank in its discussion of the position. The different parties in the Reichstag have shown themselves to be more Papist than the Pope; they have adopted more taxes than were demanded of them. This is most regrettable as such a procedure is not the business of the Reichstag.

The fact is that the empire's system of finance has not itself fixed in a quagmire. The direct taxation of the revenues of the empire, which constitutes the sole great fiscal reform that is necessary, is being hampered by imposts on private fortunes levied according to the most arbitrary notions. This is a course that can only hasten the action of certain hidden and sinister forces, which will surely make their presence felt with more or less—and perhaps rather with more than less—violence.

The direct cause of these dangerous conditions is the circumstance that while the German people, as a whole, are beginning to suffer more acutely day by day from the internal domestic chaos, the reactionary element, as represented both by politicians and Government functionaries, continues its triumphant course, riding roughshod over the desire of the people for enlightenment.

This way disaster lies.

The "Obstinate Reichstag."

Even more remarkable, in view of its official position, is the comment of the "Cologne Gazette" on the lines of which may be read a good deal that the "Tagblatt" would doubtless regard it as "disastrous" to reveal.

Quite recently, on the occasion of the last sitting of the Budget Commission of the Reichstag, a demand was made for a free and public discussion of the German war aims.

This demand was not granted, simply because the Government, obstinately enough, wishes to confine itself strictly to its own point of view in this matter. By maintaining such an attitude we are only weakening our own situation. We present to our enemies a weaker front than we are in reality, more especially as the details of our food policy and its new organization, which is now being carried out amid such painful difficulties, are openly and widely discussed in the German Press.

Thus it comes about that foreigners form an idea of our condition which is far more gloomy than the fact. Were the Government to allow an open public discussion of the situation among competent authorities this would be avoided and the enemy would be deprived of all foundation for their charges of starvation methods.

Out Down the Food Hoard.

On the heels of the new Food Dictator's tacit admission of helplessness the "Vossische Zeitung" brings forward an indictment which is scarcely calculated to help him in his task.

At the moment when provision stores are being raided for concealed food and the owners severely punished, and while those who have not enough money to evade the law are standing in long queues for hours in the hope of being able to obtain even the smallest portion of the ration allotted to them by the food cards, the Reichstag is surreptitiously buying foodstuffs at outrageous prices, thus depriving others of their fair share.

We know of one case where a farmer sold two geese in the market at Kofers for the sum of 50. In another instance two men from Kiel drove round the neighborhood of Lütjenburg in a motor-car insuring where they could buy hams. From one farmer they purchased a ham weighing about 40 lbs., and paid £10 for it—a price for which in normal times they could have obtained a prize pig.

Yet, knowing as they do, that these human food-hoards abound everywhere, there are still presumably sane persons who doubt the wisdom of appointing a dictator who will cut down these gentry in their prime.

The Final Phase.

The military organ, "Der Tag," while deprecating the frequency with which the Entente Powers have cried "war," thinks that there really is something in it this time, and that we are on the eve of the last and decisive stage of the great war.

"Well, well," it has been so often cried by the Entente Powers that we have a right to be somewhat sceptical with regard to the recurrent reports that a co-ordinated attack on all fronts is really in contemplation.

True Words Spoken in Jest.

Meanwhile a view of the matter which does not seem to have occurred to "Der Tag" is put forward by the Berlin "Post":

The dread day has at length arrived when it behoves all good Germans to appeal to the Kaiser that he graciously stop the war. The German cause is hopeless; then why waste more blood and treasure to combat a foe who is unconquerable?

We have been moved to pen this paragraph of despair at the news brought by a neutral friend who has visited the English-French front, that the British armies have been reinforced by the gallant troops of the Prince of Monaco!

As an independent Sovereign allied with France, England and Italy, the Prince of Monaco not only has a general staff, he also owns an army. Only half of the army which numbers 500 men all told, has as yet appeared on the war front. When the remaining 500 warriors arrive it will be too late for Germany, we fear, to think about giving up the struggle.

That no doubt, is strictly correct, for against the prowess of so mighty a host our generals will not be able to stand.

Prince Albert of Monaco has as yet not made his appearance at the front. Every day, however, he is informed telegraphically about the heroic exploits of his forces. This task as may be imagined, needs an important Government Department for its proper fulfilment. It has, therefore, been entrusted to the Monegasque Field Telegraph Department, at the head of which stands M. Martin—in civil life kitchen chief at the Prince's pleasure yacht.

Next to the Kaiser, probably the men least to be envied in the German Empire are the men of the Food Dictator, Baron von Batocki—statisticians have

discovered, it should be noted, that every third person who passes along the Wilhelmstrasse is a baron—is not so much a Minister as an offering to a hungry, desperate, and revolutionary mob.

He has been set a task which is doubly impossible—first, because even were he able to set free all the hoarded foodstuffs in Germany, it would merely provide a temporary alleviation of the position; and, second, because he will not be able to do this, since it is a notorious fact that the Kaiser and his immediate circle are plunged up to the neck in this food-courier scandal, and it is absolutely certain that Baron von Batocki does not propose to risk his neck in exposing them.

"Recalcitrant Elements." His first public utterance on the subject of his duties takes the form of an interview which is published in all the Berlin and a good many other newspapers. In brief, his statement is as follows:

"What I have any fixed programme for the solution of this extremely heavy task I cannot declare, but that does not mean that for my personal guidance I have not formed certain tangible conclusions in regard to the main questions, nor that I have not placed certain aims clearly before me. How far I shall be able to attain these, the future alone will show."

"I sincerely trust to receive the support of the German Press even in such cases where I may have to come into contact with recalcitrant elements, or where the demands on the spirit of sacrifice may appear to be in excess of the capacity for sacrifice."

"That Germany's victory is as sure in the domain of the food supply as it is in the strictly military sense, I have, however, no doubt whatsoever."

That no doubt, is strictly correct, for the sun of Germany's hope of victory is already set, never to rise again; but what else could this poor whelp-ping boy say?

Those Interested Groups.

The fact that he is expected to fight "certain interested groups" is insisted on by the Berlin papers with an iteration which the baron must find excruciatingly painful, knowing, as he does, the sinister suggestion which underlies it. Provincial comment is to much the same effect, as witness for instance, the Munich "Neueste Nachrichten":

It is difficult indeed to cast the horoscope of the new Food Dictator, Her task to try his strength on the severest task that is at this moment to be performed in Germany—what says?

Wild Things of the Forest.

Roam in Safety.

in this land of a thousand lakes.

[By G. W. BARTLETT, Superintendent of Algonquin Park]

Nature lovers mourn the passing of wild life under the iron heel of industrial progress and the profound concern of these lovers of out-door life would certainly be justified if there were no national reserves within the broad Dominion.

Among the most popular of these glorious national heritages of the people is the Algonquin Provincial Park, 1,714,475 acres in extent, situated two thousand feet above the level of the sea, up in the "Highlands of Ontario." This lovely region, set apart by the Ontario Government in 1893, remains today unspoiled, a perfect refuge for the creatures of the forest, and an ideal pleasure-ground for the people.

It is almost impossible to walk for half an hour from any of the camps or hotels without seeing one or more deer, or coming across a beaver dam or other evidence of the existence of wild things.

At the time this territory was set aside for a breeding ground and preserve, all kinds of fur-bearing animals in this section had become almost extinct. Today they have not only filled the park, but have so overrun its boundaries that many adjacent townships are now well stocked with game.

This is especially the case with regard to the industrious beaver, who has followed the numerous rivers in the park for hundreds of miles, and is now to be found in sections that had none in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. It is estimated that the increase in beaver for 1915 will be several thousands. Other fur-bearing animals have increased in proportion, and a number of pairs of beaver and other animals are now being taken out annually without any apparent decrease in the number. It is expected that a considerable revenue will be realised by the Ontario Government in the future from this source.

Included among the fur-bearing animals to be found in the park, be-

side the beaver, are the otter, mink, marten, fisher, raccoon, lynx, fox, arctic hare, muskrat, skunk, wolf and bear. Virginia deer are very abundant, notwithstanding the fact that large hunting parties are to be found each year on all sides, right up to the boundary line of the park. No hunting is allowed in the park, the object being to allow the deer to overflow and thus replenish the hunting grounds outside. Those roaming unmolested inside the park have now become so numerous and tame that splendid pictures are taken of them by the hundreds of people who spend their holidays in cruising from lake to lake through the vast chain of waterways.

At nearly every turn of the river or lake, wild life of some kind is to be seen. Moose have now become numerous in most sections and are often photographed as they feed in the ponds. Indeed, the prohibition against hunting in the park greatly adds to the opportunity of the picture-hunter.

Since the wild creatures are much more approachable than in localities where they are persecuted by man, it is to be enjoyed in the park there is undisturbed tranquillity. Fish caught in the waters of the park have won each year the national competitions open to the anglers of the continent.

At the Park Headquarters, at Algonquin Park Station, there is a private collection of mounted specimens of animals and birds that represent all the fur-bearing animals and feathered denizens in this section, and we are always glad to have visitors call in and study them during the summer.

Some living specimens will generally be found in the large house erected for the purpose at headquarters by the Government.

The accommodation in the park is such that the most varied tastes can be pleased. There are hotels for those who want to be in the wilderness, yet enjoy all the comforts that good service and social companionship can bring; there are groups of log cabins, comfortably furnished and ideal for family parties, with central lodges containing everything necessary for your return to the camp or your own quarters.

If you have planned to camp under your own canvas you may still find a canoe at one of the little railway stations on the Grand Trunk which serves the whole of the park, and after a short paddle now a day unmarred by the hand of man you will reach the park's most interesting stores.

Many families now go into the park expressly for the camping, making their headquarters at the hotels long enough to get supplies and outfit ready for the trip. Then in canoe, and with guides or without them, they launch bravely out into the deep woods, camping where fancy prompts.

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ONLY ONE WEEK REMAINS UNTIL THE STANDARD TRAVEL CLUB CLOSES

since to seventy million souls of their food supply.

One thing we must say—even the very finest system of war rationing cannot create more food material than we possess. Much depends, however, on wise distribution, and what we expect, therefore, from the new official is a thorough organisation of the whole of our food resources; without compromise or narrow-minded considerations in favour of certain interested groups; a vigorous administration that shall draw every ounce of available products from the empire's territory, and establish the distribution of indispensable articles of food on an equitable basis.

Back to First Principles.

The "Neueste Nachrichten" of Leipzig frankly disavows any hope of respite from the new Dictatorship. The ancestral ancestors of the Germans, it suggests, fed on nuts, and the present generation (whose morals, manners and customs show little improvement on those of the archaic period) must revert to the habits of antiquity.

Meat is scarce. Only those, however, whose tastes have been vitiated can consider this scarcity as an evil. The habit of regular meat-eating has only been imported among us during the last ten years from England—God punish her!

Among our ancestors meat was never considered as the main sustenance. Nay, in the grey days of antiquity man was a vegetable feeder, a nut eater. Let us then return to the bill of fare of our fathers.

We have peas, beans, and lentils in abundance. It is not at all necessary to cook these things with beef, mutton, or veal; a lump of fat bacon will do so well. If bacon be not available, butter can replace it, and if that is scarce the oil pressed from nuts is equally palatable and nutritious.

In any event, let us avail ourselves of every scrap of our natural resources, and we shall yet be able to jeer at the beef-eating animals, the brutish tribes of England when they lie bleated and squalling at the feet of our matchless warriors.

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Ghosts of the Tower.

The official "Cologne Gazette" includes in a torrent of vituperative indignation over the fact that "the bloody English" have dared to incarcerate Roger Casement in the Tower: "It is not inappropriate to designate that monstrous mass of masonry the Tower of London as the materialisation of all that is wicked and traitorous in the English national soul. Deeds of savagery and cruelty such as the history of no other European people can show have been enacted there."

"The Tower is the history of England, and it is therefore no wonder that every one of its grey stones should be drenched in blood, that its secret passages should be haunted and rendered uncanny by the sounds of sighs and groans, the phantasmal echoes of the cries uttered by the innumerable victims of English barbarity, just and depravity, who were tortured within those grim walls because their natures were of a nobler type than the generality of their countrymen."

The Tower represents the materialised prototype of that love of theatrical display peculiar to the English, which is as strong at the present day as it was in the days of the Richards and Henrys of the middle ages.

Every public act of an Englishman, every word he utters, every gesture, every movement is a theatrical function, an act performed for purposes of effect and to impose on gullible spectators.

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