

GEOGRAPHICAL CHANGES DUE TO THE GREAT WAR

INTRODUCTION

DURING the Great War there was an unprecedented destruction of property. At the same time there was a diversion of industries from the production of the necessities of civil life to the production of articles of war. Thus there was a double force that caused serious disturbance of the economic and commercial conditions of the world. These disturbances will no doubt be but temporary, and industries will be gradually readjusted to their normal channels.

The more permanent changes that took place during the war or are being made by treaties since the conclusion of the war are those affecting the boundaries of the nations of Europe.

These territorial changes are, for the most part, a breaking-down process. Small nationalities that had been absorbed by larger took advantage of the shattering of the military strength of Germany, Austria, and Russia, to demand their political freedom.

In the greater number of cases, the new boundaries will be or have been fixed with due regard to the wishes of these smaller nationalities. In certain cases, the popular vote of the people is to decide the flag under which the area is to be placed.

Although nearly two years have passed since the signing of the Armistice (November 11th, 1918), which