

STANDARD CORRESPONDENT ON KRUPP'S

Every one has heard of Krupp's; but how few there are who realize what that great name signifies—business firm, government institution, arsenal, shipbuilding works, industrial corporation: all on the completest scale that the world has ever seen!

Perhaps, indeed, this completeness is the most remarkable feature of Krupp's. If you could take the works, with all their dependencies, and transport them to a desert island they could still continue 60 per cent of their output as if nothing had happened. It is this completeness of organization, this system of putting the whole concern on an absolutely self-supporting basis and making it independent of outside industries, that has made Krupp's what they are. They sweep the world for new ideas and inventions, buy them regardless of expense, and, well aware that there is no firm in the world that can show such a financial and political backing, they make their customers—the nations of the world—pay the cost.

An Earthly Providence

As a result of a consistent policy, Krupp's were ten years ago, as they are still, with the exception of the Dusseldorf firm, without a competitor in Germany. They are the firm on which the nation relies for its armament; with Germany they stand or fall. They are a national institution. When a man says "My son is at Krupp's," he means "My son is provided for life." The employees at Essen might almost be described as of a special breed. They are moderately well paid, and are supported right and left by the so-called "wohlfahrts-einrichtungen," or aids to welfare. From the day when the young engineer apprentice joins the army and is supported by Krupp's during his service to the time of his death in one of the retired workmen's colonies (Altenhof), which are peopled by pensioners of the firm, Krupp's play a continuous role in his life. They supply all his household needs in co-operative stores, the profits of which are shared out every Christmas. They rent him his house or lend him the money to build a new one. They bank his savings up to £5000 at 5 per cent interest. They supply his doctor, his hospital, his medicine; they give him a club, a fencing-master, a rowing trainer, a cycle track, a free library, concerts, schools—in fact, everything he can require. And the address he breathes gratitude to this pseudo-Providence, the employee usually does not notice that his salary is of no high order, that he is tyrannized over by his superiors in the office and in the shops, and that the general tone of existence under the firm favors more of the barrack-yard than of the industrial concern.

One of the first steps that a new employee has to take is to bind himself to absolute secrecy as to what he sees or hears in the firm. But this oath, notwithstanding, nothing is left to chance. Every precaution is taken to prevent the employee from knowing anything more than is required for his own immediate work. In the offices all correspondence passes in locked cases. One official forwarding such a case to another writes the name of the addressee on a slip of paper, which is inserted under a glass frame ingeniously mounted in the case. Only on opening the case with its special key can the address be removed, and it is therefore impossible for papers of importance to fall into wrong hands. In the drawing offices every scrap of paper is locked at night into fireproof and burglarproof safes, fitted with time locks. The employees have to change their clothes before entering and after leaving the office, and they take their meals in the works in the dining-hall, termed in Essen slang the "Hungerturm," or starvation tower. (This by the way, is not a satire on the quantity of food, which is beyond reproach; it is a humorous reference to the shape of the building, which resembles those medieval buildings which in various places in Germany have had attached to them the name of "Hungerturm" in reference to the dark legends which have clung to them.) It is obvious that these precautions would not fit all cases, and Krupp's have called in self-interest to their aid. In cases where the secrets of the firm are inevitably shared by employees, their Krupp's pay salaries such as would make any attempt at bribery ineffective. I am speaking more particularly of the men in charge of the armor plate and steel manufacturing process.

Thoroughness

So much for the relations between the firm and its workers. When the work done is considered, a tribute of admiration must be paid to the fact that the same spirit of thoughtfulness is equally present there. Take, for instance, the making of guns. Krupp's ideas on the subject are fundamentally different from those of most gunmakers. They do not make a weapon that will merely stand ordinary service wear; they make an arm that will, even after an accident, continue to do its duty. All their guns are guaranteed to be able to continue firing after a high explosive shell has exploded in their barrel. The present war has seen several of these guns after they had been thus tried, and a slight deformation of the interior, which would only allow the smallest quantity of gas to escape, was all that could be seen, while subsequent tests with the guns at Meppen proved that their accuracy was hardly affected. The rifling of the German guns is another point in which they are far superior to ours, and one does not hear in the case of the Krupp weapons of complaints of the corrosive action of the powder used. (Has it never occurred to our authorities that it is the sharp edges of the rifling, and not the corrosive action of the powder, which may be to blame?) This thoroughness of Krupp's in ensuring

the life of the gun has actually proved to some extent a business drawback with them—that is, of course, for the time being. Thus, we have all heard of the German 11in. gun which is "just as good" as our 12in. one. The real reason of this inferiority in calibre was that Krupp's so far were unable to produce a 12in. gun which would stand their own tests. They have now, however, surmounted this difficulty, and the 50 and even 60 calibre 12in. Krupp (C-1909) gun exists. Moreover, it has even been surpassed by the new (C-1910) 14in. 45 calibre gun, a weapon firing a 2000lb. shell with a muzzle velocity of 2600ft. The mounting of the new gun is entirely worked by electricity. The gun is loaded in three separate charges, two of which represent the gunpowder charge and one the shell. The sighting apparatus, as in most modern guns, is separated from the gun mounting. The gunner keeps his sight on the target whilst the gun is going into the horizontal loading position and being loaded. As soon as the chain rammer has retired from the chamber after ramming home the second powder charge, the breech closes automatically, and the gun returns to its firing position. Immediately on reaching the position corresponding to the gunner's sighting line, an electric contact is produced, and the gun is fired. The gun crew stand by and watch the proceedings, ready to work the mounting by hand in case of accident to the electric gear.

In spite of the denials given by the firm, there is no doubt that they have enlarged their gunmounting department so as to be able to produce almost double their former output. If hard pressed, the firm would probably furnish the excuse that they had to supply the heavy mountings for the Austrian "Bread-noughts"; but that hardly seems a sufficient reason for the size of the extensions. All the shops are equipped with electric motors, which can be driven in sections—a fact which enables them to be laid partly idle without great loss, although there is certainly no likelihood of their being so laid by in the near future.

Many Activities

Other activities of the firm are worth considering. Its iron ore is obtained from Spain. It is carried on Krupp's own steamers to Rotterdam, transformed into pigiron at Rheinhafen, and then forwarded to Essen. Its coal the firm obtains from its own Westphalian coalfields. Moreover, Krupp's, secure in the knowledge that no competitor has the means of buying the elementary material as cheaply as they can, have entered the world's market as a shipbuilding concern. The Germaniawerft in Kiel has never taken the trouble to enter the list among the builders of merchantmen. A few racing yachts to suit the Kaiser's whim and a pleasure steamer for Mr. Krupp are all that have ever been produced in the "peaceful line" since Krupp's bought the yard. But man-of-war after man-of-war has been turned out until there are few nations that cannot show the three interlaced rings—the "Krupp hall-mark"—on one at least of their vessels.

Some years ago a fire burnt down the yard to the ground. Most of the valuable drawings were destroyed. Krupp's immediately set to rebuild the yard on a more magnificent scale than before. Where once old steam cranes had rattled along, new electric ones took their place. New and longer slips were constructed, and other improvements made, so that today the yard has a capacity for double the output that it had previously. Naturally, it is not the firm's interest to have this enormous investment laying idle, so not only are their own agents, but even Germany's ambassadors, continually busy in whipping up business for "Meine Hebe Bertha," as the Emperor called the present owner of the firm at her wedding. No intrigue, no means, are spared to keep Krupp's going, and it is noteworthy that all these foreign orders can, and will—in case of

war breaking out during construction—legally become Germany's property and be used against its enemies, even should such include the customer himself.

A new torpedo station has been added lately to the firm's works, and in this the new German torpedo is being manufactured and tested. The shops adjoin the slips of the submarines. Here again at the Germaniawerft all drawings are secured nightly in fire-proof and burglar-proof steel towers. Here, again the workman or employee is the "enfant choyé" in Krupp's free clubs, colonies, and hospitals, being all the time under the supervision of the firm's spies. This system of watching goes so far, that I was seriously informed by an employee that the glasses of beer he was consuming at the club were counted and reported on, a reckless expenditure in the nation's liquor being considered a proof that the man must be drawing an income from other sources—a highly suspicious circumstance.

The firm, it may be news to British readers, has also its own powder works at Walsrode, and as in peace time their output would not warrant the keeping of the large establishment which would be required in case of war, Krupp's have cynically established so-called branch works in England. Thus with every shot of a certain brand of powder that John Bull lets fly at his pheasants, he is unconsciously supporting his enemy of peace. For boundless sources of supply, boundless capital from German bankers, backed by the whole German nation, it cannot be doubted that these works are one of the greatest dangers to, as well as the most obvious proof of the impossibility, of that universal peace of which we hear. As to Krupp's sleepless watch over the doings of other nations and their methods of securing business, I propose to make some remarks in another article.

It was in 1899 when my business took me first over to Krupp's works at Essen. I was playing billiards one day in the "Casino," a club put by the firm at the disposal of its employees free of charge, when a young engineer with whom I had struck up a slight acquaintance approached me and observed: "I say, I have a question to ask you. As you come from England you might be able to tell us. Our whole office is puzzling over it. Where is Khaki?" I had to acknowledge that I had not the faintest idea of the existence of any place of that name, and I asked in what connection he had heard of it. He took me to his office building across the park, which separated it from the club, and handed me a copy of the Illustrated London News. Under a picture, showing a gun in action, I saw written "Artillery in Khaki." "You see," said my friend, "we want to know where it is, as the new picture shows quite a new type of British gun." I explained to him that "Khaki" was the new cloth in which the British Army was then being dressed. The gun shown was the first picture of a British field gun with the Clarke spade attachment. Hence my friend's interest. I told him that the gun was used in the whole of the British Army, and when he saw that I knew something about the matter, he became quite enthusiastic and told me about his work. I then knew that I was standing in the Intelligence Office of the Krupp firm.

Since that first meeting I often went across when I had nothing to do and helped the youngster with his translations. He was very grateful, and as a return he and the manager of the office put their files at my disposal. I have rarely seen a more wonderful set of documents. The outbreak of the Boer war naturally turned my attention to the files describing the armament of the Boers. These files were as complete as could be, and would have made the official in charge of the Intelligence branch of our War Office blush. On my return to England I published an article in an illustrated paper, and although no fewer than

400 papers all over the world reprinted it, the War Office was "much surprised," when it came to actual fighting, by the formidable guns which the Boers had got hold of.

The Intelligence Department

The Intelligence branch has a whole building of its own. There is a manager and there are about ten assistant managers. The different branches of engineering are distributed among them. One will cull all the information he can get about guns, another about armor plate, a third about shipbuilding, and so on. For this purpose an enormous mass of papers and press clippings are waded through every day. They are carefully classified, compared, and filed. For a layman it would be difficult to understand how a long comparison of small and sometimes quite conflicting items of news will enable an experienced man to gather the absolute truth on a subject. That it does so is proved by the fact that even the German War Intelligence Service. But reading newspapers and filing them are not the only work carried out there. A monthly illustrated paper, "For private circulation only," is printed and produced in the works. It contains the essence of all the technical news of the world's press.

Nor is the value of publicity in the press outside neglected. It is desirable, in the interest of Krupp's, that articles should appear which praise the productions of Essen and decry those of foreign manufacture. For this purpose the office has a contingent of military hacks who carefully sign the articles, which are provided for them by the department, and draw the money for the articles from the papers which publish them. Sometimes some of these gentlemen even go to the extent of doing a little bit of spying for the firm. One of them marched for hours behind the French field artillery at the polygon of Vincennes, holding in his hand an umbrella on which centimetres were marked, so as to measure the length of the track of the new guns and the width of the barrels. Occasionally it happens that this inglorious retinue are absolutely unable to understand what the articles are about which they sign. I once helped to write and translate a number of articles describing some new Krupp guns and their ballistic properties. They appeared in a foreign scientific publication of high standing over the name of Captain X. It took me hours to explain to the fortunate "author"—he was highly paid by the editor of the publication—what his article was about.

Another set of the employees of the Intelligence Office act as guides to foreign visitors and customers. Under the effect of copious libations, indulged in regardless of expense at the Krupp Hotel, the "Essener Hof," a customer will sometimes unbosom himself. All these conversations are carefully noted and reported.

Secret Reports

Finally, there are the reports of the agents and representatives of the firm. To a reader of these the diplomatic relations of nations, the history, the doings of the men behind the scenes are revealed with amazing clearness. This is the way in which a drawing of the new French field guns came first to Germany. A certain small state was rearming its artillery with Schneider guns. One of the officers sent to take over the guns and make payment of an instalment due on them thought it preferable to spend his Government's money on pleasures in Paris. When he had got through the cash and saw rain staring him in the face he went to Germany to raise the wind. There he was told that Schneider had quite a number of papers which would prove most acceptable to the German army staff. The officer took the hint. Schneider was at that time turning out the new "Deport" system for the French Government. One day during lunch time our friend calmly walked into the drawing office and pocketed the drawings of the guns. A month afterwards they appeared in a German military paper. What Schneiders did when

they discovered the loss I am unable to tell, but I know that the instalments were paid.

A Way With Undesired Visitors

The above will give some idea of the extent of the information gathered in the Intelligence Office. The same office has a most charming way of dealing with undesired visitors. If they cannot be "kicked" outright away, they are received with open arms: "You want to see the works. Certainly, come along, but let us first adjourn to the Essener Hof and have a drink." A motor car is ordered in the meantime, and the visitor is taken first round the usual course. This takes him through all the model villages, industrial schools, co-operative stores, hospitals, clubs, and libraries belonging to the firm. At the end of a tiring day he discovers that he has seen absolutely nothing that he could not see just as well at Port Sunlight or Bourneville, and, if he insists on staying, the local police have a delightful way of being interested in the visitor's doings, his private history, and identification papers, and soon induce him to move off.

Nobody is allowed into the works, except the main offices, without a permit card. The management of the whole establishment is divided into departments similar to the intelligence branch. Each department has a manager at its head, and one or more assistant managers. The employees working under these receive a "circulation card," which permits them to visit the part directly connected with their work and no other. If their business should take them to another part of the works they must previously obtain a special permit from their manager, and the watchmen at the gates check their time of arrival and departure.

These watchmen, the number of whom is about 150, are one of the features of the works. They stand at the gates or they walk through the yards challenging employees to show their passes. They are all trained ambulance men, and assist in taking any "case" that may occur to the nearest of the ambulance stations, of which there are about fifty. Immediately on arrival there one of the firm's fifteen doctors is summoned, and decides whether the injured man has to be taken to the hospital or sent home. If the former is the case the Krupp's fire brigade is rung up. They have four ambulance cars, fitted externally like private broughams, and one immediately rushes up to take the injured man away. I said fitted "like private broughams." This has its special reasons. As such, the cars are more unobtrusive, and it is not forgotten that accidents at Krupp's happen pretty often and that the local Socialist paper, the Keckruf, has an unnamable way of commenting on them. There is a reason for everything at Krupp's.

Talking of the fire brigade, it may interest readers to hear that this consists of almost 200 men, under a captain and two lieutenants. These wear a sort of imitation military uniform, with the Krupp initials. The brigade does the numerous fire stations in the works. It has a main station, equipped with chemical engines and extension ladders. It has also a pretty little arsenal of 200 Mauser rifles and ammunition—in case the workmen should get troublesome." Krupp's leave nothing to chance. The firemen also furnish a detachment that guards Krupp's Castle at Huelgel.

The Late Herr Krupp

When Herr Krupp himself was alive he used to spend many a night in their guard-room getting direct information from the men, and, as this was not always very truthful, the directors wasted hours next day in trying to convince Herr Krupp that his reports were wrong. But nothing would break him of the habit.

Huelgel has a huge park, part of which is at the disposal of the employees, a social club, a boat house which is said to have cost £25,000 to equip, and a houseboat—brought at enormous expense from England—the Maid of Kent. This houseboat was used to be one of Herr Krupp's hobbies, and he was never tired of showing it to his visitors. In fact, three assistant managers were ordered every year to live on it. They did not take at all kindly to the "new-fangled idea." One day the present writer was practicing in a skiff on the river Ruhr. It was a cold day. From time to time wind gusts would beat a fine driving rain up the valley. Herr Krupp was walking about the grounds dressed like an English squire. He called out to me to come close to the shore. "Be careful not to catch cold in your rowing rags," were his first words. "It is a terrible day to be out. I am waiting for the German Emperor and the Minister of War, The Edell von Planitz, to come down with Mrs. Krupp. I suppose I shall have to go up to meet them." He had hardly left when I saw three figures clad in furs appearing round the bend. They were the three assistant managers. They went into the houseboat, and a few minutes after that they appeared in flannels on its deck, when a waiter from the club brought them an "iced" claret cup. There they sat with their feet drink shivering, to be shown with the houseboat as part of the picture to their Hege Majesty. Finally the Imperial party came in view. One of the jolly houseboats broke out into a German drinking song, which to my ears sounded like a despairing wail in the storm. The Emperor and his suite went on board and sipped a little claret cup out of the goblet which was handed to them by one of the aquatic revellers. Hardly had His Majesty left when the three figures, again clad in their furs, emerged from the houseboat and rased for a station. Now, the Emperor knows English life well. I wonder what he thought of this performance.

OSTRICH FACTS AND FANCIES

In real life the ostrich, like that other proverbial idiot, the goose, is one of the warriest of birds and most difficult of approach. The eggs are laid in a hollow in the sand, several females using the same nest—the male bird being polygamous—around which the sand is again banked up to the height of a foot or two, one such nest having been known to contain as many as eighty eggs, though from thirty to thirty-five is a commoner number.

In the more tropical parts of its habitat, it is true, having covered the eggs with sand, the birds leave them—at least in the daytime—that the sun may dry the incubating. We may indeed rest assured that nature would not allow low ostrich eggs to be left to the ripening of the sun if experience had not shown that it was better for the eggs. In more temperate climates the birds do their own incubating, and while the hen ostrich possesses a normal share of the parental instinct, in the male bird it is developed in a quite unusual degree.

It is the male bird that sits upon the eggs at night, while in the daytime the hens relieve each other, and to such lengths does he carry his paternal solicitude that when individual eggs are particularly long in hatching he is said to crack them with his beak and shake the youngsters out. Later the father seems to risk his own life lightly to protect his family. Often on the approach of an enemy he has been known to throw himself on the ground and pretend to be crippled, like

other and more familiar birds in England, and even to make repeated feints of attacking a man on horseback until the young have had time to get away.

That ostriches hide their heads in the sand and think that their bodies are thereby hidden seems to be pure myth, says the London Times. Old birds on the nest and young birds when seeking to evade notice squat close to the ground and stretch their necks out flat on the sand. In the case of the young, which harmonize as perfectly with their sandy surroundings as young ringed plover do with the stones on a beach, the ruse is said to render them almost invisible; and on the wide expanses of the desert it is evident that the upright neck of a sitting bird would render it unnecessarily conspicuous to a marauding enemy.

Perhaps man would have been more courteous to the ostrich if the ostrich had insisted more punctiliously on its dignity; but it is not proud. With a finely catholic appetite, it does not hesitate to beg or swallow pence from the humblyst visitor to the gardens, so that in course of time the bird may become a perambulating saving-bank. An ostrich has been known to pick up and swallow bullets hot from the mould.

One which died in the Zoological Gardens had by assiduity accumulated ninepence—halfpenny in coppers; and Cuvier found inside another metal odds and ends to the weight of almost a pound. Yet another is recorded to have died possessed of a silver medal and the cross of an Italian order, both of which may be assumed to have been more valuable to the original owners than to the bird, for though the ostrich may have a coat to its stomach, as a writer pointed out at the time, it can only be regarded as at best an indifferent surface for display.

The beauty of an ostrich feather is largely owing to the fact that in the eye of science it is what is known as degenerate. In the feathers of ordinary birds which are used for flight, the barbs—the individual plumes of filaments on either side of the quill—are furnished with minute hooks, of which Dr. Gadov has reckoned about eight hundred thousand on fifteen inches of a crane's feather. By these one barb fastens itself to the edge of the nest, so forming a continuous web, in which, as we all know, it takes some appreciable force to make a fissure.

In the ostrich, the feathers, having become idle, have lost the hooks, so that each barb falls loose and unsupported by its neighbors. Having ceased to overlap so as to form an air-resisting surface for purposes of flight, moreover, the barbs on both sides of the ostrich feather have grown to equal length, whereby not only is its beauty enhanced, but it has furnished man with an emblem of the justice which is strictly impartial.



aman's Calendar

SEPTEMBER
for salmon trolling; Cohoes Trout-fishing.
13—Opening of season on Island for shooting grouse, pe, and deer.

REGULATIONS

Cock Pheasants
ants may be shot in the Cowland District between 1st October mber, both days inclusive.
ands Electoral District, excepty of North Saanich, between d 31st October, both days in-

Grouse

ill kinds may be shot on Van- the Islands adjacent thereto, is Electoral District, between t and 31st December, both days the exception of willow grouse in Electoral District.
illow grouse in the Richmond, a, Chilliwack, and in that por- nox, Electoral Districts on the Islands adjacent thereto, on and in that portion of Kent uate in Yale Electoral District, h October and 31st December, sive.

Prairie Chicken

ken may be shot throughout ren the month of October (ex- toral Districts of Okanagan, ale).

Geese and Snipe

inds and snipe may be shot on Mainland and the Islands ad- w between 1st September and 28th days inclusive.

Coast Deer

inds and snipe may be shot on nd and the Islands adjacent the Islands Electoral District, ptember, 1910, and 28th Febru- days inclusive, and geese at any

Wapiti

allowed to be shot anywhere

Sale of Game

Coast Deer may be sold on the w between September 1 and No- days inclusive.
ds and Snipe may be sold in Province during the months November only.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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towards the north and send- ches, one extending in the n and opening the enor- rialized region in Northern and the Yukon Territory, owards the Peace River, and ay. Such a railway, with ches, would be one of the profitable enterprises that it would develop a greater territory than any other ex- line in Canada, and will, I great enterprise in the Do- attention of capitalists.
C. H. L.