

GERMANY'S FLIGHT
IN AMERICAN EYESOfficial Observer in Berlin
Found the Situation "All
But Irremediable."INSTABILITY
THE WORST ILLOnly Solution is to Get the
Nation Going Economically
— Factors That Work
Against it.

The economic situation in Germany is extremely serious and apparently all but irremediable, according to an American observer who has lately been in Berlin on an official mission. This man, whose position gave him access to all available information, thinks that the Ebert government is, on the whole, the most reliable group in Germany, despite the fact that the trustworthy men in it are weak, and the able men untrustworthy. Had as it is, however, he thinks that the present government is the only bulwark against the complete domination of Bolshevism, which would undoubtedly have a profound effect in stirring up labor unrest in other countries of Central and Western Europe.

"The immediate situation in connection with the food supply is most critical," he said, "but this has been remedied as well as possible by the agreement which provides that Germany shall have 370,000 tons of foodstuffs a month until the next harvest. This is as much as can be supplied in view of the available shipping, and also of the available food; for while Germany is on very short rations the situation is as bad, if not worse, in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. The food supplies stipulated in the agreement just concluded are undoubtedly all that we can spare for Germany at the moment, and all that we could ship even if we could spare more. That will suffice for about two-thirds of a normal food ration for the German people until the next harvest."

"There can be no doubt that this computation is accurate, for all data furnished by the Germans were checked by Vernon Kellors, who held a high position in the Commission for Relief in Belgium, and Dr. Alonzo Taylor, formerly attached to the Berlin embassy. It does not depend on the German figures alone, for the Germans, while they are actually in need of food in most parts of the country—despite the reports that enough can be bought by men who are willing to pay high prices for it—are undoubtedly trying to hold up the Allies. They are talking about the danger of Bolshevism, hoping to scare the Allies into giving them more favorable terms; and they are talking about the food shortage as a promoter of Bolshevism in order to get more food. Nevertheless, with all discount made for the inveterate German propensity to get all that they can out of their enemies, the danger is there."

"The food supply promised by the new agreement, if properly distributed, will give a two-thirds ration till the next harvest. But the difficulty will be by no means past when that harvest comes, for as far as can be learned at present it will be only about one-half the average of previous times, and Germany will still be short of food."

Paying and Earning.

"A still more serious situation, however, lies beyond. Germany must pay as much as possible for the damage she has done in the war. But how is Germany going to pay, and how is Germany going to live while she pays? If Germany were confined to herself alone, agriculturally and industrially she could hardly support more than forty million people on a peace time basis. She did more during the war, on short rations and the plunder of the occupied districts; but on a peace basis it may be said that twenty-five or thirty millions of Germans are supported by what Germany gets out of her foreign trade. Unless we are prepared to see a wholly unwanted German emigration to other countries on an unprecedented scale, these people must be taken care of. If Germany is to pay what she owes to the world she attacked, she must be able to earn the money with which to pay it."

Three factions come into this—production, distribution, finance. German industrial plants are very much run down, owing to the strain of war, the inability to replace machinery, the lack of lubricants, and other war conditions. Beyond doubt the machinery that was stolen from France, Belgium and other countries will be returned and still further reduce the productive power of German factories.

"But when Germany has produced her goods she must sell them. Where will she sell them? Good-will is an enormous factor in sales, and Germany has lost her good-will the world over. Resumption of her trade with Western Europe and the United States will be exceedingly difficult on account of the universal bitterness against Germany. In Asia and South America she has had great markets which were lost in the war, and which have been supplied to a considerable extent by allied merchants. Will British, French and American business men be willing to sit back and give Germany a chance to regain her trade in South America and Asia? The feeling roused in France by the proposals to allow Germany to resume her foreign commerce before the devastated districts of France were restored gives some indication of how little opportunity there is in his direction."

Russian Can Trade and Pay.

"There remains another great German market before the war—Russia. But Russia in its present chaotic condition is unable to absorb manufactured goods, unable to pay for them, unable even to guarantee the ordinary conditions of safe distribution. Where is Germany going to sell the goods by the profit on which she will pay her indemnity and enable her people to live while they produce them? She can not pay anything back at all unless we put a good deal of money into Germany, and it is a question what she can do then."

"There remains the question of finance. The mark is worth, generally speaking, something like 12 cents just now—about 50 per cent. of its normal value. You can get marks for 10 cents. And this is under blockade conditions, when German economic life was for the most part restricted to Germany. With the imminent lifting of the blockade the mark will fall still further. Foreign countries will demand some evidence of real values behind German exchange. The gold reserve will have to go on the indemnity. What else can Germany offer just now? The government printing presses are working overtime turning out paper money, but the more turned out the less it is worth."

"Of course, the Germans are dwelling on all these considerations in the hope of getting better terms and in any consideration of them it is necessary to discount the arguments of Germans whose ideas are the same as always, and who want to get as much as they can out of their enemies. Nevertheless, the considerations have some weight apart from what the Germans say. When the German factories are reopened it will be necessary to get men to work in them. At present there are some 325,000 unemployed in Berlin alone, receiving unemployment allowance from the government to keep them from joining the revolutionists. A man unemployed gets six marks a day; if he has a wife he gets four marks more, and another mark for each child. The father of a family of six would thus get 16 marks a day for doing nothing. It is not an incentive to industry, and the fact that the mark is worth less every week does not stimulate the desire to work, but only to get more marks."

If Germany Goes Bolshevist.

"If Germany goes Bolshevist, Bolshevism will not stop in Germany. It will mean that once more Germany is acting with Russia and in view of the bad economic conditions in Western Europe there will be grave danger of England, France and Italy. America is no doubt better off than any other nation but we could hardly go through the period without grave disturbances, at the very least; each new country that goes Bolshevist means that much more weight behind the revolutionary elements in every other country."

The present German government is composed of very divergent elements. The strongest party is the Majority Socialists, and the leaders of this party for the most part seem to be intent chiefly on internal reforms and less obsessed by the insistence on the maintenance of Germany's external power and glory. But in order to have a majority, the Socialists have had to co-operate with the German Democratic party. This group contains some men whose ideas are more or less in consonance with those of liberals in the allied countries, such as Theodore Wolff of the Tagesspiegel; but the leaders are far less reliable. I can sum it up by saying that the strongest man in the German Democratic party appears to be Count von Bernstorff. Some of the others who are powerful are Dr. Bernhard Dernburg and Friedrich Naumann of Central European fame.

Bernstorff in Power.

"Bernstorff is really the German foreign office just now. He holds no formal position, but he has a suite of rooms in the foreign office building. The foreign minister, Brockdorff-Rantzau, his cousin; he is credited with being a sort of Liberal. Apparently he tries to be as Liberal as he can, but he has spent his life in the German diplomatic service, which means that he does not know how to be very much of a Liberal. His reputation is good, because he was at Copenhagen, at the capital of a small neutral country, during the war, but he appears to be dominated by Bernstorff. His secretary, while I was in Berlin, left him to become Bernstorff's secretary, and all the Germans regarded it as a promotion."

"It was natural that the new government had to turn to these old diplomats, for the Ebert administration was composed of men who had had no experience outside of Germany, and who, when they wanted experts in foreign relations, had to go back to the servants of the old government. But the result has been very unfortunate. The foreign office today exercises much of the influence that used to belong to the general staff. It seems to have a pretty good information service at the Peace conference and in allied countries, and its influence is all in favor of what the Germans call a "just peace," that is to say, a peace which will leave Germany as nearly as possible as she was before the war."

It is largely from this group, from the foreign office, the democratic leaders, and the elements which they represent that you hear the charges against giving up Alsace-Lorraine and German Poland and the colonies and against the payment of indemnities. To that bulk of Germans these questions are secondary to the resumption of economic life. Nevertheless, the outcry over them is having much effect.

"In the case of Alsace-Lorraine, for instance, there has lately been a great demand in Germany for a plebiscite. It is not because the Germans think

that a plebiscite would show any other result than the desire of the inhabitants to return to France, but because they think that the Allies will refuse it, and that they can hold this up to some future generation of Germans as an instance of the refusal of determination in favor of an annexation by force.

Newspapers Keeping Up Discontent.

"The effect of all this agitation is increased by the newspapers. None of them had betrayed much indication of realizing the real state of affairs in Germany and the serious difficulties which confront the people. They are for the most part occupied with attacks upon the Allies and vituperation over questions of the armistice and peace; such foreign news as they contain—and it is not much—is unreliable. In general the newspapers are far from being so good as they were before the war; and they are contributing a good deal toward keeping up the general unreasonableness of the German mind."

Bavaria is running almost as a separate government; its minister in Switzerland issues passports for savoyards entering into Bavaria when the German minister will not, and once they are in Bavaria they can easily go through the rest of Germany. Most of these bodies were originally a unit commanded by Gerdienberg or Reinhardt or some other officer who persuaded his men to hold together and remain loyal, and who built up around them a larger force. With the original regiment as a nucleus, there were added great numbers of volunteers, many of whom had been officers under the old regime. These troops receive very high pay—I have heard 20 marks a day—and are given privileges it is a question how long they will be able to hold on to them if the value of the mark falls too far. Already it has been necessary to disarm some marines and sailors who were included in these forces.

"This army of national volunteers which has suppressed Spartacist risings to Berlin and elsewhere is quite different from the remains of the old army, the so-called 'corps' troops, who are still under the remains of the old General Staff headed by Hindenburg. Most of these troops are in eastern Germany, but their value is very doubtful. They have been much infected by Bolshevist propaganda and they could probably not stand up against a well-disciplined, patriotic army. Their number is apparently about 200,000."

The Ebert government is being held up today principally by Noske, who has had charge of the suppression of the Spartacist revolts. Noske came into prominence first in last November in connection with the naval mutiny. He is a hard-headed, two-faced person, who knows practically nothing of affairs outside of Germany, but is a man of force and well informed on conditions inside the empire.

Noske, however, must depend on his soldiers. The chief commander of those in Berlin is General von Lüttwitz, who used to be Military Attache

in London and has an American wife. He was military governor of Brussels early in the war, and was recalled, according to report, because he was too lenient with the Belgians. Lüttwitz takes his orders from Noske; but it is not altogether certain what would happen if he refused to obey them. On the other hand, Lüttwitz is not in direct control of the troops; he is in general command, but the soldiers who can be relied on are such as the Gerdienberg and Reinhardt troops, who may perhaps be more loyal to their individual commanders.

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Mrs. Myrtle Richardson.

St. Stephen, April 27.—Mrs. Myrtle Richardson passed away at her home in St. Stephen Saturday evening, after a protracted illness of cancer. She was forty-six years of age, and is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Buchanan, Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Miss Mabel, at home. The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon at two-thirty.

Mrs. Jack McCready.

St. Stephen, April 27.—Mrs. Jack McCready, aged seventy-eight years and eleven months, entered into rest at her home here Saturday afternoon. She is survived by her husband, two sons, and two daughters. The funeral will be held Monday afternoon at two-thirty o'clock.

Mrs. Mary A. Donahue.

It was with great regret that the wide circle of friends learned of the death of Mrs. Mary A. Donahue, which occurred at an early hour Saturday morning in her residence, 55 E. mouth street, because she was a popular citizen and a loving mother. She is survived by four sons, seven daughters and one sister, William, of Waterville, Me.; Harry, mounted policeman, and Kenneth, on the police detective force, St. John; Leonard, of Montreal, Miss Nellie, of Boston; Misses Margaret and Jeanne, Mrs. James Trainor and Mrs. William Good, all of St. John; Sister Mary Dione, of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Waterville, Me.; Mrs. P. Wood, New Bedford, Mass. The funeral will take place tomorrow morning at 9:15 o'clock to the Cathedral for Requiem Mass.

Mrs. Barbara Carpenter.

At an early hour Saturday morning the death of Mrs. Barbara Carpenter occurred at her residence in St. Patrick street. She was ninety years of age and was the wife of the late Ephraim Carpenter, of Rothesay, N.B. Carpenter leaves one hundred and sixty-nine descendants—eight children, sixty-one grandchildren, ninety-four great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren. A large

circle of friends will mourn her death. The funeral will be held today at 12 o'clock, daylight time, from her residence to the Baptist church, Gondola Point, where service will be conducted at two o'clock.

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That the Young Women's Christian Association activities at this port will

not cease with removal of the port, is the statement given out by association officials. Miss Perry, who has had charge of the blue triangle port work here, has been appointed to take charge in Quebec. Miss Heffer is still active, though, and it is expected that the association will assist in the programme of the C. G. I. T. (Canadian girls in training) this summer.

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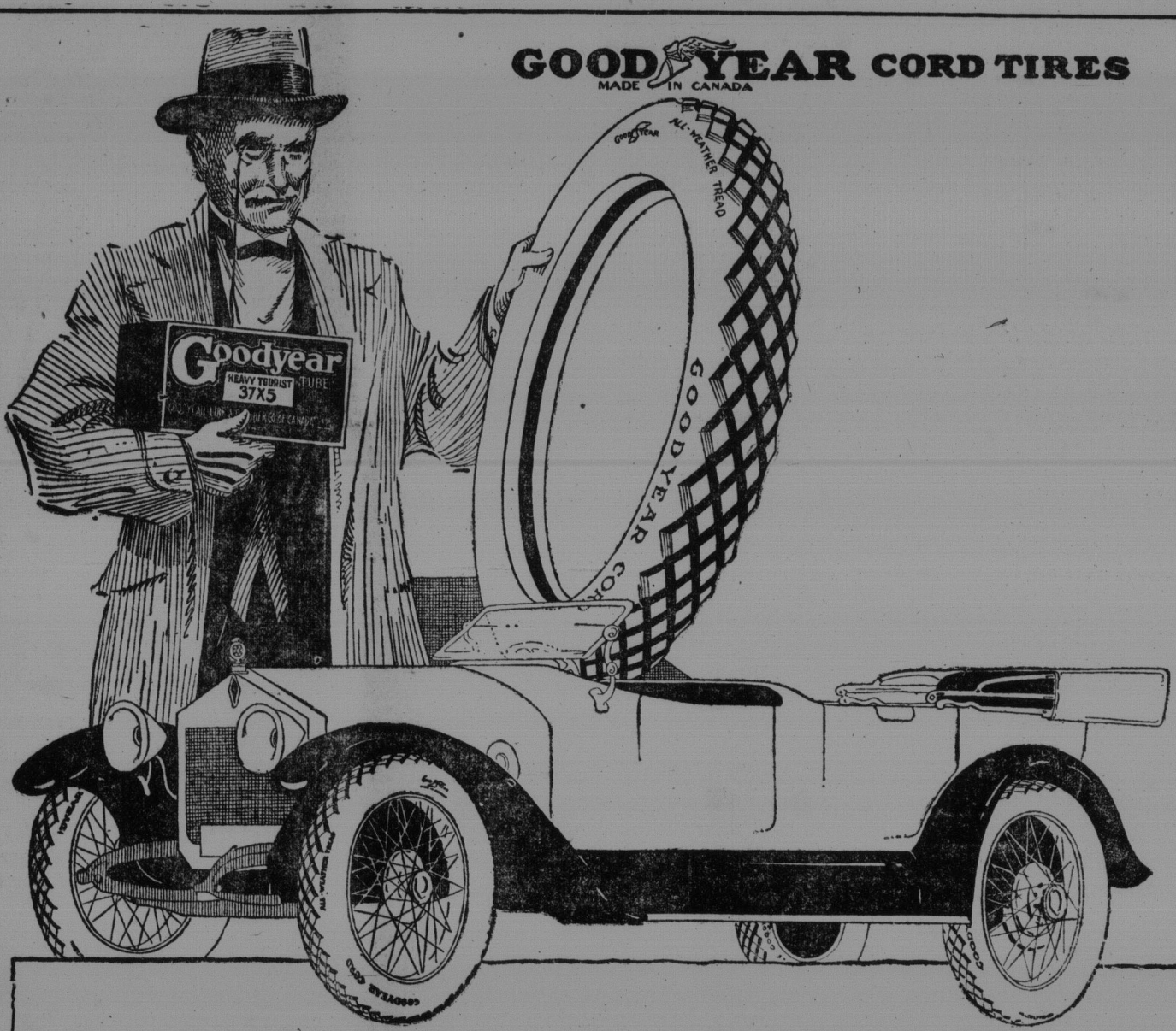
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Tires That Make Friends

The Goodyear Cord Tire is the supreme product of this institution. It is the fine result of the mightiest efforts of a world-wide organization unlimited in means and old in experience. Into it goes every worth-while idea, every extra-quality material, we have developed.

Naturally this tire serves supremely well—in economy and in satisfaction. Through extraordinarily long mileage it overshadows its extra price. By lively and muscular action it makes riding and driving easy—saves car and gasoline.

You would expect Goodyear to produce this tire. Our entire history is but the story of tire development. We have sought the friendship of the world's

motorists by building tires ever better, by discovering the many things that make the automobile tire of to-day a willing and efficient servant. It is noteworthy that while higher in price, tire-cost-per-mile is lower to-day than before the Goodyear Cord entered the field.

Only on that one basis—quality and service—do we wish the Goodyear Service Station to sell you Goodyear Tires. Your part in the bargain is to call there and talk it over.

Ask, also, about the Goodyear Heavy Tourist Tubes. You'll find them extra thick and extra good—giving greater service in any tire and especially suited to the Goodyear Cord Tire.

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