

## State Socialism Now is Germany's Bent

Central Empires Meditate Commercial War When the Present Conflict is Over—Outline of Intentions—The Individual After Peace is Declared Will be Servant of State

The representatives of the allied governments who met in Paris in the third week in June this year for the purpose of discussing and determining upon a common economic policy to be recommended to those Governments drew up in its main outlines the plan of a defensive commercial alliance against the empires of Central Europe. In other words, it was proposed that the commercial activities of those empires should be curtailed in certain directions, even after the termination of the present hostilities.

The plan is forced upon the allies by the known intentions of the Central Empires, which are already preparing to enter upon a commercial war as soon as the existing form of international conflict disappears. The Germans began a commercial and financial war upon other nations years before they began the present warfare with fire and sword. Military operations were resorted to in order to make sure of what had so far been gained by commercial and financial enterprises, and to open the way for making even greater gains by those methods. Unless some very serious reverses befall the allies Germany will, in consequence of stirring up military war, lose all that she gained by commercial war in the years from 1870 to 1914. As the military war cannot be brought to an end before Germany finds herself no longer able to contend with her foes on the field of battle, it is clear that the change in the international situation commonly referred to as "the return of peace" will leave Germany incapable of resuming the conflict of arms and fleets for a considerable time to come. But the German nation will be left free to produce and to trade, and it means to produce and trade with the same end in view as it had before—viz., the domination of Europe and the Eastern Hemisphere, if not the whole world. "The bricks are fallen down, but we will build with hewn stones; the sycamore are cut down, but we will change them into cedars." The Germans are proud and stout of heart, ambitious and energetic. Even if their ambition is too great for their power, they will endeavor to realize it, and their invitation, "Watch us grow," means nothing better than "Sit still while we get ready to eat you up." The statement that the Central Empires are preparing to transfer the conflict to nations in the "economic plane" means that the rulers of Germany, among whom the Kaiser is by this time, in all probability, the figure-head rather than the head figure, are making these preparations, and that the rulers of Austria-Hungary are perforce following their lead. The German magnates and potentates hope to find assistance in Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire, but that hope is likely to be long deferred. In what form and dimensions the Dual Empire of Austria-Hungary will emerge from the military struggle and the settlement of the terms upon which it is to cease, no one can foretell. But even if the Slavonic and Roumanian territories now included in it are cut away, there will yet remain two bodies-politic, the one German (Austria), the other Magyar (Hungary), which will look to Germany for support and guidance.

A programme, economical rather than political, but capable of political direction and use, to be worked out by the German nation after the present war comes to an end, has been set forth at length in a book entitled "Mittel Europa" (Central Europe), written by one, Friedrich Naumann, formerly a Lutheran pastor, who founded the "Central Socialist" organization in Germany. This work has found a large circulation in Germany. It is evidently acceptable to a considerable part of the German nation.

"Mittel Europa" is to be an economic rather than a political union. Herr Naumann does not propose a federation of Austria and Hungary with the German Empire. Such a proposal would be resented and rejected both at Vienna and Budapest. Nor does he propose a "Zollverein" or Customs union. He anticipates the continued existence of Junkerdom in Prussia, and the Prussian Junkers would never agree to a Customs union, for that would involve the free importation of Hungarian wheat into Germany, and the consequent decline in wealth and power of the great owners of German agricultural land. But, even on his own showing, the Junkers must submit in the future, as they are already submitting, to such control of their wealth by the Prussian State, as would render it hardly worth their while, even if it

were possible, to resist the establishment of an Austro-German Customs union, whenever that should be deemed to be in the interest of Germany. However, that may be, Herr Naumann proposes, not a federal or fiscal union, but the development, out of the existing state-control over the supply and distribution of war munitions, food, and other commodities, of a system of chartered trusts, operating over the whole of the Central Europe.

Within a few months after the beginning of military operations, all necessary commodities in Germany had become State-property, and private trade in these had been replaced by the functions of State departments and administrative commissions. Herr Naumann acknowledges that the State departments would have met with vigorous opposition had they attempted in time of peace to assume such control over private property as they now exercise, and have exercised for nearly two whole years. Under the pressure and stimulus of war conditions, the nation willingly acquiesced. Even so, the difficulties of organization were very great, especially as departments concerned were short-handed. The war has given an immense impetus to "State Socialism" in Germany. There are Socialists who regard this development with disapproval, if not with dismay; especially those Socialists who demand the total destruction of society as the indispensable preliminary to its reformation. The Socialism which is fast developing in Germany is Socialism under Government control. The war has accelerated the process of its development, but even before the war Germans—and especially Prussians—had become accustomed to government leadership and control, and to these circumstances the success of the "economic dictatorship" of the German War Office and the Food Commission must in part be due. This success, so Herr Naumann asserts, has created among the millions in Germany a widely prevalent desire and demand for the extension and development of the policy, to continue after the return of peace. "On the basis of our experiences in the war," he declares, "we demand a regulated economy; the regulation of production from the point of view of State necessity." The German "masses" are eager and urgent for more organization," Herr Naumann informs his readers, "to say that they have organized in order to increase their power to bargain for higher wages." That motive existed, and still exists, but over and above it "the idea of the impersonal industrial guidance of the masses, as regards the sale and utilization of labor, is winning its way through and becoming self-evident." Moreover, professional men, and even artists, with all their "egoism" are moving in the same direction. The discovery has been made that State Departments, employers' associations, and trade unions need not be mutually hostile. They are in reality members of one and the same organism, "the community view as existing for livelihood." There is an end and aim common to them all, for the attainment of which their co-operation is not only possible, but indispensable, and there is the provision of work and adequate remuneration for every member of the community. But while labor is to be taken into consideration in the working out of the system of monopolies, no active part in the direction of national activities appears to be assigned to it. Working men are to be paid good wages, to be insured against unemployment, to be pensioned in their old age. But no political careers are offered them.

This indeed is consistent enough with the view of the nation simply as "the community existing for livelihood." But Aristotle, long ago, taught that the community called the State or Commonwealth, exists for other ends, above and beyond the production and exchange of material commodities, necessary as these things are. The Germans are too well-educated not to have realized this truth. They must be provided with a national ambition beyond, and distinct from, power to produce enormous quantities of things, and to sell them everywhere at a profit. If the German nation, as a whole, is to be ruled by an oligarchy, it must receive compensation sooner or later, in itself becoming an oligarchy ruling a number of other nations. German industries and commerce must be organized for political ends.

The distinguishing ability of the Germans, according to Herr Naumann, is "organizational." This has been displayed in the disciplined efficiency of German State Departments, German Employers' Associations, and German Trade Unions. The nation whose men are the ablest bureaucrats, the most successful capitalists and the best organized workers in the world is, and knows itself to be,

Departments, Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, the Germans will waste no time or energy over political revolution, but go forward to the perfect ordering of themselves as a community working for control and supremacy over other communities, taking advantage to the full of the inferiority of the latter in organization and discipline.

"The German after the war," says Herr Naumann, "will be a servant of the State as never before in his daily work." That State will be an "absolutist," despotic, and, alike in commerce (which will be one of its functions) and in war, aggressive. The

rulers of Germany will not merely dream of, but will work for the preparation of the Day of Vengeance, and by keeping the thought of that day in the mind of the nation at large, will seek to minister encouragement in the dark and depressing times which will ensue upon the cessation of the present conflict.

Not Much on Looks. Diner (looking at fodder)—This isn't a very good looking piece of meat. Waiter—Well, you ordered a plain steak, sir.

United States, United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, and Germany. Since the outbreak of the war news has gone to Germany, and but little to the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. Canada has taken the major portion, some of which is being utilized for munition purposes.—New York Times.

Young Hopeful (to his sister): "I say Nell, pass me the butter." Nell (in a tone of sisterly reproach): "If what Johnny?" Johnny (goaded to desperation by the delay): "If you can reach it."

Minerals in Newfoundland  
The Government geologist estimates the iron ore deposits in Newfoundland at 3,635,500,000 tons. On Belle Isle, Conception Bay, alone, the estimate deposit of this ore is put at 35,000,000 tons, and more. The total ore mined and exported since the beginning of operations in 1895 to date is estimated at 15,000,000 tons, all of which, prior to the war, went to the

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# BRITISH COLONEL



## PLUG SMOKING



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