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Thoughtful Germans are Now Anxious to See War Ended

Dissatisfaction Now Only Among Citizens But Has Entered the Ranks of the Army and Navy Feeling that Defeat Will Surely Come in the End and is Only Delayed

Berne, Oct. 30.—(Correspondence).—There has just arrived here from Germany a naturalized American who has lived in Germany throughout the war, worked in German seaport cities, passing for or being considered a German subject, mingling not only with the common people, but having occasional access to the councils of the high.

In his opinion Germany is suffering acutely now and dissatisfaction and worse reign in certain strata of her army and navy. Recent mutinous uprisings have had to be sternly repressed and the mutineers shot. Thoughtful Germany, he thinks, comprising men of the Bullin type, is desperately anxious for peace and secretly anxious to end the war before America has been utterly alienated.

This man left Germany early in October, because he had reason to fear that he was going to be impressed for military service. The German government had refused to recognize the validity of his American naturalization since he failed to comply with the law existing in 1913 and did not seek the consent of the German government to his step. To get out he had to induce the Spanish embassy to bring pressure to bear on the German government. On reaching Switzerland one of his first steps was to seek the Associated Press correspondent, to whom he first proved satisfactory his American citizenship, then volunteered such information as he possessed about Germany as the duty of a patriotic American citizen. Strangely enough, at the very moment he was telling his story with details about mutinies in the German navy, the German Minister of Marine, Admiral von Capelle, was announcing the naval mutinies to the Reichstag.

"The economic situation in Germany," he says, "is far worse than anyone on the outside realizes, is so critical that for one to look for a break, a collapse, next spring or late in the winter. Nor are the good crops that one hears boasts about every once in so often going to change the situation materially.

"Throughout the German people there is what amounts to a hatred of America, and this hatred

has been carefully concentrated on President Wilson because it is easier to hate a man than a nation, especially a nation that is the bone of pretty nearly everyone's relative.

"But the big men of Germany, the men who have to look ahead and guide the empire after the war, do not hate America. They feel too keenly that they need America, and they would like to stem the tide of hate before. It becomes mutual and the United States are alienated, perhaps for all time.

"They know that after the war here is only one country in the world where they can get the money they need. America and they are worrying a plenty nowadays. They, and all Germany, want increasingly a peace that shall specify, among other things, the right to purchase raw as well as finished materials anywhere in the world on the same terms as any other nation.

"Every indication points to probable confiscation of property and repudiation of perhaps half the war loan totals after the war. Even the percentage of property to be confiscated is being talked of and it seems probable that the government will take 20 per cent of everything.

"On the other hand it seems probable from all I hear that an even half of all outstanding war loans will be nullified. The seventh will suffer exactly as the first and the first as the seventh. Fifty per cent. will be repaid, and the other 50 per cent. will either be cancelled or merely continue to pay interest—will be a sort of perpetual investment, the capital for which cannot be realized.

"As surely as anything can be predicted there will be in the coming years a series of laws forbidding emigration. And in anticipation of them countless Germans today are talking about ways and means of getting away after the war. South and North America, and peculiarly enough New Zealand and Australia, are the havens to which they speak of fleeing. The first German ship that lands in America after hostilities will leave 50 per cent. of its crew behind.

"It is becoming clearer and clearer to Germans every day that all the talk that has come the rounds about a "Central Europe" after the model of Professor Naumann and others will be out the question.

"Contrary to the belief that seems to be almost universal outside of Germany, I really believe that Pan-Germanism is on the decrease rather than the increase among the masses of the people, and this despite the increased noise about it everywhere in Germany and the intensive way in which it is being encouraged. The reason for this is that more and more the German people are coming to realize what a catastrophe it will be for them after the war is over if they are hated in all the world. Pan-Germanism, they are coming to feel, is likely to intensify the feeling against them, and thereby make their economic struggle in the future more difficult."

He then touched briefly on Austro-German relations and contended against any hope that Austria will fall away from her big ally, for, he explained, she is too dependent financially and militarily, to be able to shake loose, much as she might like to do so. The German military authorities see to it that German soldiers are intermingled with Austrian troops not only to spur them on in fighting but also to present their quitting.

Regarding the naval and military situation he told of mutinies abroad battleships as hinted at by Von Capelle. The men he said, dismounted guns and thrown them overboard, had assaulted officers and refused to obey orders, in the hope of crippling the German navy and bringing about a peace of desperation in that way. The mutinous forces, however, had not been large or strong enough to accomplish much, and had been put down. Most of them were shot, others in exceptional cases had been put back into the service on their promise to be good.

This spirit, he continued, extended to the army also, fanned to a flame occasional by sectional jealousy and dislike. Thus he said he knew that miniature battles had been fought between Bavarian and Prussian troops, and that certain troops on the east front had on one occasion mutinied and declared in favor of marching on Berlin rather than Petrograd. Naturally all news about these and similar clashes had been carefully suppressed and leaked out only when the soldiers returned or wrote home, in the same way that sailors in Hamburg and Kiel spread the first reports of the mutinies aboard the ships.

Paris, Oct. 30.—It will be a treeless Belgium to which the people of that unfortunate country will return, if its invaders are not driven out before they have completed their work of devastation. Factories have been deplored of their machinery, every form of property has been requisitioned, and new woods, forests and even individual trees are being cut down wholesale. The wooded heights of the Belgian Ardennes, which used to protect the centre of the country from east winds, are rapidly being denuded, the tall elms that lined the high-roads and canals have been felled, and walnut trees that adorned the gardens of the well-to-do in Brussels have not been spared.

In the early days of the occupa-

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tion, the Belgian State Forest Department was allowed to supervise the work of felling and seeing that it was scientifically conducted, but after a few months, the Germans took over the direction of the department and observed only one rule—to obtain the greatest amount of wood for military purposes in the shortest possible time.

The Belgian Government has been able to learn details of the work done, such as that a thousand acres have been cleared in Hertogenwald (Liege) and felling continues there, the fir plantation "Fays de Lucy," the finest in the country, has been completely razed, and the magnificent forest of Signes, south of Brussels, is rapidly disappearing. These are only examples of dozens of similar cases which are known and to this devastation must be added the consumption of wood by the native population which for three years has been unable to import any and has had to use quantities instead of coal.

Serious consequences from every point of view, health, climatic and hydrographic, are expected from this wide-spread destruction of woods and forests, if it continues another year or two.

How The Navy Controls the Sea

(From The London Chronicle)

A little acquaintance with naval history and a full realization of the existing conditions of naval warfare would show that discontent with the attitude of the Navy is wholly unreasonable. Great battles are rare events in naval operations, but the pressure of sea power has been continuous in all our wars, and has never been so effective as in the present war. No one would welcome action more enthusiastically than the officers and men of the Grand Fleet, but it takes two to make a battle, and the enemy keeps close to port. There was much talk at one time of digging the rats out of their holes, and from time to time there is advocacy of large operations of adventurous character. But if these imply that the Grand Fleet is to knock at the gate of Wilhelmshaven, defying mines and guns of enormous power, mounted in secret positions, those who advocate such operations can find no justification in the experiences of the past, nor in the conditions of the present time.

THE BRITISH FLEET SUPREME

What the Fleet has done from the very beginning of the war, and is doing at the present time, is to exercise command of the sea. The Germans claimed the Jutland Battle as a victory, but it changed the situation in no degree whatever. The British Fleet remained

supreme, the enemy was powerless to move, and transport operations of stupendous character were undertaken which have brought against the Germans the formidable military machine directed by Sir Douglas Haig. It is a literal truth, in the words once used by Lord Fisher, that not a soldier has gone abroad but a sailor has carried him on his back. Not only at the beginning of the war, when the original Expeditionary Force went to France, but on every day and in every hour, since, the Navy has been at work sleeplessly to guard every transport which has crossed the sea.

What is meant by the disembarkation of an army of a million men, with all its guns and mighty volumes of munitions of every kind, its hospitals and railway service, its armoured cars and tanks, and every equipment which a modern army requires, can be better imagined than described. We cannot feel too profoundly our gratitude to the Navy for its arduous work and unremitting toil in safeguarding the national interests afloat, not only on the lines of communication to France, but in the support of the operations at Saloniki, in Egypt and Palestine, in East Africa and Mesopotamia, and wherever the armies are fighting. The Navy has protected a continuous stream of supplies from across the Atlantic, has driven enemy commerce from the seas and has brought about the darkening of every "place in the sun."

THE BLOCKADE

The blockade is in the hands of the Navy, and the arduous and exacting nature of the service in all weathers and all conditions is very little known to the people at large. There has been much questioning of the efficiency of the blockade, but no reproach can be made against the Navy on that ground. His Majesty's ships bring suspected vessels into port, and their liberation or appearance in the Prize Court is within the responsibility of the Foreign Office. Naval officers have become statesmen in their dealing with neutral shippers. Daily and hourly have they been at work in operating a blockade which does not consist of a line of ships before an enemy's ports, but of patrolling squadrons, all out of sight of one another but within easy steaming distance, usually about 20 miles apart. The examination service of the blockade is of the most arduous and exacting character.

None of this work is spectacular, but it goes on day and night, year in and year out. The naval authorities have hitherto been too reticent concerning the routine duties of the Navy, which have been fruitful in dramatic incidents. Now, happily, a new spirit is at work, and semi-official descriptions of some striking episodes arising from the conflict of our patrolling vessels with enemy submarines, and the actions of naval seaplanes have appeared. But a great deal more is required to be done before the British people can be made to understand the unsurpassed service of the Navy in the war. It is lamentable that widespread ignorance should prevail concerning the daily work of the great force upon which our security depends, and without which neither the British Army nor the armies of any of the Allies could prevail.

THE DISPATCH.

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