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German Dye Secrets Captured

257 Recipes Found by British Textile Merchants

Quest in Switzerland

Work of Supreme Importance—Romantic Story of Accomplishment

The newspapers a short time ago published statements that the British had captured Germany's dye secrets. The following details are furnished by a special correspondent of the London Mail.

After two years' persistent effort a group of men in the British textile trade has succeeded in bringing to England from Switzerland the secret recipes of the great German dye industry.

This is a capture of the first importance in the economic war against Germany and German trade. It will free the British textile industry and scores of other important industries from the hands of Germany. It means that when the war is over Great Britain will be in a position to compete equally with Germany in the matter of dyed goods in every market in the world.

More than that, the aniline dye industry is of extraordinary importance, because it is a "key-industry," dominating a large number of other trades, and of vital importance in war. On the cheap supply of dyes depend our textile industries with an output of more than 200,000,000 pounds a year. Her dye monopoly before the war gave Germany an export trade in fine chemicals of 97,500,000 pounds, according to Professor Grossmann. It gave her an almost complete monopoly in the large scale output of explosive, gases, photographic chemicals, drugs and sources of power derived from spitting up petroleum and gas tar products.

It was protected by elaborate "camouflage." Thus, though the formulas were sometimes registered in this country under patents, they were usually so framed as to be dangerous to an experimenter.

The narrative of the capture of these dye recipes, as told to me by the man who has been chiefly instrumental in carrying out this bold stroke, forms one of the most remarkable romances of the war. Great risks have been run and thousands of pounds spent.

The recipes are those in use in the premier dye factories of Germany, the great Badische works. They number in all 257. They are locked up in the safe keeping of a bank in London.

CHEAP SUPPLY

The British textile merchants who have succeeded in capturing the recipes do not intend to form a monopoly in this country. They have refused tempting offers from capitalists. It is their intention to offer recipes to the British government for use in already established works. Their sole desire is to secure for the whole of the textile industry of England a full and cheap supply of fast dyes, stable and true to color.

At the present moment manufactured dyes in Great Britain, which cost from 60 pounds to 70 pounds a ton, before the war, are selling at from 2,500 pounds to 2,400 pounds a ton. It costs 10 a yard to dye flannel scarlet, more than the cost of the material itself before the war.

The knowledge that Great Britain

has secured these recipes will be a great blow to the German dye and textile industries and should be a notable factor in persuading the manufacturers of Germany that the war has gone against them.

Mr. John Leyland, of 103 Wood street London, and Mr. Richard Baldry, 4 Milk street buildings, London, are the two men who have been chiefly instrumental in the capture of the recipes. Associated with them are a group of textile merchants like themselves. The speculative element has been carefully barred from participation in this enterprise.

"Those engaged in the business," said Mr. Page, of Messrs. Jocoyne, Miles & Co., chartered accountants, 28 King street, Cheapside, "are all textile men and have only one end in view, which is the good of the world industry and the country."

Mr. John Leyland described the manner in which the recipes were discovered and captured:

"Two years ago I heard a rumor that there was a man in London who could place me in touch with a chemist in Switzerland who had in his possession the recipes for the Badische aniline dyes. I mentioned the matter to my friend, Mr. Richard Baldry, and together we decided to follow up the clue.

"As a result of our inquiries we sent a special representative to Switzerland who soon established relations with the chemist. He reported progress to us, and we then went to the government and asked to be placed in communication with a leading dye chemist who could be trusted to go to Switzerland and test the specimens made by the Swiss chemist. We were allowed to borrow Mr. F. M. Rowe, M. Sc., of the Manchester School of Technology, who has concentrated his energies on the question of dyes and has worked in the Badische factories.

Mr. Rowe went to Switzerland and saw the Swiss chemist. He made several attempts to secure a laboratory in Switzerland in which tests of the recipes could be made. Each time he was frustrated by German agents. Finally, we established our own laboratory or Mr. Rowe in Switzerland and were ready to begin the tests. A consular officer, by the kindness of the Foreign Office, was detached for the purpose of watching the experiments and certifying the correctness of them.

"We then asked the Bradford Dyers' Association to name the dye which they considered to be the most difficult to procure and manufacture. They stated that they would be satisfied if Mr. Rowe produced from the recipe of the Swiss chemist a dye known as Brun-green, an apple green color.

APPLE GREEN TEST

"The chemist selected this recipe from the 257 which he held and the work began. As soon as Mr. Rowe saw the recipe, speaking from a lifelong knowledge of the technical science of dye-making, he declared that the recipe was useless and that he had been sent to Switzerland on a fool's errand.

The chemist asserted that the recipe was the one that would produce the apple-green.

"Mr. Rowe, having first tested each ingredient separately, proceeded with the experiment. To his utter amazement the recipe was correct and the dye was produced.

"Specimens of the dye in all stages of manufacture are now in London. They have been sent to us as they were made, each sealed with the consular seal. Before sending them, Mr. Rowe reserved one-half for a further experiment. He found the dye answered all tests and was indeed a true and fast color as for merely produced only by the Badische works. He is now in Manchester working out other recipes and producing by degrees the whole range of colors which once could only be obtained in Germany.

DRUGGED BY HUN AGENTS.

We are indebted to the Foreign office for placing every facility at our disposal. In fact, without the aid of the Foreign office it is doubtful whether we could have got the samples or recipes to England. Our agent was dogged by German agents on every journey he made to Switzerland. His baggage was stolen; he was drugged and assaulted and thrown into the gutter. He was followed once by two men as far as Havre. He reported the facts to the French authorities and they succeeded in capturing two undoubted German agents. On one occasion he was travelling with a diplomat whose baggage was marked with the same initials as his own. This gentleman's baggage was also stolen en route.

"While the German agents were paying these attentions to our representative, the recipes and samples were travelling securely to England in a Foreign office bag. They are now safely locked up in the strong room of a bank and beyond any danger of theft or recovery by the Germans.

"We are prepared to sell the recipes to the government for use in government dye works, and to allow the major portion of the profit to go to the nation on the understanding that the dyes will be sold freely to all British manufacturers who require them in their industries. There is hardly an industry in England which does not use dyes in one form or another. They are, of course, essential to the textile industries."

I was shown the sealed specimens of the apple-green dye which have thus come to England. They are the tangible evidence of this extraordinary romance of industry and war.

Striking Tale From British Front.

A story of heroism that has seldom been surpassed was told a few days ago by a Canadian officer now lying grievously wounded in one of the base hospitals, who had seen the dead of which he told with his own eyes. One of his machine gunners, Private Bankes, was wounded at some little distance from his comrades on some shell swept ground. The other men shouted to him to hold out till the stretcher-bearers could come, but he was mortally wounded and the time was short. Then it was that Corp. (795) Albert Ed. Johnston ran out and braved the death that surged in on him from every side, not to save Bankes' life, for it was past saving and they both knew it, but to stay with him to the end and lend his hand and give him the comfort of his human friendly presence. Once during that ghastly wait, while the shells screamed, their officer ran over to them with a bottle and said, "Take a drink of rum, old fellow," but the answer was, "Thank you, I've never taken a drink in my life." So they waited together, the two, the dying man and the man who was meeting death to comfort him till he, too was killed, and as the stretcher-bearers took away the living, but by this time badly wounded officer, raised himself to salute the two dead figures.

It is of such stuff as this, officers and men that our Canadian army is made.

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Across The Rhine

St. John Globe

As all predictions of a German breakdown through hunger, economic and financial exhaustion, loss of man-power, have been proved false and as each week of war brings some new and amazing revelation of Teutonic war-preparation and resource, there is a natural unwillingness to regard as important reports of strikes and other anti-war demonstrations. Nevertheless the persistence of these reports, and the corroborative evidence furnished by such announcements as the government's decision to arrest a number of prominent Independent Socialist leaders, adds to the conviction expressed by a Paris correspondent that "something is happening across the Rhine, different from and more serious than past troubles." This same correspondent says one hears more these days of short rations, or German internal political differences, or press recriminations and the threatened secession of Austria and Turkey. While past experiences provide the very best reasons for doubting that what is happening "across the Rhine" will bring an early and abiding peace, here must be kept in mind the thought that there are only two ways of peace. One lies through the regeneration of the German people; the other through the supremacy of Entente arms. The prospect of the former depends very largely, if not altogether, on the success of the latter. Whatever of discontent there is in Germany to day is the outgrowth of German failure to achieve victory and conclude a peace of conquest. America's entry into the war after nearly three years of fighting gave many Germans a new viewpoint of the outlook and caused an overwhelming number to question the wisdom of continuing the struggle. That to-day there is a powerful and influential German group demanding peace and resisting the activities of the pan-Germans who want peace on the basis of no-war-no-peace. A Rotterdam dispatch of to-day, attributing to Professor Hans del Bruck, of the University of Berlin, a declaration that the Kaiser is a "peace-by-agreement" advocate and not a supporter of the "fight-to-a-finish" policy, is interesting if not convincing. The Professor's allusion to the attitude of the Pan-Germans toward the Kaiser, if not further proof of where the Kaiser's sympathies lie, is evidence that the people are divided and that the division is beginning to cause anxiety. Such press comments on the Chancellor's speech as have been permitted to reach the outside world also indicate a growing bit-

terness. London despatches say "a political hornets' nest has again been stirred up in Germany," that "the Pan-Germanists are kicking up a tremendous row."

The Deutsche Tageszeitung's allusion to the Kaiser as the "present representative of the House of Hohenzollern" is considered as indicating a preference for the Crown Prince. One particularly striking comment was Vorwaerts's declaration that an election in Saxony in which the Socialist candidate defeated his Conservative opponent, 9,661 to 8,763, was "a victory for peace by arrangement." This Socialist victory directs attention to the fact that recently four members seceded from the Social Democratic party and joined the independent anti-Kaiser group under Hase, increasing his party strength to twenty-four against eighty acknowledging the leadership of Schmedemann. This transfer of allegiance at this time is undoubtedly significant, for the Independents are vigorous and persistent critics of the government, outspoken advocates of peace. One speaker recently declared "Germany had to choose, not between peace or victory, but between obtaining peace by agreement or suffering ultimate collapse." These Independents have also vigorously attacked the military orders forbidding labor and other demonstrations. Hase himself said in the Reichstag: "If the workers in Leeds, Lyons or Milan demonstrate in the street for peace, they are hailed as the champions of peace by the entire German press; but if German workers of the same way they are attacked." It was from supporters of the Independent group that whole day arrests were made in many German towns before Christmas. Now even the mild Socialists are showing signs of dissatisfaction with prevailing conditions and the aggressiveness of the Pan-Germans. Schmedemann himself, in a recent speech, declared the "aber-rattlers and Pan-Germans will not rule after the war," and said the "small section of the German population" which "continues to make reconstruction difficult" with their anti-Socialist organization of obstacles must give way to a "communalism of production and a new system of the distribution of wealth." His declaration that "a tremendous fighting of power of the proletariat is taking place, and is now on in its initial stages," was hardly less significant than his "when the shot in this war has been fired we will cry, 'The war is dead; long live the struggle! We are marching on and if it must be, we shall storm ahead.'" Evidently there is reason for the French opinion that things are happening "across the Rhine" of tremendous import.