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That German Offensive in West

London, March 16.—"Disbelief in an early development of the much-talked-of German offensive on the western front is growing owing to the fact that after a period of weather favoring the air work preliminary to an offensive there still are no indications of the opening of operations on a big scale," said General Sir Frederick B. Maurice, director of British military operations, in his weekly talk this week.

General Maurice added that the recent aerial activity had been in favor of the British, whose aerial offensive had been steadily extended. The German raids on Paris, made under the guise of reprisals for British raids into German territory,

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ritory, were a clumsy attempt to create friction between the French and British. This was on a par with the German propaganda which sought to depreciate Great Britain's efforts in the war.

"America could not appreciate the fact," continued the general, "but it took time to create and place new armies in the field. During the period of British preparation France had to bear the brunt of the war."

"Now look around on the various theatres of war and consider the part Great Britain is playing. Over and above its naval contributions, Great Britain's military efforts are greater than could have been anticipated by anybody four years ago. Half the German forces between the North Sea and the Baltic are arrayed against the British front. The German propagandists have indignantly compared the length of the British front with that held by the French, but geographical measurements are not the supreme test of importance."

"At no period of the war have the German forces opposite the British been so great as they are now, either absolutely or relatively."

Gen. Maurice referred to the British assistance to Italy and to the British forces engaged against Turkey and against Bulgaria and to the expedition which was clearing the Germans out of their last colonial possession in East Africa. He emphasized the fact that he drew attention to these matters merely because of the German efforts to create the belief that Great Britain was using her allies and saving her own strength.

The War News.

(St. John Globe.)

The Entente Allies cannot afford to conclude a peace that leaves Germany stronger on any front than at the commencement of this German-made war. To justify the sacrifices of the past four years, the Allies must fight until what Mr. Aquith first described as a clean peace can be secured. Anything less leaves Germany an excuse for reopening the conflict at the first favorable opportunity. If this war does not secure freedom to small nations and make future wars impossible, Germany is the victor. Whether there have already been peace suggestions, or may hereafter come peace suggestions proposing terms that leave Russia the root of Germany, they must be rejected, no matter what Germany offers in connection with Belgium and France and Serbia and other Entente powers. As the passing days bring no evidence of the long anticipated enemy drive, doubt increases as to what may be the plan of campaign. There is no doubt about the transfer from the Russian front to France of large enemy forces, no doubt about the accumulation of guns and munitions; but whether these are for offensive or defensive purposes is the mystery. It is the view of those who profess real military knowledge that Germany must seek a decision in France this year, but the war has produced so many proofs that military knowledge is really clumsy guesswork that predictions of drives on Greece, on the British in Turkey in Asia, on India, all receive as

great credence as do the predictions of an early offensive against France or Italy. While plainly puzzled as to what will be the enemy's next move, the Allies are quietly confident of their ability to hold the Western front until American aid makes victory by greater weight a certainty, no matter what the enemy may attempt, no matter what the enemy may gain in the way of temporary success in other fields. So long as the Allies keep sea control and hold the Western front, the final outcome of the struggle need not be doubted. The Western front is safe, and the Entente decision to take control of neutral shipping provides tonnage sufficient to offset the losses of several months. Meanwhile shipbuilding goes on apace, and the destruction of enemy submarines assumes proportions that steadily increase the difficulties of operations.

Fresh Disorders In German Fleet

Petrograd, March 15.—Fresh disorders have occurred in the German fleet off the Aland Islands, according to the Russian military newspaper Krasnaya Armia. The Germans, it is added, have occupied Rzdziel'naya station on the Odessa railway line, and the evacuation of Odessa and Nicholiev is proceeding. The German Admiral Siegel has been appointed commander of Odessa. Before the occupation of Odessa by the Germans anti-Jewish riots occurred there.

German authorities have announced that German commissions with the power of veto will be appointed to the Russian ministries to control the fulfillment of the treaty of peace.

London, March 16.—Germany must count as accomplished the fact of an economic war after the war, and control by Great Britain and the United States of sea-borne traffic in raw materials, declares the pan-German Taegtsche Rundschau of Berlin, according to a despatch from the Hague to the Daily Mail. The Taegtsche Rundschau adds: "Germany must therefore exploit Persia and Siberia, Bremen and Hamburg, which so long have strained their eyes earnestly seawards, must for some time turn their gaze landward. Germany must make up her mind to exploit the countries available to her and these are the Balkan and Black Sea districts, followed by the Caucasus, the trans-Caspian district, Persia and Siberia."

Washington, March 16.—Inferences that Germany may have made a new peace offer to the Allies, proposing terms at the expense of Russia, coincided with an under-current of discussion which has been running in diplomatic circles here for some time, but which never has shown any evidence of tangible development.

The statement of Lord Robert Cecil in London yesterday that no such proposals would be considered, complied with Marshal Hindenburg's announcement that the German drive would go on in view of the Entente's unresponsive attitude toward Germany's peace intentions served to strengthen the view of neutral diplomats who for some time have believed that some sort of underground feelers have been going out.

American officials and Allied diplomats, while agreeing with Lord Cecil's statement that no such terms can be considered, give no evidence of how much may be known here of what Hindenburg refers to as Germany's peace intentions.

Some of the neutral diplomats, however, for some time firmly believed that Germany would be willing even to give up Alsace-Lorraine if she were permitted to retain her hold on the Baltic provinces and the mineral belts in the other nearby sections of Russia. The general current of opinion in diplomatic circles for some time has turned toward the possibility of Germany attempting to give way in the west and make up her losses in the east.

London, Mar. 16.—Fierce battles between Soviet adherents and natives have occurred in Turkestan according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Petrograd under Wednesday's date. More than 20,000 casualties are reported to have resulted.

London, March 16.—A conflict between the Maximists and Socialist revolutionists of the Left members of the Council of People's Commissaries occurred in Moscow, Friday, according to a report received here from the Petrograd telegraph agency. The Socialist revolutionaries refused to ratify the treaty of peace with Germany and said they were resolved to resign the moment the treaty is ratified by the all-Russian congress of Soviets.

German Finances And War Aims

(New York Times, editorial.)

Germany is beginning to think about her debt. Even her leading statesmen and financiers now see that the total is unmanageable in either peace or war. The former Vice-Chancellor, Count von Posadowsky-Wehner, puts it at thirty billion dollars, or more than twenty-four fold the pre-war total. In fact, the excess above what the President of the Reichsbank thought an unendurable maximum is five fold the pre-war debt. The interest charge is still less than the pre-war savings from total national income, but if the shrinkage due to the war should be deducted, it may be doubted that Germany's taxing power can find the interest. But this is only one of Germany's war troubles. In 1913 the Prussian railways had a deficit of a billion marks, and were in such a state of deterioration that they were becoming unequal to war demands. For this year the railway deficit is put at two billion marks, and the imperial railways "will have to take a few dozens of millions of marks from the State," according to the statement of the Prussian Minister of Finances.

Taking the European belligerents together, their aggregate pre-war debts of about twenty-three billion dollars have risen to about one hundred and twenty-seven billions. More than a third of their total wealth has been fought away, and they are burdened with currency increased eight or ten fold, which is more burdensome than the interest bearing debt. Germany's condition in these respects is not peculiar, but it is unique in the fact, that Germany has hitherto made no provision for the future. She has borrowed even to meet some portion of current interest charges, although other nations have provided by taxation for all interest and for a sinking fund contribution. Germany's intention has been to make the war pay for its cost. What is business with Germany in a sense that it is not with any other nation. Territory and trade are the object of Germany's wars. When she conquers a people she conquers their commerce, and "ties" it to her in a manner which is worse than that condemned by our courts when practiced by our conspiracies in restraint of trade. The indemnity paid to Germany by France turned Germany's head, and she sought another in this war. There are scores of expressions to that effect by her statesmen, editors, legislators

and public writers quoted in the documents circulated by our government.

One utterance of application to the news of the day gains significance from the fact that it was made when it was not imagined by others that Russia would be laid open to the enemy by its Bolsheviki: "The Russian south is the granary, the cockpit, and the mine of the Russian Empire. That is to strike Russia in her vitals. Russia must be thrust back from the Black Sea." Other nations fight wars for military victory. Germany fights for loot, not for the defence of the fatherland. The fact that Germany fights on enemies' soil is proof that she is the aggressor. Her military successes are her moral condemnation. We learn from an official circular that "industrial productive powers, the acquisition of colonies and of securities, are therefore the industrial purposes of the war." The reference to "securities" is to the twenty billions of marks in securities which should form part of the thirty billions of indemnity "simply to reimburse us for our war costs." The other ten billions were to be made up of two billions in gold and six or eight billions in exchange, the gold to bolster German internal finances and the exchange to be used for the purchase of material for the factories after the war. This is the picture which the leaders of German thought hold up before the Germans; it explains why they are loyal to their Kaiser. He makes money for them and keeps them from repining over their hardships by not taxing them, promising instead to loot their enemies. That rallies the Germans until they pawn their furniture and give their jewelry while their enemies respond to summonses to the colors for the defence of ethical and political principles.

Germany's enemies have only thought of taking from her what she has previously taken by the sword "with the help of God." Their thought of indemnity is only as punishment for wrongs done. Not one of our cobelligerents has sought payment from Germany as capital in trade, or has thought of annexing hostile peoples to be made loyal subjects by force. Germany does not proportion her indemnities to the wrongs done her, but to the profits which she needs and to her "war costs." It would be fitting that should bear the world's war costs, as a fine for her breach of all laws of God and man. Over and over again representative Germans have spoken of the "profit" of this war. It is impossible that there should be any profit above the cost. It is particularly impossible that profit should be allowed Germany. Her growing perception that she must bear her own war costs is a proof of her desparations. "World power or downfall" is Germany's rallying cry, according to Bernhardi.

Ballade of the Kaiser

From New York Life.

Write Bolsheviki play the fool, And sell their country to the Hun, And pacifists, with dream and dool, Sicken the long-enduring sun, While all is talk and nothing done. This much is sure, this much we know: Whate'er be lost, whate'er be won— The Kaiser and his kings must go.

Shattered must be that devil's tool, And ground into the dust the sod, Whose soul is like some filthy pool, Where the swine with gladness run, As lepers let the whole world shun. These partners in satanic woe: Even as they did to them be done— The Kaiser and his kings must go.

Oh, let no flaccid mercy cool The retribution scarce begun; Forget not Belgium and the ghoul, Unsatisfied with sword and gun, That maims the child and rapes the nun, And kills for sport his wounded foe. Mercy he gave not—we give none: The Kaiser and his kings must go.

ENVOI

Evince, we that toiled and we that spun, Weary of your imperial show, Fate calls the finish to your fun— The Kaiser and his kings must go.

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE.

Acquiring Entire Egyptian Cotton Crop

London, Mar. 18.—The British and Egyptian governments have founded jointly to acquire the entire Egyptian cotton crop beginning next August. A commission has been appointed to take control of the regulations.