

# Germany's Plot to Gas The World's Trade

## Great Chemical Syndicate Will Be the Backbone of the Teuton's Improved Aggressive Machinery

This is the fourth of a series of articles by Mr. Frost on the subject of Germany's invisible war of economic piracy.

By Stanley Frost

Germany's new trade attack, like her invasion of Belgium, caught the world asleep. Her mobilization was instant, her preparation complete, and she has been operating at every moment since the armistice was signed, and even before, right up to the limit permitted by its terms. Defeat, revolution, disorder, threatened Bolshevism and her much advertised industrial prostration, none has in the least slowed down her campaign or changed its course.

She started with her industrial

plant, her base of campaign, in splendid condition.

"It must be kept in mind," says a War Trade Board Report, "that in all of this time the German economic organization was not destroyed. The Allies may have shut off trade, destroyed some of the units, and damaged it by forcing it to remain idle, but it was very largely intact."

In addition she had added to her equipment millions of dollars worth of machinery stolen from Belgium, from northern France, and from Poland, three of the greatest industrial regions of the world. Incidentally she is making a great diplomatic fight at this moment to avoid restoring these stolen machines.

**Munition Plants Ready  
For New War**

Even during the war, preparations were completed for turning the great war plants to industrial uses, as speedily and efficiently as they were turned from the arts of peace to those of war in July and August, 1914. The great Krupp plant today is making typewriters! And on a stolen American patent! If the putative visitor from Mars should fly over Europe in an airship to-day he would never guess from the appearance of the regions of Lens and those of Essen and Ludwigshaven that Germany was a loser in the war.

Most menacing of all, she has during the war consolidated her industrial organization, following closely Herzog's plans. He says:

"In this statement are given the guiding lines for the construction of the state protective organization. Such a federation is to be compared to a large reservoir into which flow the carefully defined protective measures of the state, and also the special interests of industry. Here they mingle, to be unified at last in a quiet and clarified whole, the pressure of which finds its outlet through proper channels."

"Protective measures for the export trade are issued by a single body which is composed of state and industrial representatives, and which hands down its instructions to the individual federation."

**Machine Improved  
While War Went On**

So, during the war, the German government's control of all trade has been made firmer, the different industries have been organized—by force when necessary; new bodies for external aggression have been formed; the whole machine has been consolidated and made responsive to a single dominant and predatory Teutonic will. Materials have been gathered in great quantities to be thrown on the world market to beat down the competition that has grown up during the war. Finances have been reorganized. Finally the soldiers of the commercial and industrial army have received intensive training even in the prison camps of the Allied nations.

The reorganization began in the government. First, as a war measure, which it is now planned to continue, the importation of new materials has been centralized in a government institution, the Central Einkaufsgesellschaft. Importation of other goods for private account has been strictly regulated. Export has been permitted only under restrictions, and only when the shipper agrees to place the exchange received at the disposal of the Reichsbank.

**New Department to  
Manage Trade War**

Next there has been organized a new Imperial Department of Economic Affairs, the Reichswirtschaftsamt. This takes charge of social and commercial policy, matters affecting the welfare of labor, commerce and shipping, and economic questions affecting agriculture and industry. Its jurisdiction in commercial matters embraces questions of commercial policy, commercial treaties, the economic aspects of the tariff and taxation, and of mobilization and demobilization, insurance, corporations, banks, the stock exchanges, exhibitions of goods and matters concerning conditions of production at home and abroad, general statistics of the trade with foreign countries and weights and measures. It is Herzog's dream come to life.

Herzog also provides for solid trade federations. These have been formed, widely extending the cartel system, which Germany found so powerful and useful before the war. The most notable of these is the great chemical syndicate, uniting the whole tremendous industry; on

of the already powerfully consolidated bank system. In Germany, as in no other country, the banks are the active and direct partners of business. Practically all of the great trusts, old and new, were fathered by one of the four "Big D" banks, the Deutsche, Dresdner, Disconto and Darmstädter. The system centered, rather loosely, in the Reichsbank. Before the war there was some competition among these banks—competition that did not cost Germany money, always. Now they have agreed to sink their differences and put up a common front. There is much talk of an actual consolidation.

**Plenty of Labor  
For Huns' Factories**

Germany has suffered far less than the casualty figures show in the destruction of labor. In the first place, whenever possible she has kept her most skilled laborers in the factories, both for the sake of wartime production and for the sake of having them for use now. This has counted heavily, against England, where the volunteer system put the best and finest of her skilled labor in the trenches, and it was only after months, and heavy losses, that she began the combing out process that saved the remnant. In the second place Germany, a country where it was always a common sight to see a woman yoked with a cow for the ploughing, has used its women in its factories far more brutally and more efficiently than any other country. She plans to keep them there.

Germany's plans for the demobilization of her factories from a war to a peace footing have been made with the same care that marked her entrance into the war. The change

to commerce-war production can be made as quickly as was the change from peace to munitions. In one American-owned factory in Berlin, for instance, on the day war was declared, an order was received that a wagon should be sent to a certain place. There the Germans delivered tools, chucks, gauges, all the wherewithal for the manufacture of shell fuses, and all prepared to fit the machines in that particular factory. And the management did not know that the general staff knew anything about its machines. In twenty-four hours that factory was at war. The reversal will be as swift.

**Great Export Bodies  
Also Organized**

Another step in the Herzog plans is the organization of bodies to push the export trade. This, too, has been done, though not so completely as yet. More than fifty such bodies are now in existence to cover the gathering of information, propaganda, selling agencies, price fixing, rate making, legislation and all the other details of exporting. These all centre, finally, in four great bodies:

The "Handelvertragsverein" (Association for Treaties of Commerce), which is to collect information.

The "Deutsche Uebersee Dienst" (German Overseas Service), to handle and sell export products, care for credits, collections, etc.

The "Actiengesellschaft für in- und ausland Unternehmungen" (the Corporation for Foreign and Domestic Undertakings), capitalized at 25,000,000 marks, with the backing of banks and others having a great financial power, to form subsidiaries in foreign countries for floating railways, irrigation projects, elec-

trical plants, factories, development of mines and so forth.

The "Kolonialvertriebsverein" (Colonial Selling Association) (Colonial Buying Association), including fifty firms for the handling of colonial goods.

**New Unions to Pool  
Whole Natural Strength**

But this is not all. There are now being formed the "Verein fuer das Deutschtum in Ausland" (Union for Germanism Abroad) and the "Deutsch-Süd-Amerika Verein" (German-South American Union). And a bill has been submitted to the Reichstag—and the news suppressed by the censor—for the "Auslandamt," a single great corporation to have full charge of all German interests abroad.

The training which has been given the men who are to carry the German war abroad has been told many times. In every prison or internment camp the Germans have been studying, studying languages, trade needs, salamananship, customs of countries, technical trade matters, studying anything and everything that could help them to make or sell German goods.

The standardized German method of opening a trade fight is by dumping. Goods are thrown on the market at prices below cost till the competitor is stifled. In one American dumping campaign the buyers were assured by the Germans that they would cut a half cent under anything the doomed American concern could offer. They did it, too—till the American went under.

**Ready to "Dump"  
Dyes and Potash**

Germany's central industry is her dyes and chemicals. These come as

by-products of the explosives, and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of them have been gathered during the war. They are ready to be dumped, in America as elsewhere, at prices that will make the American buyer of dyes think heaven has come. Then when the new American dye industry is killed Germany will make us pay the costs of the dumping campaign.

The potash (fertilizer) industry has also grown in this country and the Germans need a monopoly of it as a bludgeon over us. Therefore great quantities of potash have been gathered, and Allied prisoners have been used to help accumulate this weapon against their own countries. There are dumping stocks ready in steel, and it is suspected in all other things in which Germany was not so very short of material that she had to send every ounce to the trenches.

A dumping campaign takes money. Germany, as a nation, may be bankrupt, and she may be crippled by the peace demands for reparations, but her great export industries are richer, far richer, than ever before. The profits of her iron, steel, coal and dye industries have been tremendous, and they are ready to pay for the campaign until the campaign begins to take care of itself through indemnities from beaten competitors. Nor are the banks poor—their balances, their deposits and their other resources have never been at so high a point.

Germany is prepared. And we? The methods by which Germany has prepared to use neutrals as "clocks" and camouflage to kick the trap she has set for the world, will be told tomorrow.

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**Ready to "Dump"  
Dyes and Potash**

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Good People  
We Are Not  
Quite Through  
With Our Part  
of This  
War Job**

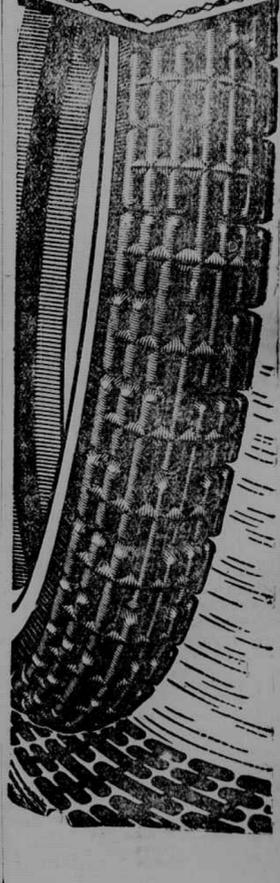
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An Editorial by A. W.

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