

SPAIN TO BE READY WHEN PEACE COMES

Railways and Water Routes Will Vie With Germans for Trade.

INVITE AMERICAN TRAVEL

King Alfonso and Ministry Are Behind Progressive Improvement Plans.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

MADRID, SPAIN, April 21.—While most of Europe is at war, Spain, detached, neutral, and far removed from the actual fighting, is putting her house in order for the period of reconstruction and revival which will follow the war. It is recognized that the fighting nations, comprising virtually all of Western and Central Europe, will be heavily burdened if not prostrate, financially, and in many other ways, for a generation or more after the war. This is true also of most of the neutral European nations, located in the midst of the fighting, like Switzerland, Holland, Denmark and Greece, which, though neutral, are so near the area of disturbance that they share many of its burdens.

Spain is the only European country so far removed geographically from the conflict that she feels little or no direct effect from the war. Life in the cities and the interior goes on as usual, with little or no change in industry, production, labor, finance and all the other branches which are being drained to the limit by the need of fighting men and supplies in the countries at war.

The submarine scare looked threatening for a time, but this has almost passed. Far Spanish industry is getting the coal it needs to keep the wheels in motion, and Spanish exports which fear the risks of ocean transport are getting out by new land routes eastward to France, and thence across the channel to England.

With Spain thus normal, while the rest of Europe is abnormal, she is in a position to look over her economic resources, bring them up to a more modern standard, and be ready for the important part she expects to take after the war. She is doing this in all branches of activity, particularly in modernizing her railroad system, developing her merchant shipping, improving her ocean ports, and considering new trade routes with the outer world which may make Spain the highway and commercial link between Europe and America, and between America and the vast traffic coming and going to the Mediterranean.

King Alfonso is taking a direct personal interest in this development, and his views are shared by the ministry and by public men without distinction of party. While details cannot at present be given, it can also be said that American capital and enterprise are likely to play an important part in this development.

Thus far British, French and German capital have been doing most of the development in Spain, and have not done it well, while now the appearance of this new factor of American capital promises a new order of things for Spain.

CRUDE RAILWAYS WILL BE REPLACED SOON

A new system of Spanish railways is now receiving very full consideration in the highest quarters, with some of the master-builders of America taking an important part. Spain is one of the few countries of Europe where the railroads are not owned by the state, but are farmed out to private parties.

WILL THIS CARNAGE EVER COME TO END?

Reviewing Fighting Spirit, German Major Sees Little Hope for Peace.

OFFICERS FROM THE RANKS

Writer in Teutonic Paper Comments on Democracy of Armies.

BERLIN, April 21.—Under the caption "Between the Battles," the Deutsche Tageszeitung publishes an article on the psychology of the present world war from the pen of Major Ernest Morath. The famous military critic says in part:

"The cannon, hand-grenade detachments and bomb-throwers never stop their activities entirely on the long fronts of our armies in the field, but from time to time a lull in the fighting comes. The millions of men in arms then take a deep breath and on the lips of every soldier is the mute question: When will the slaughter start again, and is it ever going to end?"

"The same question is asked by the people at home. The nation is proud of the courage and the successes of our invincible troops on near and distant fronts, but still it asks anxiously: Will the end of this carnage ever come? We desire peace, but our fervent hope must not be misconstrued. Our enemies firmly believed they would be able to break our resistance by their onslaught, and especially by the British starburst blockade. They waited two years for the critical moment and expected confidently that the third winter of the war would bring our collapse. With the aid of their extensive espionage system they tried to get an insight into the interior condition in the German empire and the dual monarchy. Listening at every door, so to speak, they uttered a shout of joy whenever they heard a sound of discontent from within our borders.

"In the meantime, our iron-hearted men in the field, although their souls were filled with the hope of peace, fought on with grim determination and foiled all attempts of our enemies to break down our walls of steel. Our officers, who come from all walks of life and represent all classes of the nation, are performing their duty as bravely as the professional soldiers who commanded our legions in the first year of the gigantic struggle.

"Young officers and also war correspondents, who never have been soldiers themselves, sometimes state that our armies are fighting without rage or hate. Such statements are always vigorously disputed by our enemies, who assure their own troops and people and the neutrals that the German soldiers are sick and tired of the war and no longer possess the will to win.

GERMANS ARE FIGHTING WITH HATEFUL RAGE

"The reports of inexperienced observers in regard to the alleged absence of hate and rage on the German fronts are incorrect and create a false impression, not only in foreign countries, but also at home. It would be a psychological riddle if our soldiers, in view of our losses and sufferings and the aims of our enemies, could keep their hearts free from hate and rage. On the western front, in the east and in Roumania, I always saw clenched fists and eyes aflame, with rage whenever battle was mentioned. And in the same frame of mind I found the Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian and Turkish soldiers whose fronts I have visited.

"The war is becoming more and more brutal, because our enemies are employing methods that had been discarded since the darkest days of the Middle Ages. Under such conditions the absence of wrath and rage in the German lines is psychologically impossible. It is true that troops daily exposed to all kinds of dangers and death lose the feeling of hate to a certain extent, but the fury of battle is always there when it is needed. This rage is as important and as necessary as the iron discipline which distinguishes the German army, because no officer or soldier who has any other thought but to destroy the enemy can do his full duty. Hand-to-hand fights are always won by the side that works itself into the greatest rage.

"In time of peace we have taken our co-workers in the education and training of the army from the ranks, and we are now reaping the benefits of this wise policy. Our legions are continually rejuvenating themselves, without losing their martial spirit and their efficiency. Many old officers have told me that they never dared to hope to see such preservation of the energy and war spirit of our armies.

OLD ROMAN ROADS OUTDONE IN ITALY

Caesar's Famous Highways Cannot Compare With Modern Net of Thoroughfares.

FINE ENGINEERING CORPS

War Has Forced Nation to Overhaul System of Transportation.

ROME, March 26 (By mail).—The Italian general staff has just made public a number of reports concerning the work done at the front and in the back lines by the engineering corps, and the facts disclosed afford a new and convincing proof that Italy, besides not contemplating a war of aggression against Austria, was even unprepared to repel an invasion.

The most convincing of these proofs is the fact that the Austro-Italian border lacked good roads such as would permit a rapid advance of the troops and the transportation of heavy artillery pieces and ammunition wagons.

The idea of the Italian general staff was to render the passage of large Austrian armies almost impossible or, at worst, delay their advance until the Italians had had sufficient time to concentrate their forces along the Po River and around the great famous, but now obsolete, quadrilateral command, among others, the fortresses of Verona and Peschiera.

ROADS PROVEN HANDICAP

When war was declared, the lack of good roads proved a great handicap to the operations of the Italian troops and greatly hampered their movements.

Besides, the engineering corps was anything but adequate to remedy the situation, and this explains in part why such a loss was accomplished in the first six months of the war.

The first thing General Cadorna did was to increase the number of engineering units by calling under the colors thousands of civil engineers and engineering students. The result was that within four months from the beginning of the hostilities the engineering corps of the army was more than doubled.

During the first year of the war 1,000 old roads on the Trentin, Cadore and Julian front, whose combined length was over 5,000 kilometers, were either widened or transformed from mule paths into good wagon roads. One thousand additional roads, traversing hundreds of small towns and connecting strategic positions, were opened to traffic.

Many of these roads have been cut in the sides of mountains and such peaks and masses that used to be the goal of the most daring mountain climbers. Where once the deer roamed undisturbed, the horn of the motor car is now heard.

"Nail a Flag to Your Plow"



"The Southern farmers can show their patriotism in no better or more convincing way than by resisting the great temptation of the present price of cotton and helping, helping upon a great scale, to feed the nation and the peoples everywhere who are fighting for their liberties and for our own."—PRESIDENT WILSON.

Fond of France, Alsations Hate Greedy Germans

Little Country Has Learned to Loathe Drunken Teutons Who Dominate People.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.)

PARIS, FRANCE, April 21.—If there is entertained anywhere a conviction that Alsace is German in spirit today, it is a superficial deduction lacking exactly what the Germans have never had—that is, the element of psychology, said Pastor Charles Wagner, author of "The Simple Life," speaking to the Associated Press about President Wilson's speech to the Democratic National Committee and the semi-official reply sent out from Berlin, in which it was declared that Alsace is today, as it always has been, German in language, tradition and sentiment.

The Germans claim Alsace as a German-speaking country; yet they themselves were surprised in 1870 to find a people there speaking a language similar to their own, yet so different in everything that goes to make up life," continued the pastor.

There were Alsations that might have been called 'half and half,' that had benefited from French culture and German science. That element thought that, if France should lose Alsace, it might become more and more a connecting link between the two countries. Indeed, the historical origin of Alsace would justify the conviction that the country had a great mission to perform in the world, but that mission was denied by the Germans. They would not admit that the Alsations could draw on two sources. They required that the annexed people should be French, that they should have only one pride and one glory, that of being German.

"I was a student at Strasbourg after the war of 1870, and saw the beginning of that new and painful era for Alsace. My first preaching was done there. I soon discovered that, if I remained, I could scarcely be anything more than a corporal of the Emperor. I left, because I didn't want to become a 'spiritual gendarme.'

FRENCH PEASANTS SEE A JOAN OF ARC

Claire Perchaud, Young Country Girl, Says She Has Visions.

FREE FRANCE OF GERMANS

Military Authorities Laugh at Maiden Sequestered by Parisian Nuns.

BY CHARLES F. BERTELLI.

International News Staff Correspondent.

PARIS, March 26 (by mail).—The whole of France is stirred from end to end by the reported appearance of another Joan of Arc in the person of a young peasant girl named Claire Perchaud, who claims that it has been revealed to her in visions that she is ordained to put herself at the head of the French army and drive out the German invader.

The mystery has deepened into one of the most extraordinary affairs for many generations, owing to the fact that the Catholic Church, apparently with implicit belief in the genuineness of Claire Perchaud, has sequestered her. She is now in charge of nuns in Paris, where none but the sisters can approach her.

At the Archbishopric, where I solicited a statement on the case, it was stated that the primates absolutely declined to discuss the girl with callers, "but," it was added, "you may say that the ecclesiastical authorities of France are making a profound inquiry into all the circumstances of the visions of Claire Perchaud. We have enjoined the strictest secrecy on all her relatives and the clergy who have interviewed her. We must refuse to give any opinion or to allow the matter to be referred to, even in the pulpit, until our inquiry has been completed."

The modern Maid of France is twenty years old, and is the daughter of a farmer living at Day-Saint-Benoit, near Cholet, a few miles south of the Loire, and not far from Chinon, whither Joan of Arc journeyed in the fifteenth century from her birthplace, Domremy, to place herself at the head of the army which drove back the English army then besieging Orleans.

Claire is a typical peasant girl in her dress and style, but instead of the plump, ruddy cheeks of the girls of the Vendee, she has the pale, anæmic look of a religious devotee, with deep-set, luminous black eyes. From her childhood she was somewhat of a mystic, with intense religious leanings. Although she helped her parents in their farm work for long hours every day, she never missed her religious devotions morning and evening, and for many miles around she was known for her precocious piety several years before the war broke out.

A few months ago she returned from the fields one day, pale and exhausted, and confided to her parents that while she was working the Sacred Heart appeared above her head and a blaze of glory. At the same time mysterious voices whispered to her to be up and deliver France from the German invaders.

The story spread like wildfire round the country, and then became a remarkable pilgrimage to her parents' farm by all the people of the countryside for many miles around. Poor peasant folk journeyed miles on foot, or by wagon or railroad, to lay before Claire photographs of fathers, husbands or brothers fighting for France at this moment, and, falling devoutly to their knees, to pray for divine protection for their soldier kin.

The clergy at the outset paid little heed to the story of the visions and its consequences, though the peasants rang with exhortations to the peasant people to rely on the mercy of Heaven to spare their men folk from the ravages of the German hordes. The mystery had become an obsession throughout the Vendee, the matter was referred to the Bishop of Poitiers, who immediately sent a father of the Oblats community to interview the maid.

NATION MAKING SEAMEN FASTER THAN ITS SHIPS

Several Thousand Embryonic Blue-jackets Are Preparing at Great Lakes Training Station.

SERIOUS ATTITUDE OF WAR

Instruction Period Has Been Reduced, and Squads Are Daily Sent 'Somewhere in the East' to Weigh Anchor in Atlantic.

(By Associated Press.)

LAKE BLUE, ILL., April 21.—Several thousand embryonic blue-jackets are being prepared at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station here to man the ships of the American battle fleet in the war with Germany. Since President Wilson proclaimed a state of war, the station, with barracks room for about 1,400 men, has been caring for between 3,000 and 4,000 recruits, and the number is increasing daily.

Heretofore it has taken about four months for a sailor to complete his training in the naval preparatory school. And the atmosphere about the station was not unlike that in the average Middle Western college. Surrounding the quadrangular parade ground, as college buildings surround a campus, are the barracks and executive offices. But the wartime recruits have brought with them a more serious demeanor than that of peace.

With mushroomlike rapidity a sand-colored tent city is rising above the growing grass of the reservations, that the overflow of men from the barracks may be cared for. Captain W. A. Moffett, commandant, has obtained the temporary use of 157 acres fronting on Lake Michigan and adjoining the reservation.

Plans have been made and orders issued looking toward the construction of the largest inland community of its kind in the world. Five thousand tents, to house almost 20,000 men, are to be pitched on the ground. Sewerage and water system is being established; kitchens are being built and streets laid out. Preparations also are under way for the erection of a wireless station, which will give the Great Lakes Department direct communication with the Navy Department at Washington.

RECRUITS IN SUNLIGHT MAKE JAUNTY APPEARANCE

Against a background of wooded bluffs which sweep majestically down to Lake Michigan, dimpled in the streaming sunlight, hundreds of trim young fellows in blue may be seen daily learning the rudiments of drill.

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

GERMANY LACKS LABOR

Cologne Gazette Calls for Neutral Help in Transporting Loads of Coal to Other Countries.

BERLIN, April 21.—Under the caption, "We Need More Laborers," the Cologne Gazette says:

"Germany has to supply several neutral countries, especially Holland, Denmark and Switzerland, with coal. The transportation of the enormous quantities of fuel we have to send across our borders is very difficult for us, because we are so short of labor. It is not unreasonable to ask the neutrals to help move the coal. The countries receiving coal from us must be asked to send a sufficient number of laborers to our mines."

The Vossische Zeitung wants reprisals against Denmark because it would not permit 600 mechanics and laborers, who had been engaged by German agents at very high wages, to come to Germany.

SEAPORTS WILL CONNECT WITH CENTRAL EUROPE

One of the chief purposes of the work, who are going over the situation here, is to connect one of the great seaports of Spain by a fast modern railway.

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

Sometimes our enemies talk of the 'suicide of Europe,' but they always repeat their determination to destroy and depopulate Germany. No peace is possible until we have destroyed their power.

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

RELIGIOUS DEVOTIONS

Every day Claire Perchaud, accompanied by two sisters, goes to the Church of the Sacred Heart, at Montmartre, and passes hours in religious devotions. Mention of this in the local papers sent thousands of people, mostly women, to the famous basilica in the hope of obtaining a glimpse of the mysterious girl, but to their intense disappointment, they found that she worshipped in a private chapel.

So profoundly has the affair gripped the imagination of the people that it threatens to develop into a political matter. Already the leading Socialist organ, L'Humanite, has publicly charged the clergy with persecuting Claire Perchaud, and with wantonly sequestering her.

This uncontrived hint of maltreatment has angered the Catholic press, which, while refraining from giving details on the strict orders of the

(Continued on Tenth Page.)