

GERMANS CONCEAL ENORMOUS DEBT

Berlin Economist Says Finance Minister Is Hiding Millions of Marks

TO DECEIVE THE ALLIES

Exports Really 34 Billions of Marks Behind Imports, Government Gives 22 Billions.

By RAYMOND SWING.

Staff Correspondent of THE HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. BERLIN, Oct. 9.—The intimation that the Finance Minister is deliberately withholding the extent of Germany's indebtedness, which is now estimated to amount to 417,000,000,000 marks, is contained in an article in the National Zeitung by Frederick Eder von Braun, President of the National Economic Parliament.

Simultaneously the Deutsche Zeitung flatly accuses the Government of presenting untruthful figures on German foreign trade to the Brussels conference, giving a far too favorable picture of German conditions.

"The memorandum prepared for the Spa conference," writes Herr von Braun, "gives the German indebtedness on March 31 of this year as 37,000,000,000 marks bonded debt and 100,000,000,000 marks floating debt—a total of 137,000,000,000 marks. About two months ago the Ministry of Finance declared there was a floating debt of 124,000,000,000 marks, and on September 29 we learned that it was over 151,000,000,000 marks, but in addition there are obligations, such as the railroad debt, to industrial States and to 40,000,000,000 marks more than at the end of March, when it is reasonable to assume, a careful inventory was made.

Indemnities Not Counted.

"But this does not include indemnification to citizens through the treaty of peace (merchant fleet, war supplies, etc.) or damages to property estimated at 131,000,000,000 marks, which must be regarded as a floating debt and brings the total debt of the nation to 416,700,000,000 marks.

"One must ask anxiously in the light of these shifting statements of the Finance Minister, is this now really all, or will we learn of more billions two months hence? Is it a case of shortsightedness, or is the tail of the dog being cut off gradually?"

Herr von Braun closes with the comment that this is a perilous debt for the German people of 7,000 marks and uses the facts in a dissertation on socialization in which he argues that socialization of the coal mines cannot help redeem German finances.

The foreign trade statistics that the Government prepared for the Brussels conference are repudiated and termed by the Deutsche Zeitung an unheard-of deception. The report showed a balance of trade in favor of Germany in April, 1920, of 576,000,000 marks, which in May reached 1,100,000,000 marks. How this could be would remain a riddle, if not for the newspaper, if it were not for a footnote revealing how irresponsibly the statistics were put together.

The exports, according to this note, were reckoned on the full market value, while the imports were reckoned on the mark value of 1919 and the actual values were used only in individual cases. The newspaper adds: "Since the greatest depreciation of our currency and the consequent rise in prices set in in the first quarter of 1920, it is apparent that these official statistics give a completely false picture of our foreign trade."

Exports and Imports.

Reference is also made to the reports by Dr. Behnen and Dr. Genzmer, based on the official figures but not attempting to estimate actual values. In 1919 they estimate the German exports as 24,000,000,000 marks behind the imports, while the Government gives the sum as 22,000,000,000 marks for the first quarter of 1920 they estimate the exports as 25,000,000,000 marks behind imports as against the official total of 6,000,000,000 marks. They found the import valuations of the Government needed to be multiplied by two and a half to come to a truthful result, and in some cases the Government calculated only a tenth part of the actual values of imports.

By their figures Germany's foreign trade for the first quarter of this year is: Imports, 37,500,000,000 marks, and exports, 12,000,000,000 marks. "How uncertain are the Government statistics is shown by the fact that the figures prepared for the Brussels conference vary considerably from the monthly reports, which begin to approach the results obtained by Behnen and Genzmer."

Illuminating figures upon Germany's industrial situation were given at the first National Congress of Workmen's Councils (Berliner Arbeiter-Räte) by Rudolph Wiesel, the Socialist former Minister of Economics, who declared that if Germany were to import now a like amount to her imports of 1913 she would spend 200,000,000,000 marks yearly.

"There is no one so optimistic as to believe we can manufacture for export one-half the goods to balance imports of such magnitude," he said. The German iron industry, he said, might next year obtain twelve million tons of ore and manufacture four and a half million tons of iron, or less than a fourth of past time production. Last year Germany produced six and a half million tons of iron, but she had available two and a half million tons of shells from her war stocks as material.

Rumors are going through the press that the railroads may pile up a 40,000,000,000 mark deficit next year. The Transportation Ministry has issued a denial setting the figure as more than 25,000,000 marks this year, but no increase next year.

BOURGEOIS TO REPORT ON ROOT COURT PLAN

Will Spring Sensation, Says French Paper.

Special Cable Despatch to THE HERALD. Copyright, 1920, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. PARIS, Oct. 10.—Leon Bourgeois, president of the League of Nations Council, is preparing a report upon the international court plan submitted by the League and other jurists. The report will be presented at the next meeting of the council, which takes place at Brussels October 20.

L'Interpellation says that the Bourgeois report will cause a sensation, but it does not state whether the author has amendments to propose to the Root plan. It is well known that M. Bourgeois favored a provision to give the league power to enforce its decisions. His attitude on this point is in keeping with the French idea that the league must have force behind it to justify its existence.

Few Large Profits Made by Farmers Before 1919

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—Results of investigations covering seven years in two farming communities, and five years in a third, made by the Department of Agriculture, show that comparatively few farmers made large profits in the years preceding 1919, despite higher prices for farm products. The average return on farm investment, the department found, increased from about four per cent. to seven per cent. and yet most of the farmers made less than \$500 cash a year over and above the things the farm furnished toward the family living.

The three groups of farms studied were located in Washington County, Ohio; Clinton County, Ind., and Dane County, Wis.

DOLLAR BASIS FOR THE WORLD'S MAILS

Postal Union Congress Sets Gold Standard for Transit Payments.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

MADRID, Oct. 10.—Changes of sweeping importance in postal relations of the world will be effected as a result of the deliberations of the International Postal Union Congress. Several committees already have drafted their reports, which must be submitted to the full general committee and thereafter to the whole Congress for final approval, but as the committees in most cases fairly represent the views of the entire body of delegates their reports are virtually certain of acceptance.

The notable item upon which the committees reported favorably are: 1. The establishment of international payments for the transit of mails on a gold dollar basis. 2. The fixing of an increased maximum rate for postage on international mail, but with the proviso that the United States and other countries may retain the present rates or fix their rates according to their own ideas as long as they do not exceed the maximum accepted by the Union.

3. In future Congresses only parent countries will have voting power, colonies being excluded from voting, although they may send delegates. 4. The creation of a pan-American Postal Federation.

The Eastern and Western hemispheres were sharply divided on the question of an increase in international postal rates, the Americas opposing augmentation on the ground that such a measure was calculated to injure commercial interests greatly and was unnecessary for revenue purposes. The new maximum rate had not yet been fixed definitely by the committee having the matter in hand, but the United States and the Latin American countries declared clearly they would not agree to an increase. The committee finally accepted the position that the Western hemisphere could fix its own rates if they did not exceed the maximum eventually adopted by the Union.

A far reaching decision was arrived at by the United States and South and Central America with reference to future postal arrangements. An executive committee was nominated for the creation of a Pan-American postal federation, to include every republic of the western side of the Atlantic. The new organization, it is announced, will come into being and begin its functions after the congress at Buenos Aires in August, 1921.

An innovation in the congress was the presence of a woman delegate in the person of Miss Elizabeth Lee Woods, who without voting power represented the United States jointly with Second Assistant Postmaster General Otto Praeger and S. M. Weber, assistant superintendent of foreign mails. Miss Woods was an excellent speaker. In French Saturday which was well received.

'NOT GOVERNMENT, BUT ANARCHY IN IRELAND'

Mr. Asquith Says Lloyd George Condone Reprisals.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—Herbert H. Asquith, the former Premier, has issued a statement commenting on Premier Lloyd George's speech at Carnarvon, characterizing it as "a declaration of insolvency on the part of the Coalition Government."

HEALTH MOVE IN MARRIAGES.

Applicants for Licenses Warned to Consult Physician.

BERLIN, Oct. 10.—Candidates for matrimony who apply for marriage licenses at the registrar's office now are handed a special bulletin of the Imperial Board of Health urging them to consult a physician and obtain a clean bill of health before marrying.

JEWISH RELIEF IN RUSSIA.

Negotiating With Wrangel to Extend Aid in South.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—Considerable concern is felt in Jewish circles here over the problems confronting relief organizations in different parts of Russia. The Central Relief, recently organized by European Jews at the Carlsbad Conference, is extending its activities.

PURCHASE PRICES CUT IN HALF.

Purchasing Agents in Convention Predict Heavy Slump.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10.—A falling off in prices amounting in some instances to as much as 50 per cent. will take place within the next six or seven months, according to the opinion expressed today by delegates to the convention of the Purchasing Agents' Association, which will open to-morrow.

PLEBISCITE IS HELD IN LOWER AUSTRIA

Officers of Allied Armies Act as Arbiters.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

KLAGENFURT, Lower Austria, Oct. 10.—The plebiscite to decide whether this region shall remain under Austrian sovereignty or become a part of Jugoslavia, proceeded smoothly to-day and there were no reports of disorders. The voting was rapid and the results probably will be known Monday. The presence of British, French and Italian officers in each voting district to act as arbiters and witnesses exercised a quieting influence and it is thought averted the trouble which had been anticipated.

The voting to-day was only in the southern zone. If it goes to Austria the northern zone will follow automatically. Otherwise, a plebiscite will be held in the northern zone within three weeks. In the event of the Jugoslavs losing it is rumored a military coup will be attempted. This rumor arises from the fact that there is a large number of Jugoslav officers and gendarmes within the zone and considerable military forces on the border. The Austrians have no troops in the region and only a small police force of volunteer officers is patrolling.

ALBERT TO VISIT PORTUGAL.

Lisbon, Oct. 10.—King Albert of Belgium on the return journey from South America will disembark at Lisbon, whence he will journey overland to Brussels. During his few hours stay here the monarch will visit President Almeida.

DELEGATES TO ADRIATIC TALK

Belgrade, Jugoslavia, Oct. 10.—The Cabinet designated the Foreign Minister, M. Trumbitch, and the Minister of Commerce, Mr. Jitchitch, as the plenipotentiaries of Jugoslavia to the forthcoming conference of delegates of Italy and Jugoslavia to discuss the pending Adriatic question.

BARCELONA MAY TRY METHOD OF ITALIANS

Military Forces Would Be Neutral, Despatch Says.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—The industrial situation in Barcelona, Spain, is described as extremely critical in a Madrid despatch to the Exchange Telegraph to-day. A general strike is considered imminent, according to the despatch. The troops and police in Barcelona are being re-en-

forced and it is thought likely martial law will be declared. The Barcelona correspondent of the Sol says that in the event of the workers emulating the Italians in seizing factories the military forces will observe strict neutrality.

TROOPS ON SPANISH BORDER.

Lisbon, Oct. 10.—The presence of 35,000 Spanish troops on the Spanish frontier is commented upon here, but the newspaper Capital suggests to-day that the concentration is due to the autumn manoeuvres. King Alfonso is attending the manoeuvres.

ROTARY CLUB Activities

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The Aftermath

THE American boys were trained to the minute to do their job in France. They made good. The price was paid. The Armistice was signed. Then came the reaction—physical and mental.

What Exists The public must be educated to understand that the overseas men who have not been gassed or injured may be normal, but many of those who were gassed, injured or were in hospitals are not normal. Many of the boys who were discharged as physically well, because they wanted to get out of the service, and thought they were well, now find it was a mistake, and they need medical attention and financial help.

Two Roads When the soldier leaves the Government hospital, still needing medical treatment, or is temporarily or permanently unable to work, he should be directed to the office of the War Risk Bureau, at 23 West 43rd Street. Here his physical condition will be attended to, and his claim for compensation will be acted upon. Any time after being discharged, if he finds himself in need of medical attention, he should apply to the War Risk Bureau the same as if just discharged.

The Other Road The Government believes in the rehabilitation of the ex-service man. Congress appropriated \$90,000,000 for this purpose for the year 1920-1921, and has placed on the Federal Board for Vocational Training the responsibility of carrying out the plan. Any honorably discharged ex-service man who is found by the Board to be vocationally handicapped as a result of a disability traceable to service may, if training is feasible, receive such training, at the expense of the Government, as will overcome his handicap and restore him to employability; and during the training period he will receive at least \$100.00 per month in Metropolitan New York for his living expenses, with additional allowances for dependents up to a maximum of \$170 per month. The office is at 23 West 43rd Street.

The Public should understand that when the boy is restless, impatient, discouraged and unable to concentrate and hold his job, it may not be his fault, but a result of what he has gone through. Give him time and he will make good here as he did over there. He does not want charity nor sympathy, just a square deal.

The Business Men of this city should and will meet these boys to help them solve their problems and act as vocational advisers. This contact between the business men and the sick, injured or disabled ex-service men will be of mutual advantage. These post-war problems are being backed by business and professional men, representing every line of business endeavor. What can you do? For further information of any kind call at Rotary Club Headquarters, 22nd floor, Hotel McAlpin, 34th St. and Broadway, N. Y. Telephone Pennsylvania 789.

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