

RUSSO-GERMAN LEAGUE THREAT PROPAGANDA

Scheme Designed by Erzberger for Home Consumption to Counteract "Rhenish Republic" Movement Fostered by France

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger With the Peace Delegation in Europe. Paris, June 13.—(By Mail).—In the Erzberger letter published here the other day, the world heard from the other side of the trench that has been dug across Europe, from that vague future to meet which the alliance, if you may call it that, between England, France and the United States is proposed. What is whispered here in four was uttered far across the Rhine as a menace. Much of the peace treaty was written with the picture of the future which the German leader painted in the minds of the peace makers. It was to be, said Erzberger, the continent of Europe against the non-continent and non-European powers of England and the United States.

It was, he said, Rome and Carthage all over again. Hannibal was once more at the gates of Rome (Germany). But, as every one remembers, that little circumstance, which makes good reading for schoolboys, did not prevent Rome from achieving world dominion. Neither would it again, reasoned Erzberger. Germany would elasp hands with Russia and the world would be at the feet of the combination.

Picture Causes Shudder You may hear a great deal of that sort of talk in Paris. The world's very best prophets are all here in Paris. You may stop almost any man on the street and learn just what the future holds in store. Our leading political and military experts read the treaty and its remarks:

"They have thrown Russia into the arms of Germany. They have thrown China into the hands of Japan. In ten years a new combination will exist, Germany, Russia and Japan at the head of the millions of China."

You add up the populations of these four countries, three of them among the most populous of the world, and shudder. You want the trench that has been dug across Europe dug a little deeper.

France the Anglo-Saxon Outpost Now the Erzberger doctrine, as enunciated in Paris, was originally nineteenth century propaganda and one-tenth honest fear. In the end it became nine-tenths honest fear and one-tenth propaganda. You see it was highly successful propaganda. A propaganda which converts belief into a great hope or a great fear is great propaganda. France is the military outpost of the Anglo-Saxon combination. It occupies in the first instance the trench that has been dug across Europe. Its job is to hold until the Anglo-Saxons, a bit slow by nature and remote from the scene, come up to the fight. And its job is to hold so well that the enemy to the east will never get near enough London, one of the twin capitals of the Anglo-Saxon combination, to bring London under its big guns.

At about the time his letter was published here a council was being held in Berlin to counteract the separatist tendencies developing within the German empire. And a few days ago took place the formation of a new republic west of the Rhine, independent of Prussia but remaining formally at least part of Germany, while really looking for close and friendly relations with France.

At the same time France was reminding England that the English sovereigns, descended from George the Third, who did so much to make America what it is, were anciently Hanoverians, and that Hanover fell deeply this tie, George the Third thus proving a force for union as well as disunion.

All Anxious to Quit Germany Catholic Bavaria and Catholic East Prussia were casting eyes in other directions toward Berlin. The Danes had just rushed to Paris, being filled with suspicion that certain Germans near them harbored the intention of surreptitiously entering the peaceful kingdom of Denmark under cover of a promise that the Peace Conference had ordered.

In other words, every German who had a chance was casting about for a means to become a Frenchman, a Hanoverian, an Englishman, a Dane, a Pole or citizen of an independent republic erected out of a part of Germany. A German is going to lie under two heavy burdens, the burden of international hatred and the burden of a great war debt to escape both.

It was to a people in this state of mind that Erzberger addressed his letter. It was propaganda pure and simple. "Cives Romani estis," he said; "why join Carthage? You remember what happened to Carthage." The possibility, nay the certainty, of world domination lay before the Germans if they would only remain Germans and not rush away into the other camp that was temporarily victorious.

American Has Different View American estimates of Germany's future do not agree with Herr Erzberger's. For example, such a man as Herbert Hoover thinks that if the proposed treaty is carried out it will be necessary for 12,000,000 Germans to emigrate from Germany in the next few years and find employment elsewhere. Left in the condition in which the defeat has left her Germany cannot support her present industrial population. More than that, her people can not multiply as they have in the past. The material basis of future greatness is gone; even the material basis for maintaining present greatness is gone.

Germany's Huge Material Losses Germany was built up on the possession of a vast store of raw materials. What she lacked she made favorable contracts for in the rest of the world. As a result of her defeat she has lost more than half her store of natural resources and she has lost all her contracts. She has lost seventy per cent of her iron and thirty per cent of her coal.

Nor do coal and iron tell the whole story. Before her Germany had a monopoly, or nearly one, of potash. Now France in Alsace-Lorraine will enter the markets as an effective competitor of Germany in this commodity.

In addition German manufacturers had valuable phosphate contracts in Algeria, valuable bauxite contracts in France, valuable plants for the manufacture of certain metals in the United States. She has lost them all. She has lost, moreover, her colonies. She has lost her mercantile shipping. She has lost docks and shipping facilities all over the world. She has lost the private property of her citizens in all the Entente countries. She is to be burdened with a big debt. Rivals of her dye and chemical plants have started up everywhere. Tariffs will make other markets difficult of entry for her with her old specialties, for all nations will desire to protect their war stimulated industries.

One American economic expert who has been working on the peace treaty here in association with Mr. Baruch told me it would be one hundred years before Germany becomes once more as great as she was when she precipitated the world war. In the meantime the United States and the British empire, the latter through its colonies, will have grown far beyond their present size and wealth and Germany will be relatively a small nation. It is likely that France, with her iron and phosphates, especially northern Africa, if she develops the capacity for modern industrialism, will have passed Germany before a century is passed.

Another American expert said: "It will be years before Germany comes back. And when she does come back it will not be as the great nation she once was. She will never again be able to challenge the world for supremacy."

Russia as an Element In Herr Erzberger's dream of world supremacy Russia is an important element. Having lost a large part of her own natural resources Germany turns

naturally toward the undeveloped natural resources of the east. Allowed the raw materials of Russia and the opportunity to organize and use the millions of that unhappy country, Germany might indeed become the great continental power that she dreamed of being. But even that overlooks the control of the sea, which has always determined the course of history. And the British-American mastery of the sea is the most complete in history. And no great naval power can be built of Russia, which is now almost without ports, and of Germany, stripped of her right to make the Baltic a German lake.

The assurance of the permanence in what has been lost at Paris lies in the working together of the two great powers of the world. The basis of peace is the amity of England and America and the self-restraint these two powers show in their dealings with the rest of the world. The hope of the league of nations lies in the moderation and sense of justice of these two great powers. They want peace. They have an international conscience, and the league provides the necessary machinery.

China Furnishes Precedent And why should not the precedent that has been established in China be followed in Russia? Why should not the great powers co-operate in furnishing capital, inviting the smaller nations to join according to their capacity and thus make the economic relations of Russia in the future international, instead of predominantly German, English or American?

At any rate, the kind of international action which has been begun in China is capable of stopping the economic "drang nach Osten" through Russia and Siberia that Herr Erzberger talks of and which a great continental combination against the Anglo-Saxon implies.

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But the group which controls the world has still another hold upon Germany. They are its creditors, probably for a generation to come. Under any treaty which is made they will have great powers over Germany. They also sit in the executive council of the league of nations.

The powers which the big five have are remarkable. No state may change the boundaries fixed by the treaty without consent. Therefore no state can leave Germany without approval. On the other hand, not only may they approve changes in Germany's make-up, but they can offer financial inducements to bring about such changes. And under the principle that the rights of minorities in states are the rights of majorities the big five may enter Germany and interfere apparently on the behalf of individual states or parts of states.

They cultivate relations with parts of Germany which will make them more pro-Entente as the Rhenish lands now are, rather than pro-Prussian. They can split Germany into independent states and cause the empire of the kaiser to follow the course of its empire of the czars and the empire of the sultan and the empire of the Hapsburgs.

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