

How Is It With Europe?

How far is Europe from financial and social bankruptcy?

A summary of facts gathered first hand by Henry P. Davison.



Henry P. Davison

HOW far is Europe from financial and social bankruptcy? is a question of vital importance to all the world. Herewith is a concrete summary of facts of great value on this question, gathered at first hand by Henry P. Davison. Concerning these facts and the man who gathered them Rowland Thomas in the New York Sunday World makes this statement:

At this time Mr. H. P. Davison, partner in the firm of J. P. Morgan, seems more thoroughly qualified than any other person in America to express an authoritative opinion on conditions in Europe.

He has an extremely keen, clear mind. He is a man of the largest affairs, accustomed by many years of business experience to grasp the essential details of complex situations. And on top of his unusual personal qualifications as a trustworthy observer and reporter, he has just, through his position as head of an international organization, had put in his possession the latest and complete mass of information obtainable anywhere. He is chairman of the board of governors and therefore ex-officio head of the League of Red Cross societies which comprises all the Red Cross societies in the world except those of the central powers, and has just returned from the first conference of this organization, held in Geneva.

At this conference the European situation was the main object of consideration, and to give a basis for discussion and action, experts were brought in from the field all over Europe and their first-hand reports were received and examined. The result was the composite picture of post-war Europe in the winter and spring of 1920 which Mr. Davison holds in his mind.

By fixed rule, Mr. Davison does not give interviews to individual representatives of the press, nor write signed statements for individual papers. He has not broken his rule in this instance. This is not an interview. But when his unique position as a source of information was pressed on his attention, he granted the Sunday World access to his data, and what follows may be taken as a substantially accurate and complete statement of the facts as he sees them. Its significance can therefore hardly be overemphasized.

"The catastrophe," wrote Mr. Balfour, chairman of the Council of the League of Nations, to the Red Cross conference at Geneva, "is of unexampled magnitude," and in the same communication referred to "the horrors with which we are faced," and stated they had reached "appalling proportions."

These are very strong expressions, coming from a personage of such standing. They indicate a recognition of disaster.

Is there any hope of setting matters right? Can Europe "come back"? Or is she bankrupt? The present summary of known facts will be an attempt to indicate an answer to that question.

At the outset it is necessary to clarify the situation by making certain distinctions. Europe stretches over 3,800,000 square miles. Its people number 469,000,000, more than a quarter of the globe's estimated population. Furthermore, at present Europe as a unit is non-existent, if it ever existed. It has been split by the war into various groupings, in which conditions widely differ.

The neutrals, unravaged Spain, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, with over 40,000,000 population, constitute one group. Defeated Germany and Austria form another. Russia is a third. The "Big Four" of the European allies—England, France Italy and Belgium—are another. And the less stabilized countries of the central and eastern regions are a fifth. Between these groups conditions vary greatly, and this must be kept in mind in considering whether Europe is solvent or bankrupt.

About our principal allies in the west there is no question. They are strongly going concerns still, and, despite their own distress, are doing their best to pull their neighbors out of the Slough of Despond. The French peasant is working, and the French artisan, despite a sad need of raw materials, has not lost his habit of industry and thrift. The encouraging fact about France today is that her people are fully alive to the seriousness of her problem and are going forward bravely to solve it.

Italy, too, despite her great shortage of raw material, is looking forward, not backward, led by one of the great men produced by the war, Mr. Nitri. He is a truly wise statesman, and under his leadership Italy can be relied on to do her part by herself and her neighbors. Belgium, as might have been expected, is strongly on the mend, and England is meeting her problems of reconstruction with quiet courage and sturdy common sense. She is doing each day's work, and at the same time rendering all assistance her resources will permit to the countries on the continent.

clothing are insufficient to make life tolerable. Particularly in the broad belt lying between the Baltic and the Black seas there is appalling misery. This great area includes the new Baltic states, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Montenegro, Albania and Serbia, to say nothing of Russia eastward and Armenia to the south. In all that region there is almost complete paralysis of national life and industry.

All that part of Europe has today a tremendous number of idle people. Many of them want to work. But there is a great shortage of raw materials with which to work, and the import-export situation seems all but hopeless. Such has been the output of paper money and so much greater is the need of imports than the possibility of exports under existing conditions that these countries have nothing, either money or goods, with which to purchase from outside what they need to sustain life itself, to say nothing of supplies for the revival of industry. They totter on the brink of utter ruin, from which nothing but a helping hand can save them.

The depreciation in the currencies of some of these countries, as valued in dollars, is unbelievable. According to market quotations of April 10, it ran as follows:

Austria97.53%
Hungary97.48%
Germany92.32%
Greece43.26%
Roumania91.81%
Poland97.98%
Czechoslovakia92.78%

In other words, if the peoples of these countries tried to buy materials and supplies in America at the present market values of their currencies, Austria would have to pay approximately 40 times the normal cost, Germany 13 times, Greece just double, Czechoslovakia 14 times and Poland 50.

These figures are official and are the only index which can briefly give any comprehension of the economic conditions inside these countries. Their currencies are depreciated because they have neither gold nor sufficient production with which to maintain their normal position with the United States or with their immediate neighbors. Until each such country is able to produce sufficient to maintain itself, either from within or by importing in exchange for gold or goods, it cannot hope for normal conditions, if indeed it can hope to survive. There is nothing difficult of comprehension about the situation. Somewhere, somehow, some time, those countries must become possessed of food, clothing, raw materials and the means of transporting them, or they must perish. Economically and politically, they are crippled to a point threatening complete paralysis, while at the same time the people are ravaged by destitution and disease. The broods of the latter on the war-worn and undernourished population has reached the proportions which Mr. Balfour called "appalling."

Men, women and children are dying by thousands, and over vast once civilized areas there are neither medical appliances nor medical skill sufficient to cope with the sanitary crisis.

In the Ukraine, winter of 1918-19, typhus and influenza affected most of the population. In villages of 2,000 and 3,000 half the people would be ill of typhus at the same time. Many physicians attended a territory 40 miles in diameter. Some who had 20,000 to 30,000 typhus patients could get no medical supplies whatsoever, and could give only oral encouragement to their sick. And this year the condition is even worse. Pauperism is becoming more and more intense. Prices have advanced steadily.

In Austria, according to a report dated February 12, there were in Vienna rations for three weeks. People were apathetic, fatalistic and tired, and there was an epidemic of dancing. One dance was attended by 4,000 people, half of whom had had no dinners. Refusing to go home, they danced until exhausted. One hundred thousand school children were underfed and diseased as a result of food shortage, lack of fuel and inadequate hospital facilities. Crime was increasing among the child population, hunger sometimes driving little boys to attempts at murder. The

population of Vienna was literally famished. The general death rate had increased 46 per cent since 1913, and the death rate from tuberculosis 250 per cent. Many children of one year had not surpassed their weight at birth. The middle class, living on salaries, were selling their belongings to buy even the government ration. One meal for one person cost 6 kronen at the municipal kitchens, while the salary of a professor was 77 kronen a month. An overcoat cost three months' salary of a court justice, and a second-hand Renault automobile sold for an amount equal to 17 years' salary of the chancellor.

The following is taken from a communication from Sir William Goode, British director of relief:

"All official and other reports which reach me give no hope of improvement in the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. The misery of the outlook in many parts, particularly in Austria, Poland and Armenia, is worse than ever. * * * The marshallled charity of the world, government and unofficial, will not alone heal the disease from which Europe is suffering. Increased production and the restoration of economic order out of political and economic chaos are the only solutions of the problem that now defies the ingenuity of those who face it."

Such is the picture of conditions in the spring of this year of our Lord 1920—according to the information gathered by Mr. Davison during a two months' stay overseas, where he joined in conference with representatives of 27 nations.

How is that aid to be rendered? A week ago last night, at a dinner given to him at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, Mr. Davison spoke at length of conditions as he had found them, and indicated what seemed to him the only possible courses of remedial action. To quote from portions of his speech:

"Any voluntary aid, to become effective, can only follow the provision of such essentials as food, clothing, and transportation, which must be given if the peoples are to live and be restored to a condition of self-support, and the need of which is so vast that it cannot be given by voluntary organizations, but must be supplied by governments. Upon assurance from the league of nations that food, clothing and transportation will be supplied by governments, the League of Red Cross societies shall at once formulate plans for the immediate extension of voluntary relief within the affected districts, appealing to the peoples of the world, through the Red Cross organizations, for doctors, nurses and other necessary personnel, medical supplies, diet foodstuffs, and such money as may be required. * * *

"We are going to find out that we can no more escape the influence of the European situation of today than we were able to escape the war itself. You cannot have one-half of the world starving and the other half eating. We must help our Europe on its feet or we must participate in Europe's misery. * * * We find ourselves the only country possessed of many of the supplies which Europe needs and which cannot be purchased or given in sufficient volume on credit. As a nation we should at once arrange to place within the reach of those peoples that which they need to save them and start them on their way to recovery. * * * The situation has developed so far and so seriously that there is no possibility of its being met in any other way. * * *

"I have always been an optimistic American, because of my supreme confidence in the ultimate judgment of the American public upon any question submitted to them. I believe that as soon as we realize the truth and effect of such statements as I have made, we will take steps worthy of the traditions of the American people. Therefore the responsibility upon everyone of us is to do whatever may be in our power to the end that the American people may have a clear understanding of what it all means, that they may the sooner declare themselves. * * * Not until the prior and fundamental step is taken of furnishing by government action the necessary elements, food, clothing and transport, will we, the American people, properly have established ourselves among the peoples of the world and be in a position to leave a creditable heritage to those who are to come after."

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NOBLE RELICS OF THE PAST

Triumphal Arch of Titus, at Rome, and the Colosseum, Are Splendid in Their Ruin.

The Triumphal Arch of Titus in Rome, was built in 70 A. D. to commemorate the defeat of the Jews, and was dedicated to the Emperor Titus after his death. It is adorned with fine sculptures in relief. On the frieze outside is a sacrificial procession and on the inner side Titus is seen crowned by Victory in a quadriga driven by Roma. On another part of the arch is a triumphal procession of Jews, the Table of Shew Bread, and the seven-branched candlestick. In the center of the vaulting the consecrated emperor is seen being carried to heaven by an eagle.

In 1882 the arch was a set of ruins, and some of the medieval additions were removed and it was partly reconstructed. The colosseum, with seats for 50,000 spectators, originally called the Flavian amphitheater, was completed by Titus in the year 80 A. D., and derives its later name, probably, from a colossal statue of Nero. The colosseum is now all in ruins.

The Proper Place. "I say, Pat, did you impress that mustard plaster on your mind?" "No, sor on the back of me neck."

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Place Knew Her No More. Husband—That new maid is certainly quiet. One would never know that she was about the place. Wife—She isn't. She left this morning.—London Tit-Bits.

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All Suffer Alike. It is an eternal truth in the political as well as the mystical body that "where one member suffers, all the members suffer with it."—Junius.

WOMEN NEED SWAMP-ROOT

Thousands of women have kidney and bladder trouble and never suspect it. Women's complaints often prove to be nothing else but kidney trouble, or the result of kidney or bladder disease. If the kidneys are not in a healthy condition, they may cause the other organs to become diseased. Pain in the back, headache, loss of ambition, nervousness, are often times symptoms of kidney trouble. Don't delay starting treatment. Dr. Kilmor's Swamp-Root, a physician's prescription, obtained at any drug store, may be just the remedy needed to overcome such conditions. Get a medium or large size bottle immediately from any drug store. However, if you wish first to test this great preparation send ten cents to Dr. Kilmor & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. When writing be sure and mention this paper.—Adv.

Their Native Locality. "I see they are eating camels in Paris." "Do they serve them for the desert?"

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WILLING TO STRIKE BARGAIN

Wife Quite Ready to Abandon Style if Her Hubby Would Only Do His Part.

She was one of those dress women who always wear the latest thing whether it suited her or not.

One day her hat touched her nose; next week it rested on the back of her neck. Her last frock barely covered her shoe tops, her new one huddled round her ankles. Oh, she was always "it!"

Her husband was no passive resistor. Regularly he raised his voice in protest at each craving after fashion. But the one thing that really annoyed him was when she suddenly snatched her hair straight back from her forehead on top and trained it down like window curtains on each side of her face.

"Look here!" he said, in exasperation. "Can't I induce you to stop wearing your hair over your ears?" "Certainly!" she replied, with a charming smile. "Buy me diamond earrings."

Something Wrong. "That guy you seen me wit' just now is either a liar or some kind of a nut!" declared Silk Shirt Slick of 12th street. "What's the matter wit'im?" returned Nimble the Nick. "He looks all right; classy dresser, too." "Yeah! But when I asked him how he made his money he said he earned it. Wouldn't that twist yeh?"—Kansas City Star.