

GERMANY MUST PAY

Nation Will Never Be Able to Make Amends for Damage.

FERTILE SOIL IS DESTROYED

Innumerable Unexploded Shells Will Make Cultivation Precarious—Doubtful If Land Can Be Reclaimed.

By WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

What must Germany pay for? That question can be adequately answered only when it is remembered that Germany started the terrible conflict in Europe for no reason other than that of conquest and loot; started it only to satisfy the selfish ambitions of a selfish people for world domination. That is being admitted today by what is left of the German nation; it is admitted by those who were directly responsible for the war. And it is because Germany started this conflict for no reason other than that of conquest and loot that Germany owes to the world full payment for all the devastation which the war has brought, not only in so far as she can pay now, but in so far as she can pay for generations yet to come.

Among the many, many sections of Belgium and northern France that I personally covered, following closely on the heels of the retreating Hun army, was that which lies between what were the cities of Ypres and Menin, approximately 20 miles apart. Here, before the coming of the invading Boche, was what was considered the most productive soil of the world, and the most intensely cultivated. Here in a number of farm villages lived the Belgian peasants families, happy, thrifty people, each family cultivating the small fields which it owned. No fences separated these fields, no hedges cut them off from the

and Menin, on both sides of that long, straight road, I am sure I did not see one square foot of soil that was not a part of a shell crater. What had once been the richest soil of the world is today but a waste, made so by the shells that fell upon it because Germany sought world domination. This soil has been destroyed by countless thousands of shells falling actually one upon another, each digging deeper into the earth until the very subsoil has been turned over and the land made worthless for cultivation for years to come, if indeed it can ever be reclaimed.

Unexploded Shells Buried in Soil.

There lie today on the surface of this land many thousands of unexploded shells, and there are buried in the soil many, many thousands more, each one of them a menace to any farmer who attempts to put a plow into the soil in an effort to reclaim it.

And this land is destroyed, as the homes were destroyed, because of German ambition, of German cruelty, of German lust, of German wantonness and German brutality.

Who is to pay for it? Who is to risk destruction that it may again be put into condition for cultivation, that it may serve the purposes of the human race? Shall the peaceful Belgian peasants, who had no part in the starting of this conflict, suffer their loss without compensation? Shall these peasants who have endured more than four long years of homeless agonies, who have suffered not alone the loss of homes and land but the loss of relatives and friends as well, be the ones to risk destruction in the effort to again bring these lands back to a condition where cultivation is possible? Shall they be blown to bits by the bursting of these shells, hidden as they are beneath the surface of the ground, when the plow strikes and explodes them? If undisturbed, those shells continue to be a menace for years to come, but who are to risk their lives in removing them?

Could the American people generally, and especially the American farmers, have seen the sights I have seen

As a result of eleven years of careful selection and testing, the University of Nebraska has developed an improved strain of Kherson oats, and it now has a limited supply of seed which it is distributing thru the Extension Service of the College of Agriculture. As an average in a four-year test at the Experiment Station this strain has outyielded the Original Kherson oats by 7.8 bushels an acre. While the men who have been conducting the experiments feel certain that the strain will yield better than oats which farmers are now growing, they are anxious to follow up the test. Hence, they suggest that farmers purchase ten-bushel lots altho more or less may be had. They ask that the oats be sowed to themselves, tho they should adjoin other oats, and that they be threshed separately and a report made of the yield. Pure seed for another year may also be assured in this manner. The oats are sold at \$1.15 a bushel, plus cost of sacks and freight. Orders should be made thru county agents, or direct to the Arfroy Department, University Farm, Lincoln.

Trapnest records of chicken flocks show that with the same care and feed some hens lay no more than fifty eggs a year while others lay more than two hundred, says the Extension Service of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture. Hence,

hens may be detected and eliminated from the flock. Trapnests also make possible placing into actual practice the theory of inheritance of egg production consists of the use of males from high egg producing hens to head breeding flocks from which layers are to be hatched. High egg production is a sex linked character and the male in a given mating exerts an unusual influence in the transmission of the character. From a breeding standpoint this is most fortunate since greater improvement is possible from the use of one good male than from a dozen or more females.

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You can't fool people always, they've been a long time born,
And most folks know that man is slow who tootheth not his born.
—Exchange.

An officer in a certain regiment is an expert gymnast, and teaches his brother subalterns how to walk across the barracks room on their hands. While thus engaged one evening the door opened and the colonel entered the room, stared at the inert company, shook his head gravely, and departed without uttering a word. Extra parade duty next morning was the least punishment expected for this breach of discipline. Some days passed, however, and, no notice being taken, it was thought that an apology should be offered by the inat-

gator of these unsoldierly movements. A reference being made to the evening, the colonel amazed the intending apologist by exclaiming: "Hush, I would not have anyone know it for the world. The fact is I had been dining out with an old brother officer and 'pon my life, I had no idea that wine could have had such an effect upon me; but I could have sworn I saw you all upside down."—San Francisco Argonaut.

All the news—all the time—The Herald, of course.

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Ground Pulverized by Bursting of Big Shells.

roadways, and the families that cultivated the fields lived not on the little farms but in closely built villages of from 100 to 500 people each.

Devastation is Complete.

It is hard to realize today that these villages ever existed, that the land along this long, straight road was ever cultivated, ever produced foodstuffs for a people. In fact, it is hard to realize today that this was ever an inhabited country.

Of these peaceful villages, the living places of these farm people, there is no trace left. There are not even piles of debris, of broken brick and stone and lumber, to mark the spots where they stood. There is no single thing by which the returning peasants, wearily dragging themselves back to that spot which had been home to them and to their ancestors for almost countless generations, can mark the place where not only their home but their village had stood.

I have seen old men and women, wearied by four long years of exile, stand beside this road and gaze longingly over the devastated landscape, in an effort to locate some familiar object that would remind them of the spot they had known all their lives, and then turn away with tears on their cheeks because they could not find even one small object that would tell them of the homes, the only homes, they had known.

It was German ambition, German cruelty, German lust, German wantonness, German brutality, that were the cause of the destruction of these homes, of the agonies of a peaceful, thrifty people.

What can possibly compensate these people for their loss, for the misery they have suffered and must still suffer, for the homes and the associations that are gone forever? No, Germany can never pay in full, but she can continue to pay and pay and pay until there has been bred out of the German people that desire for war, that love of conquest, that brutality, that it has taken centuries, almost, to breed into them, and which has resulted in laying a whole world waste.

In all that 20 miles between Ypres

along this long, straight road between Ypres and Menin, they would say, as I say, it is the German who must pay; it is the German who must risk destruction in the effort to put this land again into condition for cultivation.

I believe that one condition of the peace treaty should be that Germany, either as one nation, or proportionately from the several small nations that may be formed out of the German empire, should call its military classes to the colors each year as it has done in the past; but in place of putting guns into the hands of these men, and training them for the purposes of war—a war of conquest—that it should put these men into the territories she has devastated, to reclaim the soil and to rebuild the villages, the towns and cities the Huns have destroyed. Let these Germans, under guard of Belgian troops, take the risk of destruction; let them guide the plow that may strike the unexploded shell, and let Germany pay them the meager wages of the German soldier while they are doing this.

Should Pay and Pay and Pay.

That would be the nearest thing to an accounting that Germany can render to the world, but she should pay all that it is humanly possible for a people to pay who have so ruthlessly despoiled the world. Her people should pay, and pay, and pay, until they have learned beyond the shadow of a doubt that war for the purpose of conquest, for the purpose of loot, for the gratification of selfish ambitions, is the most unprofitable business they could possibly engage in.

And remember that the devastation to be seen along the road from Ypres to Menin is but an example of all the terrible destruction to be found throughout Belgium and northern France and Serbia and other countries that have been overrun by the conquest-seeking armies of the Boche. And remember, too, that it is not alone the devastation that is to be paid for, but it is the work and the tears and the economic loss of every nation that was called into the struggle to defeat the selfish purposes of a selfish people, that the world might be a decent place in which free men might live.

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