

Ruhr Invasion
Held Blunder of
French Premier
Failed to Visualize Conditions
Consequent to Occupation
of Valley, Observer
Says.

By MARK SULLIVAN.
Paris, July 14.—The present position of the French government with relation to the Ruhr and Germany rests on the present psychology of the French people. Just what that psychology is can best be explained by beginning with a condensed summary of what has happened since the peace conference—as the French people see it.

The peace treaty was signed in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. As the blotter was placed on the last signature a thousand cannons fired salutes. Fifteen thousand jets of water from the fountains in the Versailles gardens leaped joyously into the air. Hundreds of airplanes dropped thousands of allied flags on the crowd around the park. There was exultant cheering, hysterical tears—such an explosion, if one may use the word, of relief over long suspense come to a wished for end as made the whole event one of the greatest emotional episodes of all history.

The French thought it was all over. They thought the war had ended in their favor, and took it for granted that the indemnities, the reparations, the replacing of the goods which the German army had sent back to the Fatherland, the money for the restoration of the ruins the Germans had made—the French took it for granted that all this would follow. In due course, just as France had paid its indemnity of 5,000,000 gold francs to the victorious German army in 1871.

Unaware of Defeat.
But the French did not know the vital defect in the treaty that had just been signed. Throughout the whole world only the comparatively small number who had actually been close to the situation, or who had studied it carefully, knew that the amount of money to be paid by Germany, instead of being a definite and possible sum, had been left indeterminate; and, so far as any definite figures at all had been mentioned, they had been put at an impossible height.

Thereafter there began that long series of conferences between the French and British governments, looking to reducing the reparation figure to a possible and tangible basis, to arranging terms for the German instalments, to arranging for the deliveries of coal, wood and other commodities.

Conference after conference of this kind turned out to be futile. They did not produce the money that the French people expected and had a right to expect.

For the futility of these conferences it is not necessary at the moment to apportion the blame. Some of it doubtless lies on France, but probably less on France than on any of the other parties to the Versailles treaty. Some of it is put on the United States for her failure to make good the promises, specific and implied, which President Wilson had made.

Premier Shares Blame.
Some of the blame lies on Lloyd George for having first led the movement that made reparation too high, and also for acting throughout the various conferences held with France in ways which, viewed as a whole and in retrospect, account for much of the irritation that arose among the French people. Lloyd George in a conference would agree, or seem to agree, to some course of action, and a few days later would be engaged in a course of action inconsistent with the understanding the French thought he had given them. Lloyd George's temperament, which in some aspects of his public career has been a great asset, was, for the purpose of these conferences, most unfortunate. Where he ought to have been sure-footed he was venturesome. One plan after another for settling not only the reparation problem but the Russian problem and the near east problem—one plan after another leaped up in his rich imagination, and he tried them all. And the sum of them all, so far as regards France getting her money from Germany, was nil.

Germany also was to blame. To the French people Germany gave the impression of trying, by tricks and devices, to evade the payment of anything at all. (This statement, standing alone, is misleading in a direction unfairly hurtful to Germany. Germany has actually given up, in one way or another, something like \$4,000,000,000 or \$5,000,000,000; but very little of it in the shape which France wanted and expected, viz., reparation for the restoring of the devastated districts.)

French Irritated.
To the French people Germany seemed to be living up to their old role, to be acting as if the Versailles treaty were a scrap of paper, and as if each of the promises arising out of the various conferences held after the Versailles treaty was a scrap of paper.

The end of it all was that the French people came to be in a state of implacable irritation. Germany had promised to pay, but Germany had not paid. That was all the French people saw, or still see.

There can be no exaggeration of the depth and widespread prevalence of this emotion of angry resentment on the part of the French people. One French statesman, describing it to me, used again and again the word "assez." Literally, the translation of the word is "enough"; but colloquially the French people mean the same thing that an American means when, in a burst of angry irritation over a state of affairs that has become intolerable, he says, "I am through," or "I am done." There was eloquence in the manner in which this French statesman repeated this word again and again, accompanied by a rapid gesture of the hand and arm—outward, downward and backward—the gesture of a man thoroughly angry with a situation and finally determined to put it behind him.

Another French statesman who happens to belong to that very small minority which believes in reconciliation with Germany as the surest basis of future peace described how impossible he found it to make any headway even with his own mother.

Yes, They Have a Mud Bath



Good morning! Have you had your mud bath today?

No? Good night! You ain't really lived, Mabel. Ask either the bather or the bathee. The best part of a mud bath is the bathee. She looks more soothing than Ivory soap.

The pilot for the mud bath shown in the picture is laid on the beach at Carter lake. Don't confuse with the beach at Wakiki. Carter lake mud is far superior. The piece opens in one and closes in the shower room. The photographer couldn't catch the denouement. They wouldn't let him in.

The other picture is the Carter lake version of the goose step. Done in two counts, by the numbers. Or in nine counts by the figures. Count 'em. Nine.

First of all came the breach with Britain. Britain did not think the invasion of the Ruhr was legal under the Versailles treaty and still thinks it is illegal. Soon after the defection of England came that of Italy. When the advance into the Ruhr was first made the French people were told that Italy was with France in this action. In point of fact Italy sent a few engineers into the Ruhr with the French to try to see to it that Italy's coal supply should not be interrupted.

But very soon Italy ceased to have even the appearance of supporting France and lined up with Britain in disapproval of the presence of the French in the Ruhr. Belgium, in appearance, has approved the French action and has united with France in the operation; but almost since the beginning Belgian public opinion has grown colder and colder toward the occupation of the Ruhr and it soon became a question whether Belgium stood with France or with England.

More fatal than all this the French people did not visualize, and Poincare did not visualize, anything beyond the mere act of occupying the Ruhr. They took the first step without looking forward to what should be the second step or the third step.

Poincare, I have been told by those competent to know his state of mind, really thought that Germany could pay an immense sum in gold, and thought that the invasion of the Ruhr would be followed by such a payment. Economists, of course, and business men of the right sort of experience know that such a payment of gold by one country to another is a sheer impossibility; they know that reparation like every large transfer of wealth from one country to another can only be paid in terms of balance of trade. It may sound grotesque to say that things it would lead to. Poincare did not understand this

fundamental economic fact, but there appears to be little doubt of it. Furthermore, there appears to be little doubt that Poincare did not anticipate the resistance set up by the people of the Ruhr. It is probably fair to say that in the beginning Poincare contemplated merely what he called "an invisible occupation," that is to say, the mere sending into the Ruhr of engineers and tax collectors, with only enough soldiers to guard them.

In the United States Poincare is frequently suspected of bad faith because he said he was going to send to the Ruhr only civilian engineers and a few soldiers; whereas, in fact, he did send a military occupation. But decidedly the best judgment is that Poincare acted in good faith; the policy of a military occupation was forced on him by the reaction of the German people in the Ruhr—by one of those immediate results of his first step which he and the French people had failed to visualize.

Those Germans who live in the Ruhr constitute one of the most pacifist elements of the German population, one of the most resistant to militarism of any kind. The people of the Ruhr had failed to support their own country's war, had resented the domination of their own German military system; and, when French soldiers came in, their sense of outrage was so strong and their action upon it so instantaneous that it caused something approaching a panic in the French government.

The French response to German resistance was to use force and more force. Speedily the thing which had been intended as a mild occupation of the Ruhr, mainly civilian, became a military occupation of such size and aggressiveness as to lead to the situation which exists today.

And now comes the thing that is most fatal of all in occupying the Ruhr. Poincare had the support of more than 90 per cent of the French people. But neither Poincare nor the French people looked beyond this single step of occupying the Ruhr. Once in the Ruhr, and with Britain alienated, it was up to the French government to say what they wanted Germany to do; it was up to Poincare to sit down and make a detailed plan for the future. But that is exactly what Poincare could not do.

It was, and is, all very well for Poincare to say that he was going to make Germany pay. On the simple slogan, "Make Germany pay," the French people are solidly behind him. French Groups Differ.

But, once let Poincare give out a definite and detailed plan for making Germany pay, and instantly most of his support will fall away from him. One group of the French people wants one thing done about Germany; another group wants another thing.

For example, the militarists want a permanent military occupation of the Ruhr; the industrial magnates want a continued occupation of the Ruhr in such terms as will give them continuing access to the Ruhr coal; another French group wants Germany split into several states; yet another group wants Germany to pay the reparations in the shape of certain commodities, whereas the French producers of those commodities do not want this material coming into competition with them.

The French industrial magnates would like the reparations paid in the shape of German labor, but the French labor unions will have none of that. Many French people would be willing to have the reparations paid, for example, in coal; but the owners of French coal mines will have none of that. And so on, and so on.

Aim to Break Away.
Among all these possible next steps for France to take, as soon as Poincare takes any one the supporters of the rest will drop away from him. It is an impasse. If any one thing can be called both a deadlock and a drifting that is what the situation is. At no time, from the first of January, when the occupation of the Ruhr began, did Poincare have any plan other than a crude and much more dangerous variation of what ex-President Wilson once called "watchful waiting." Toward the latter part of June, under pressure from the British, Poincare began to set down some detached details which were to be conditions of French assent to any next move.

But Poincare had no next move in mind and no plan. Poincare is of a temperament that wholly lacks initiative; what strength he has is that of "abstention," as another French politician expressed it to me. The only initiative there has been at all has come from the British, and that has been in the nature of a wish to get away, if possible, from the condition of impasse, rather than any comprehensive plan.

Dime Novel Career
of Defaulting Bank
Head Nearing End

Former President of Chicago Company, Who Left Shortage of \$1,500,000, Located in Mexico.

By International News Service. Chicago, July 14.—The career of Warren C. Spurgin, former president of the Michigan Trust company, who defaulted in 1921, leaving a shortage of more than \$1,500,000, which wrecked the institution and caused its depositors to suffer heavy losses, is nearing an end in Mexico, according to reports received here.

Ill, practically penniless and deserted by his paid bodyguard, his former friends are said to be ready to surrender him to Chicago authorities. His capture is said to be only a matter of days and Mexican authorities are said to have given assurance that as soon as he is captured they will permit his prompt extradition.

Spurgin's disappearance in July, 1921, and his subsequent adventures contain all the thrills of the dime novel. His speculations with the bank's money had been going on for months and discovery was about to overtake him. He had lent huge sums on worthless securities of corporations owned by himself. Women and wine had taken thousands of his dollars.

Three days after his disappearance the trust company went into hands of a receiver. A nation-wide search for Spurgin was instituted and he was reported seen in various countries of the world, most of these reports being proved false.

Concert Club Band
at Riverview Today

The Thatcher Piano company will sponsor the City Concert club band, directed by Arthur E. Smith, at Riverview park at 5 tonight. George Yager is assisting in sponsoring the band.

The program follows:
March—"Nobles of the Mystic Shrine"
Overture—"Past and Present"
Medley—"Southern Song"
Descriptive Fantasia—"In a Bird's-Lake"
INTERMISSION
March—"Liberty Bell"
Mexican Serenade—"La Paloma"
Waltz—"Blue and Gray"
Waltz—"Estrellita"
Selection—"King Dodo"
Finis—"The Star Spangled Banner"
Key

\$120,000 School Bonds.
Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. North Platte, Neb., July 14.—A school bond issue of \$120,000 has been sold to the First Trust company of Omaha at a premium of \$1,635 on open bidding at which eight bond firms were represented. The bonds bear 5 per cent interest. The proceeds will be devoted to erecting three eight-room buildings in the outlying districts of the city.

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Brief City News

Moves to Lincoln—Allen L. Bechter, former state bank examiner, has moved from Omaha to Lincoln to accept a position with the Union Loan and Savings association.
New Swimming Classes—New classes will be started Tuesday by the Red Cross now conducting swimming instructions at Krug park, according to Mrs. W. E. Bolin, director. New classes for children will begin at 11 a. m. and for business men and women at 6 p. m.
Off to Lakes—Mrs. Fritz Sandwall and her daughter, Segrid, leave Monday for an extended vacation to the Minnesota lakes.
Vacation in Colorado—Miss Nora Moriarity, secretary to County Attorney Henry Beal, left for a two weeks' vacation Saturday. She expects to visit several points in Colorado.

Thompson, Belden & Co.

In the Midst of Summer
Come New
Fall Frocks

Be among those who nonchalantly reply, "Oh, yes, I saw them at Thompson, Belden's" when someone remarks over the pleasant tinkle of the lemonade glasses, "Have you seen the new fall dresses?"



An
Interesting
Forecast

—of the new fashions, yet an extremely wearable group of dresses is displayed Monday for the first time. Easy to wear and easy to look at is one of navy Canton crepe made graceful with clusters of fine pleats and lightened with touches of gray in the collars and cuffs. Priced \$48.00. Soutache braid gets a new effect when used over a bright printed silk on a straightline model of Poiret twill, priced \$36.00.

Others up to \$79.50.

Autumn Millinery

Arrives!



Autumn is a fashion rather than a season in matters of millinery. Already advance fall models in duvetyne and felt are found in the Millinery Section showing the newest angle for a feather, the smartest twist for a ribbon. Drop in Monday if you enjoy seeing the new things first.

Third Floor

We're going to hold a
Get Acquainted Sale
in both our stores

Every day we hear of people who do NOT know just where our TWO STORES are located. We are therefore going to call our clearance sale a Get Acquainted Sale. We want everyone to know us and know the dependable class of merchandise we handle.

This Get Acquainted Sale will offer prices that are intended to bring in lots of new faces to our stores; we want to pay them "with unusual price reductions" for coming.

This sale will be a Knockout. You'll regret it if you miss coming. Watch tomorrow's papers for further details.

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and Women

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