GERMANY NEEDS GREATER INCOME

AN ANNUAL DEFICIT OF TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS.

INCOME TAX IN PROSPECT

Measure Proposed by Wermuth as Minister of Finance, Which Has Caused His Downfall, Is Now Likely to Be Found Necessary to Meet the Enormously Increased Military Expenses—Difficulty of Handling the Reichstag.

BY FREDERICK ERNER.

Berlin, March 15.—Herr Wermuth, chief burgomaster of the city of Berlin, has every reason to feel satisfied at present, for in order to carry through the new army bill and provide money to meet the enormously increased expense, the government will undoubtedly have to adopt the plan which he advocated and which brought about his political downfall.

Until a year ago Herr Wermuth was the all-powerful minister of finances of the empire. He fell because he insisted that part of the burden of the new taxation to meet the new naval and military increase should be paid by those who inherited large fortunes and those who had large incomes. In other words, he urged the necessity of an inheritance and income tax, but his suggestion aroused the furious indignation of the conservative parties, the millionaires and the large estate owners, who claimed that it was an insult on the part of the minister of finance to propose that citizens who already had such great responsibilities as the possession of wealth carries with it should carry their special part of the increased burden of taxes.

At present the memory of the downfall of Herr Wermuth causes considerable anxiety. It is an indisputable fact that even as matters stand at present there will be an imperial annual deficit of $25,000,000 during the next four or five years. If the new military bills are passed this annual deficit will be at least $75,000,000. Where is the money to come from? Those who have to pay cannot do so, as they have already been stripped to the shirt, and those who are able to pay refuse to do so.

Big Fortunes Escape.

This is the present situation in a nutshell. The question is now whether it will be thought necessary to bring forward the hated inheritance and graduated income tax which Herr Wermuth demanded more than a year ago, or whether the government will attempt to continue the selfish policy which allows those who possess fortunes and estates to escape payment of taxes, while those who have next to nothing must be robbed of the little they still possess.

There is no doubt but that the new military demands will be accepted, but the question of how the millions are to be raised will bring about a bitter struggle in which the imperial Chancellor, Herr von Bethmann-Holweg, will have to bear the brunt of the battle.

In order to win new allies the Chancellor caused the Reichstag to repeal the old law against the Jesuits, but did not quite succeed, for the law still remains in force, as is shown by the fact that the Bundesrath opposed the suggestions made by the Catholics.

The political importance hereof is that the "centrum," the largest party in the Reichstag, will continue to harbor bitter enmity against the Chancellor.

It will be exceedingly difficult for Bethmann-Holweg to get any laws passed by the present Reichstag. The party of the Center is thirsting for revenge, and on all questions where they have the support of the Radical and Socialist parties they will be able to defeat the government.

A German imperial chancellor, of course, does not resign because he has suffered defeat in the Reichstag, as he would have to do in the parliamentary states, but experience has shown that the Kaiser demands from his chancellors that they must be able to handle the Reichstag. When they are fortunate enough to persuade or coerce the Reichstag to pass great important bills the Kaiser thinks no honor too great for them, makes them princes, cover their bosoms with decorations, but if they fail, if the Reichstag refuses to perform its tricks and turns, Emperor William does not hesitate long before he drops his chancellor as a most incompetent and unpatriotic statesman. It is not very likely that Von Bethmann-Hollweg will remain chancellor much longer.

The Emperor Quick to Act.

But that the new military laws will be passed is beyond any doubt. It is a strange sign of the times in Germany; the fate of all socially useful bills always hangs in the balance, but the success of any madcap military or naval bill is always assured from the start. To doubt this will almost be high treason.

Even the German Socialists will not oppose the increased military expenditure, but they will certainly insist that the increased burden must be carried by the broadest shoulders. They have already declared, of course, with their usual bravado that they "will not give a single man or a single penny to any Pretorian army," but this is not to be taken seriously. In the end they will submit, though it is more than likely that the bills will not be passed without a dissolution of the Reichstag.

Dissolution or no dissolution, however, in the end the Kaiser will win.

The Kaiser is reputed to be a very religious man, he considers himself in some respects the chosen representative of the Lord here below, and to some extent he is really sincere, but when it comes to furthering his favorite military plans he is not the man to blame his councillors or the part of the German press which they control for using the arms of the Prince of Darkness in the fight.

Lies and prevarications of all kinds are permissible in the fight for more power to the military arm of Germany, and the government press here is almost as smart in concocting stories about France as is the English jingo press in inventing stories against Germany.

Germany and France.

If we are to believe this press the German army and navy are model institutions, to serve in which is a blessing to any young man, the discipline is perfect and abuses unheard of except in the Radical and Socialist press, which everybody knows, of course, deals in imagination and sordid lies, not in facts.

On the other side, the armies of France are invariably described as mere hordes composed of cruel and bloodthirsty fanatics who know nothing of discipline and who, in case of a war, would commit the most revolting cruelties against German women and children if they ever succeeded in invading German territory. The Kaiser and his government have no more sacred duty toward the German people than to see that the German Army is at all times strong enough to make an invasion impossible.

No man, I believe, is a greater puzzle to the Kaiser than the Grand Duke of Mecklenberg, and the Kaiser would certainly give most anything to be placed as is the ruler of the little grand duchy.

Mecklenburg is now the only state in Europe which has no constitution, but this is not the fault of the reigning Duke. Time after time, mirabile dictu, he has proposed a constitution, and on every occasion the proposal has been scornfully rejected by the knights and landed gentry, in whose hands are the reins of power, and without their consent the ministers can do nothing.

At the last meeting of the diet some time ago the Duke announced again to his "faithful knights" his intention to have a bill brought in for the purpose of establishing a parliament. This drove "the faithful" once more into bitter opposition, and, according to the latest reports from Rostock, the knights have again carried their point and no real reform measure will see the light.

Were it not for the reactionary state of affairs in Prussia Mecklenburg would have had a parliament long ago, but signs are not wanting to show that the citadel of reaction must soon fall.

MODERN DRESS PROBLEM

How Fashions Reduce Women's Clothing to Nothing.

Special Cablegram to The American.

London, March 15.—A new problem confronts the dress manufacturers and retailers who are now anxiously awaiting details of fashion's program for 1913. No longer are they wondering, as in other years, what women are going to wear next. What they now want to know is, what will women cease to wear in the coming season!

The situation from the point of view of the powerful trade interests which are behind the changing fashions in dress is a very serious one, and the "tendency to go unclothed," as one of the leading journals of the dress trade describes this new and curious development on the part of women, is forcing itself on the attention of the multifarious firms who supply the dress needs of women.

On recent occasions when the voice of the Church has been raised against the fashions of the day it has not been the extravagance and ostentation of dress that has been censured, but the lack of clothing, the skimpy skirt, the decollete walking gown which exposes the neck and chest, the bared arm and the openwork stocking.

The record of fashion for the last five years, in fact, has been little more than a process of steady elimination. Beginning with the vogue of the directoire gown in 1908, one garment after another has been shed by the followers of fashion, and none have taken their place.

Among a few of the articles of feminine attire once found in every wardrobe which have been condemned to periods of more or less complete oblivion during the last few seasons have been the following:

Petticoats, blouses, belts, hat trimmings, veilings, dress linings, high collars and neck supports.

Petticoats were not required under the glove-fitting directoire gown. Belts were put out of action owing to the introduction of the corsetlet skirt. The vogue of collarless necks made collar supports a drug in the market, and the blouse trade suffered severely from the popularity of the one-piece gown.

The disastrous effects of the hobble skirt, which reduced the demand for dress materials by something like 50 per cent., have been gravely discussed by financiers at the annual meetings of the textile companies. Even the court gown of 1912 had its train pruned, thereby effecting a further economy in velvet and brocade.

The gradual disappearance of dress linings is another instance of the reducing process which has been going on. The linings have been removed in sections first from the back and sides of the skirt, then from the front panel and the bodice, and finally from the sleeves, until at last the unlined dress has taken the field.

The hatless vogue had few adherents, but the milliners have by no means entirely escaped the prevailing trend. Trimming of the simplest character appears on the hats of the present season, and in the summer of last year, it will be recalled, a sudden boom in velours hats lined with tagal and destitute of adornment save for a narrow hatband brought idleness to the workrooms of the milliners.

The question of the moment is: Has the limit of reduction been reached? An authoritative answer will be sought in the spring fashions, the first arrivals of which will be due very shortly.

NEW PRESIDENT PLEASES FRANCE

M. POINCARE WILL NOT BE A FIGUREHEAD.

COMPARED TO ROOSEVELT

Rejuvenated and Strenuous Modern France Is Delighted With Its New Executive, Who Seems Determined to Be the Real Leader of the Government—Poincare Is an Early Riser and Works Energetically Till Late at Night.

BY GEORGE DUFRESNE.

Paris, March 15.—We are more and more delighted with our new President, who is what an American would call a real hustler, and France has been longing for a hustler in the presidential chair ever since the new spirit of energy and patriotism invaded this country. Our two former presidents, M. Loubet and M. Fallieres, were both highly respected and dignified men, but they were both past the age of active manhood, and while nobody found any fault with them under the old spirit of "laissez faire," they would have been out of place as representatives of our rejuvenated and strenuous France, which needed an executive of the Kaiser or President Roosevelt stamp and which has got just what it wanted in M. Poincare.

His very first message to the Senate and Chamber struck the very tone the country was waiting to hear and all France went wild with delight at the discovery that the new President does not consider it is his duty to remain a mere figurehead. Since the days of MacMahon France has not had a president who has so boldly asserted that the chief executive of the country should be the real leader of the government, and while our professional politicians are rather dumfounded by suddenly finding a man at the helm of state who is inclined to make himself the boss of the show for the next seven years, no one expects them to make any serious trouble, because they feel that the whole people stand behind the President, whose patriotism and genius as a diplomat and statesman is not doubted by anyone.

A Strenuous Worker.

President Poincare is an early riser. He breakfasts plainly on a couple of rolls and a cup of coffee at 7 o'clock and before 8 o'clock he is hard at work at his desk in the Palais Elysees and night after night we have seen the lights burning in his private office long after midnight.

He does not spend the whole day over state documents, however, but is a frequent visitor to the numerous exhibitions of art and science which abound here in Paris just now, and his social duties are not neglected. The other night he looked in at no less than three balls, was loudly cheered everywhere, danced a few dances and returned to the pile of papers that had accumulated on his desk in the meantime waiting for his signature.

The appointment of M. Delcasse to fill the all-important post as the ambassador of France at the court of St. Petersburg was generally attributed to M. Poincare's personal initiative and he was loudly praised for it.

It now appears, however, that in this instance at least we have praised our new president for an act which did not emanate from himself, for it is now stated that it was Czar Nicholas himself who asked that M. Delcasse might be sent to Russia as the representative of his royal ally.

This makes very little difference in France, however, delighted as we were with M. Poincare, when we thought the idea his, we are even more delighted to hear that the Czar himself asked for the appointment of a man whose diplomatic career Germany has tried everything to ruin, for there could not possibly be any greater proof than this that the ties which unite Russia and France are as strong as ever, and at a time when the Kaiser is bringing Germany to the verge of bankruptcy to strengthen his army, which can only be looked upon as a move against France, we needed just such a proof of Russia's unchanged friendship.

"Cyrano" to Music.

Something like a sensation has been caused in theatrical circles by the news that Rostand's play, Cyrano de Bergerac, has been set to music, and is to be produced at the New York Opera House. M. Edmond Rostand is represented to be upset to hear of this transformation of his work. To a representative of Excelsior, he declared that it was impossible to take proceedings as his publisher had omitted to take out the American copyright. The dramatist added:

"The producers have voluntarily offered to make over these rights through the intermediary of their legal adviser and of the Society des Auteurs, but M. Decourcelle has replied that, if the society receives these rights, the fact will in no way constitute an authorization, nor will it limit our wish to protest. In any case, I should never consent to the opera leaving America, as in the other countries my rights are safeguarded."

Paris is suffering from a gold famine. This is not a sign of hard times, quite the contrary; but if you change a bank note, whether at a bank or a restaurant, you will get plenty of silver pieces and next to no gold coins. The reason certainly does not lie with the mint, which during last year coined more gold than silver pieces. In fact, the issue of 20-franc coins was 10,331,805, compared with only 10,000,000 franc pieces. Yet it seems impossible to obtain gold, a condition which has been a distinct grievance for some time past, since the change in five-franc pieces for a 25 or 30 dollar note is no light weight. At least one reason is, in all probability, the proverbial "bas de laine," the stocking, in which the French peasant, who is distrustful of banks, hoards his money. It would appear that he has added very considerably to his hoard during the past year.

The Law Twisted to Fit.

French colonial officials are as a whole very lenient in their treatment of natives and the burdens they place upon them in the shape of taxes are everywhere very light, but they sternly exact absolute respect of the French law, though at times they find it very hard to make French law fit colonial cases.

A case of this kind recently occurred in one of our least civilized colonies where a white colonist had the misfortune of dropping dead by the roadside while riding alone.

A few hours later his body was found by a group of natives, who, indulging in the custom of the country, forthwith ate him. The offenders were arrested and the local authorities were at once confronted with a knotty problem. On what grounds could they be punished, as the penal code does not mention cannibalism in all its numerous paragraphs, and the evidence clearly showed that the cannibals had not committed murder before taking their repast. The matter went from court to court without a decision being arrived at, until some genius, one can call him nothing less, bethought himself of Article 358 of the Penal Code, which was adjudged to meet the case, and the prisoners were sentenced. As my American readers may be ignorant of all the provisions of the code, it may be stated that Article 358 prescribes the penalties to be inflicted for "inhumation without official authorization."

A Parisian druggist having accumulated a considerable competency and sold his business advantageously, invited several friends to dinner at a restaurant to celebrate his new-found freedom. The food was good and the wine flowed freely, until when the bill came to be presented all the diners were in a state of exaltation. The druggist found himself unable to agree with the manager on the subject of a bill. Things had reached a crisis when a stranger at the next table intervened and indignantly protested against the way the druggist had been overcharged.

"I am the Consul for Guatemale," he said, "and I have observed the number of bottles the gentleman has had served. It is half the number you have charged against him."

This dignified witness turned the scales in favor of the druggist, who left the restaurant arm-in-arm with his new friend.

They met again and at a memorable dinner the Consul promised to procure invitations for the retired tradesman and his wife to government balls and embassy functions. The Consul was called hurriedly away on official business before the end of the dinner. When the druggist came to settle the bill he found that his pocketbook, with $1,500, had gone with the self-styled Consul.

The druggist ran to the Guatemale Consulate and demanded to see the real Consul. It being after office hours, he was refused admittance. He would not have been so violent if he had not just dined; but, anyway, the police were called, and his extraordinary accusations against the Consul, in addition to his wild behavior, so impressed them that they took him at once to a lunatic asylum.

The druggist has had considerable difficulty in procuring his release.

SIR E. WOOD'S ESCAPE

Horse Impaled on a Stake When Hunting.

Special Cablegram to The American.

London, March 15.—Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood had a narrow escape from serious injury while hunting with the Essex hounds recently.

In attempting to clear a fence at Aythorpe Roothing his mount was impaled on a stake. The veteran field marshal—who will be 75 next month—kept his seat, but the horse was mortally injured.

Sir Evelyn borrowed a gun from a neighboring farmer and shot the suffering animal.

Thomas Peaker, second whip of the Cheshire Hunt, was severely injured during a run on Saturday. His horse fell at a barbed wire fence. Peaker was crushed against the wire and kicked, having his collar-bone broken. He was taken to the Victoria Infirmary at Northwich.

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It is a broad, fascinating collection of beautiful, exclusive garments from the fashion centers of the world.

These suits are all made of the most carefully selected materials—cloth that will hold the shape of the suit as well as give good wear.

Included in these lots are suits made of finest imported German cloth, poplins, bedford cords, men's wear serges, Ottoman weaves, silk poplins, moires—in fact, **all** the fashionable materials of the season. Every suit is lined with excellent silk; trimmed and untrimmed.

$1.98 Child's Coats $1.25 Children's Fancy-check Coats, with colored collars; sizes 2 to 6 years.

$5 Child's Coats $3.98 Children's Nobby Blue Serge Coats; sizes 8 to 14 years.

Up to $3.50 Women's Shoes $1.19 Women's Low-cut Shoes, in blucher, button and pump styles; hand sewed; all sizes.

$7.50 Women's All-Wool Spring Serge Dresses . . $5 These are ideal garments for now and throughout the spring season. The styles are extremely smart; they are made of excellent and most serviceable quality of all-wool serge; the workmanship and trimmings are sure to please the most discriminating.

A Gorgeous Easter Hat Is Yours for . . $5

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$6 Boys' All-Wool Confirmation Suits $4.98

$4 Chiffon Waists, $2.59 Chiffon Waists, made over lace; Copenhagen, dark blue and brown.

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Suits—Of French Serges, Whipcords; Shepherd Checks and almost every wanted material; cannot be equalled under $22.50 $16.50

Girls' Norfolk Coats—Of Tailored Serge and just like brother's coat; navy, ink blue and red. Value $7.50..... $4.69

Serge Dresses—Of Fine Men's Wear Serge, in all the most fashionable shades and styles. Everywhere $8.50..... $4.90

Silk Messaline and Foulard Dresses—Handsome striped Messalines and dainty Foulards in the wanted dots and figures; lace trimmed and button front. Value $8.50..... $5.49

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Confirmation Dresses—Of beautiful Embroideries and Voiles; trimmed with silk ribbon. Value $4.00..... $2.49

Lingerie and Voile Waists—Handsomely embroidered and trimmed with crochet buttons; have new lay down collar. Value $1.50..... 95c

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Can You Equal These Monday Specials?

Yard-wide Percales.....5⅞c
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8c German Dice Toweling.....5¾c
49c 81x90 Bleached Double Sheets..39c
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36-Inch Black Princess Satin Messaline—All pure silk; value $1.00..... 59c

45-Inch White Mercerized Batiste; full pieces and perfect; has dainty soft silky finish; this width positively worth 25c. 11½c

Cream Wool Serge Suiting; splendid weight; value 50c 35c

40-Inch White India Linons—Evenly woven, sheer and close quality; val. 15c. 9½c

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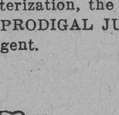

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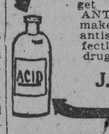

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BEGIN WITH THE FIRST CHAPTER

MONDAY, MARCH 17th

IN THE AMERICAN

CATARRH OF THE THROAT

Requires Prompt Treatment to Avoid Deafness

MR. DANIEL ROHRBACKER.

Many diseases are caused by taking cold. A cold is very likely to settle in the nose, causing nasal catarrh. It may settle in the upper part of the throat, called the nasal pharyngeal space. In this space are two little tubes called eustachian tubes, that lead to the middle ear.

If the catarrh settles in the pharyngeal space it may follow the mucous membrane through the eustachian tubes into the middle ear. If it does it will cause noises in the ear, and later on be sure to cause deafness.

Catarrh of the throat may follow the eustachian tubes up into the middle ear without causing much concern on the part of the patient. The partial loss of hearing is apt to be overlooked. A person may lose half his hearing before he knows it.

For instance, suppose a man can hear his watch four feet from the ear. If he loses his hearing to the extent that he can only hear the tick of his watch two feet from the ear he may not suspect it at all. His hearing is good enough for ordinary purposes. He goes on without the slightest suspicion that he is losing his hearing. He may have ringing in the ear, or cracking and snapping sounds in the ear, or a feeling of pressure in the ear, but he is not aware that he is losing his hearing.

It is a good thing to test your hearing with a watch. First hold the watch against your ear, then move it gradually away from the ear and see how far away from the watch you can actually hear it tick. Try it on the other side and see if both ears are alike. If you find that you are unable to hear the watch on both sides alike and at a distance of four feet from the ear, you may know that deafness has already begun. You should begin taking Peruna at once. Gargle the throat with cold, strong salt water, as directed on page four of the "Ills of Life," sent free. Persist in this treatment until a cure is effected.

Sometimes catarrh of the nasal pharyngeal space will cause an accumulation of secretions in the throat that completely fill the space. Unless these secretions are promptly removed by frequent gargling polypi may be formed. Once formed the polypi or adenoids, as they are sometimes called, will require a long time with the gargling to remove. Gargling according to the proper method will even remove polypi or adenoids, and no surgical operation is required.

In order to understand exactly what is meant by proper gargling send for a free copy of the "Ills of Life."

During the whole course of gargling Peruna must be taken according to directions on the bottle. Mr. Daniel Rohrbacker, R. R. 2, Castalia, Ohio, whose portrait appears above, writes: "I want to say a word for Peruna. I used it for catarrh of stomach, and it relieved me in a short time. The four or five bottles I used was worth more than all other remedies I ever used."

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