

## French Hammer— German Anvil

(Continued from page 11.)

pacifists are rather few. There is no need to bring them together for agreement. It is the more or less convinced patriots who benefit most from these experiences, and very striking changes are wrought in the outlook of many of them.

### The Ruhr Problems.

TILL the 19th century, both countries were economically almost self-contained. But the discovery of coal and iron in a belt traversing, in defiance of frontiers, first Belgium, then Northern France, the German Ruhr Valley, Luxembourg, Lorraine and Alsace has made the heavy industries of that region virtually one.

The big industrialists have been far ahead of the politicians in their perception of the need for unity, and had formed a syndicate on international lines in 1925, when political relations were most strained. Till the Great War, France was not nearly on a par with Germany as an industrial power in Europe. Two factors have contributed to make her so: First, in the peace treaty with Germany and the other vanquished powers, she inserted a clause ensuring for herself treatment equal to that of the most favoured nation.

Secondly, when Germany fell short in her payments of reparations, she had already virtually rebuilt on modern lines France's northern industrial region, and to make good a deficiency of only 1.5 per cent. in the reparation payments, France was able to seize and paralyse the key German industries of the Ruhr.

Later, when the value of these industries depreciated with the fall of the mark, many French industrial magnates were able to acquire large interests in the German concerns threatened with bankruptcy. When, or if, business returns to normal, Germany can scarcely help reaping the lion's share of the industrial direction of the Continent. But France can hardly slip back to self-sufficiency

Poland, and the other clients of France, they talk about "storm troops" and "revenge," and in the hectic rush for recruits among the new poor and the discontented they can outbid the Communists, for they have so much more money at their disposal. But their activities are looked at askance across the border, where they raise much disquiet.

And thus, while the nationalist Germans are called into being to watch the Communists, the Nationalist French are organised to keep the Nationalist Germans at bay. If they confined themselves to their occasional violent crimes and outbreaks, and to dispensing abundance of east wind for the public belly, the results would be tolerably bad. But the extreme Nationalists on each side have a preponderating say in politics, and because of the fancied or real menace of Communism, each Government imagines, rightly or wrongly, that their best course lies in bolstering up these so-called "patriots."

### Strained Relationships.

THIS gives us the clue to the main political relations between the countries since the war. They are more strained at present, probably, than at any time since the occupation of the Ruhr. Briand, who seemed unshakable as French Foreign Minister, has lost a great deal of ground in his own country, and the conciliation policy elaborated by him and the late Dr. Stresemann is being less and less followed, both in France and in Germany. The policy is just as sound as ever, but the accession to greater power of the right-wing nationalists in both countries has vitiated it.

The French Parliament senses a nationalistic revival in the electorates, and the elections are due to take place next May. In the meantime the members lose no opportunity of stressing the "sacred and inalienable right" of France to full reparations, the need for watchfulness lest Germany should re-arm, and the determination of France to control all attempts at unifying Europe.

At the debates during the past year, when such questions as the Hoover plan, the French dreadnought to reply to the German "pocket battleship," and the Austro-German Customs Union, Briand has sat absolutely dumb, though he seemed clearly the man most fitted to give a lead. His cause was lost before the debate began, because of Governmental commitments to the extremists. But the Government would never have listened to the nationalists, had not their opposite

numbers in Germany been going to more and more violent and threatening lengths. Meanwhile, European union, which all the Continent urgently needs, is languishing. Germany is geographically and economically marked out to be the keystone of such a union; but psychologically she is quite unfitted; she creates apprehension instead of confidence. France has not the situation, nor the organising ability to carry through a move of that sort, but her prestige among the lesser powers of Europe gives her a valuable card to play.

Single-handed, neither of them can achieve what William II and Charlemagne on the one hand, and Napoleon and Louis XIV on the other, dreamed of and failed permanently to effect. Perhaps, while France and Germany are blinded by the dust of their own dispute, the grandiose descendant of Julius Caesar, or the newer godsons of Peter the Great and Lenin, will make their dreams a reality.

But it is not yet too late for the moderate elements on each side of the Rhine to join forces, and, after taking in hand those primitive elements among them that have been left untouched by the onward sweep of liberal ideas, or debased by war and privation, follow out a policy of forward-looking co-operation for the good of Europe and the world.

There is also the hope that the captains of industry will realise that their interests do not lie in the direction taken by the extremists whom they secretly support. Most of all, perhaps, we can take hope from the many individuals who have crossed the frontiers, mental as well as geographical, and seen and felt for themselves what the possibilities of reconciliation are. Six months before the Hoover Plan was proposed, a young Frenchman, a returned soldier who had travelled in Germany, proposed in a weekly review a plan very similar to Hoover's own.

It was not accepted, but the initiative was there, and others may be bold to carry on, where present leaders are timorous. The words of another leader, of the new world, have special significance for the old: "We are not enemies, but friends. The golden chords of memory, reaching back from every battlefield to every heart and hearthstone in this vast continent will yet swell the chorus of union, when breathed upon, as surely they will be by the better angels of our nature."

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### DX Programmes

Large numbers of DX'ers throughout America, and especially those living near the Pacific Coast, listened in to the special programme broadcast by 2YA at the request of The Round the World DX Club on Saturday, October 17. The Broadcasting Company has received a very large number of letters from American listeners who heard 2YA on this occasion. The event was well advertised throughout the States, both in the papers and over the air, and many an enthusiastic dx'er must have sat up all night trying to pick up the Wellington station. Many of the correspondents have been greatly struck by the fact when they were on to 2YA at 3 a.m. 2YA appropriately played "Three O'Clock in the Morning."

By arrangement with the New Zealand secretary of The Round the World DX Club, Mr. Spence Ellis, of Okato, Taranaki, special dance programmes were broadcast by 1YA Auckland, and 3YA Christchurch, on December 10 and 16 respectively, for the benefit of dx'ers on the other side of the Pacific.

again, and the destinies of the two countries economically must remain fairly closely interwoven.

### Alsace Lorraine.

IT is most interesting to see how internal conditions in Germany affect France, and, to some extent, French conditions react on Germany. Germany has carried out a thoroughgoing policy of industrialisation, and, since the war, tempered the harsh conditions of life and work of the masses by much social legislation, raising wages, supplying insurance and unemployment relief on the highest scale. France, less industrialised, is following suit very slowly. The recaptured provinces of Alsace and Lorraine are far ahead of the rest of the country in this respect, owing to their German administration.

### Political Forces.

IN Germany, however, the industrial system is strained almost to breaking point, and the great industrialists, between closing markets, rising production costs, and growing discontent of the workers, do not know where to turn.

It is not necessary to waste any sympathy on them; they have a knack of getting out of such difficulties, whoever else does not. What is important is the means they choose to combat the Reds of all shades, whom they recognise as their chief enemies. They subsidise the nationalistic forces, symbolised rather than led by the adventurer Adolf Hitler, that they may be a thorn in the side of the Communists. In this they certainly succeed; but they do not stop there.

They make wild gestures on the Mussolini model against France, against

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