

# GERMAN DEFENSE OF ARMY INCREASE

**T**HE VAST military projects of the German Chancellor and the huge expenditure involved have caused great concern in Paris and, indeed, throughout Europe. Germany itself is shocked. The \$250,000,000 demanded by the war budget is to be raised by heavy taxation on rich and poor alike, for while Michel must contribute his little pig, Germany's richest man, Prince von Donnersmark, will be pinched to the tune of \$2,500,000. The Emperor himself will be taxed nearly \$1,500,000, and Frau Krupp must pay almost \$3,000,000. The men at the head of affairs in Germany explain the increase of armament by the fact that the Balkan War has raised to life a powerful spirit of Pan Slavism, and the Slavs stand with Russia, whose strongest ally is France. It is therefore necessary for Germany, says the semi-official *Continental Correspondence* (Berlin), to be in a position to defend her eastern and western frontiers, but the measures she is taking are no "token of German hostility to France." Nevertheless, this paper says, the "repeated proofs that France is still thirsting for 'Revanche' have absolutely compelled Germany to take the steps necessary to secure her military superiority in the case of a war breaking out." More reasons for the vast increase in Germany's war budget are thus detailed:

"The Triple Alliance has certainly gained in internal strength, but, from the military point of view, it has been weakened by Italy's occupation of Tripoli, which will compel the latter country to maintain a strong military force in this new territory for years to come, thus weakening her military strength in Europe. Austria-Hungary, on the other hand, altho as strong as ever from the military point of view, has been politically weakened, both in its home and foreign policy, by the accentuation of the Slav question. Serbia's success against Turkey has, of necessity, more or less influenced the political feelings of the Slavonic section of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; the increased importance of this Balkan state has converted it into a dangerous neighbor for Austria-Hungary. The increased power of the Slavonic states of the Balkans has rendered Austria's relations to Russia much more complicated than they formerly were. The *casus foederis*, on which the alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary was based, has never been so near being put to the test since it was first concluded than was the case last autumn. Otherwise, the German Imperial Chancellor would not have felt himself called upon to say in the Reichstag: 'If Austria-Hungary be attacked, we shall have to fight.'"

Even the improved Anglo-German relations, we are told, have done little to strengthen Germany. A union of the Slavs in an aggressive movement is now possible, for:

"Stirred by the victory of their kinsmen in the Balkans, the entire Slav world is seething with excitement. Should this feeling develop into a definite conviction that the Germanic races of Europe must give way before a great Pan Slavonic movement, not only Austria-Hungary, but also Germany, will be confronted by a highly dangerous situation.

"It is clear that France would have Russia on her side in the event of a conflict with Germany. Furthermore, the fact that about one-third of the population of the Hapsburg Monarchy consists of Slavs, makes it extremely difficult for Germany to reckon with certainty on the exact amount of help which she might expect to receive from Austria-Hungary in the case of a war with Russia. For all these reasons, it has become essential for the German Army to be strong enough, successfully to defend its eastern frontier, and, at the same time, to be able to carry on an offensive war against France. And it is precisely with this end in view that the new Army Bill has been called into being."