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The Fall of Warsaw

IN all likelihood, history will record that the terrific Austro-German offensive culminating in the fall of Warsaw marked the last desperate bid for victory of the Central European Empires. The fall of Warsaw was the second epochal event of the war, the first being the Battle of the Marne. Apparently, the two events are wholly different; yet they are comparable in this, that defeat for Russia seems about to produce the identical aftermath that victory produced for France.

The Battle of the Marne resolved itself into a general Allied offensive to drive the Germans out of Belgium and France. The offensive failed. But in the meanwhile, methodically and superbly, with characteristic initiative and genius, France achieved in the midst of war what Germany had achieved in the days of peace. The army was practically reorganized and brought up to the highest point of efficiency, until today critics agree that in nearly all respects the French army is superior to the German. Industry was mobilized, and in spite of tremendous disadvantages, in spite of the fact that the invaders were in possession of an industrial district holding 80 per cent of the coal and iron ore of the nation, France achieved results that make her impregnable. The French are now prepared for the mighty struggle impending—and all this has been largely an aftermath of the Battle of the Marne.

The fall of Warsaw was a staggering blow to Russia. But what was Russia's answer? Orders for munitions aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars were placed in the United States; and the significant fact about these orders is that shipments can only be made many months hence. An industrial re-organization was initiated; and the government, under the stress of defeat, allowed representatives of the business interests to participate in the re-organization—a recognition of industry as a governing factor in the state. Work was started in a thorough way to remedy the deficiency in munitions by mobilizing industry for military purposes. An apparently reliable report states that free speech was granted the members of the Duma, and an agitation started to extend the workers wider liberties in order to rally them to the national defense.

Accordingly, instead of crushing the enemy and compelling the Czar to sue for a separate peace, the Austro-German victory in its larger aspects is producing the opposite result. It seems about to produce a greater "Russian menace" by compelling Russia to develop her tremendous resources systematically and adopt more efficient methods of waging war—and by making the capitalist interests stronger in the government.

The military answer was just as immediate. It took the form of a new and more vigorous attack upon the Dardanelles by the French and British forces. It is only a matter of time before Italy will be at war with Turkey, and the sending of an Italian army of one quarter of a million men to Gallipoli an