

**GÈRMANY'S
INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL**

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BY
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MY HELPMATE IN LIFE
MY WIFE

PREFACE

I HAVE known Germany intimately for the last fifty-five years, my first recollection being the Franco-Prussian declaration of war, when with my mother I happened to be staying in Düsseldorf; I well remember the arrival of the first French wounded. Part of my early education was carried on in Germany, since when at various times I have spent years at a stretch in the country.

For at least ten years previous to 1914 I felt convinced that Germany had it in mind to destroy us if she could, and said so publicly on many occasions—only to be laughed at, of course. As member of the Disposals Board I have been constantly over to Germany in post-war days, my first visit being in the early part of 1919. In 1922 I became extremely anxious with regard to her industrial and financial position, seeing also how fundamentally it must affect our own country, and after my entering Parliament in that year, Mr. P. J. Hannon, M.P., the Hon.

Secretary of the Industrial group in the House of Commons, and I together passed a strenuous six weeks making the round of all the important German industrial centres. Here, holding conferences in each town, we had the opportunity afforded us of meeting in separate conclave the leaders of finance, commerce and industry, belonging to all sections of the political world; we also had "conversations" with the Trades Union leaders and with the Heads of the various political parties and Government departments.

Since then I have repeatedly paid visits to all parts of Germany, keeping in close touch with the large number of representative and leading personages with whom I am acquainted in that country, and I should like to take this opportunity of acknowledging publicly the frank and conciliatory manner with which our investigations were welcomed, adding thanks to one and all for the generous help universally accorded in order to make our reports adequate and exhaustive. Space does not permit me here to mention each name separately.

Throughout this post-war period I have systematically collected copious data with respect to the conditions in Germany, on behalf both of the Industrial group and of the British Commonwealth Union—of which my friend and colleague,

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Mr. P. J. Hannon, M.P., is Director. Certain of my American friends, hearing of this, invited me to write a series of articles to be published in the U.S.A. for the enlightenment of the American public; these duly appeared in *Industrial Management*, January-July, 1925, and this book is based on their groundwork, the information specifically brought up to date after my further visits to Germany in 1924, and in the spring and early summer of 1925.

Portions of the material were also embodied in the *Fortnightly Review* of June and July, 1925, and in the *English Review* of July, 1925. I am indebted to the courtesy of the editors of these magazines for permission to reprint certain paragraphs verbatim.

I could not have found the time to prepare the articles for the American press and to write this book but for the valuable assistance I have received from Miss Violet A. Simpson, B.A., whose great experience, gained as literary assistant to the late Mr. Andrew Lang—her talent as a writer and her knowledge of foreign languages serving our country so well during the War whilst she was working under the Directorate of Special Military Intelligence—has proved invaluable to me in this undertaking. The book is a study of the course of Inflation and its inevitable results,

together with as careful and balanced an appraisal as I think it possible at this stage to make of the present conditions and probable future development of industrial Germany—a development which calls for our most critical consideration.

In conclusion I wish to record my sincere thanks to those gentlemen of our splendid diplomatic service at the Foreign Office, the Board of Trade—in particular the Department of Overseas Trade—the Board of Agriculture, and to my colleagues generally in public life, who in their official capacity have rendered me so much assistance in the verification from our own records of facts and statistics. I hope that as I am not able to mention them all by name they will accept this grateful acknowledgment of help most courteously given.

PHILIP DAWSON.

House of Commons
August 1925.

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