

FRENCH AND GERMAN WAR PREPARATIONS

THE CONTAGION OF WAR has now reached Western Europe, where the armies are at least fighting in the clouds, as they were seen over Jerusalem before the sack of Titus. This is the opinion of the *Croix* (Paris), as it sees Germany's projected increase of land forces, and the answer France makes to the challenge by her new Army Law.

Germany is to raise a special army fund of \$250,000,000, and in spite of the heavy shadow thrown by this scheme on the hopes of a commercial revival and the failure of the Kaiser's Government to float a loan of \$100,000,000 in Prussian Treasury-notes, the people, as a general rule, accept the proposal, particularly as it is to be supported by the imposition of a special tax on the fortunes of the rich. The financial press, some commercial papers, and the organs of Socialism alone unite in condemning the measure.

Thus the *Boersen Courier* (Financial, Berlin) resents the tax on fortunes, arguing that "a tax of this sort is only imposed in times of the gravest need, when it is necessary to act quickly because an enemy is at the gate," and that "the invocation of such extreme measures in time of peace will easily create the impression that they are the last sheet-anchors of an impoverished country." "The proposed colossal expenditure of \$250,000,000," declares another representative of German commercial interests, the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, is "a symptom of the present international drunkenness over armaments." The proposal to tax fortunes, says prudent "Auntie Voss," a middle-class organ—the *Vossische Zeitung* (Berlin)—"is tantamount to an avowal of the nation's bankruptcy."

But a newspaper of a certain official responsibility, the *Lokal Anzeiger* (Berlin), remarks more cautiously that "this is no time to exhibit pessimism." "It is not difficult for us to outdo the competition of our neighbors," we are told, "but it is necessary to do the thing thoroughly—it is necessary that we show ourselves to be the stronger." "We must show France our power," similarly declares the *National Liberal Zeitung* (Berlin), "and



658,000 765,000

German.



546,000 750,000

French.

PRESENT AND FUTURE PEACE FORCES OF GERMANY AND FRANCE.
Comparative strength shown by height of the figures.



GERMANY AND FRANCE— "Who sows nothing, reaps nothing."
DEATH— "Yes, and I am the reaper." —*Amsterdamer*.