

GERMANS BELIEVE AMERICANS WILL REBUILD BERLIN

Correspondent Says Water Shortage May Arise This Winter.

By T. F. MELTZER
Frankfurt, Germany.—(INS)—Germany five months after the capitulation remains the open sore of Europe.

The amount of work to be done on this wrecked nation would keep all the coolies of the Orient busy for years.

There isn't time enough, manpower enough, machinery enough to make more than a feeble beginning. What manpower there is not fully exploited.

The removal of rubble alone is a colossal job. Americans who spend a few months in a city may notice some gradual improvement.

Nothing Changes.
But to the casual visitor nothing seems to change very much as time passes and cold winds announce winter's approach. There are always the same dreary expanses of broken buildings and the same piles of debris lining the streets.

This correspondent spent several weeks in Kassel, one of the most thoroughly blasted cities in Germany. On one of the main streets there is a particularly gruesome pile of wreckage spilling from what is left of the house onto the sidewalk.

Twisted and crushed among slabs of concrete and broken steel, but still recognizable, is a davenport upholstered in red velvet and decorated with gold tassels.

Water Mains Broken.
I must have passed that ruin 30 or 40 times. Usually I looked to see whether anything had changed. It always looked the same. Probably this winter there will be snow on the red velvet; adding

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a final grotesque touch to the scene.

Engineers say there are hundreds of potential breaks in Kassel's water mains. In most cases it is necessary to go deep underground to repair the damage and that sometimes means moving tons of debris.

Serious water shortages may develop this winter when the ground, together with the mountains of rubble, freezes.

One of the difficulties is that so many Germans are engaged in various industrial and governmental white collar jobs which, essential as they may be, make no very

obvious contribution to cleaning up and rebuilding.

Hate to Dig.
A typical morning street scene in a German city shows hundreds of able-bodied men walking to work through the crazy patterns of destruction and carrying the inevitable briefcase—badge of the German desk worker.

As one weary, point-shy military government officer expressed it: "These Krauts hate to dig." He said it with an air of resignation; as if there were no power on earth which could correct this unfortunate condition.

There is as much leaning on

shovels as in the balmy days of WPA.

Let Americans Do It.
I once asked an intelligent, anti-Nazi German why more progress had not been made in cleaning up his city. "Oh, they're waiting for the Americans to do it for them," he replied.

The idea that we are going to use our technical abilities to rebuild what our weapons helped to destroy is firmly implanted in the average German mind.

The German, knowing that he has been licked, wants to retreat into his shell with his memories of departed glory and let Uncle

Sam take over.

Unfortunately, in many cases glib military government officers, open to flattery and the clever recital of woes, have fallen for the German game. The result is that not enough work is being done.

Germany approaching winter is like a man entering the hospital

for a dangerous operation. Nobody knows what's going to happen.

CAMPAIGN FOR ALL.
New Orleans, La.—(UP)—A campaign for a state home for chronically ill persons has been launched by members of the First and Second Districts of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

CONVENTION WORRIES.
Cheyenne, Wyo.—(UP)—William (Scotty) Jack, secretary of state, is pondering over the problems posed by conventions. He has invitations to a number of conventions in various parts of the United States. The only thing is that all of the meetings to which he has been invited take place within a

day or so of another. All of the meetings are regarded as of prime importance to Wyoming. In its postwar setup, Jack says. He adds that he's open to suggestions as to how to make all the conventions.


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