
The Situation in Europe

by Eugene V. Debs

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The news from Europe is warlike, and, it is said if hostilities begin, the Lord only knows how many nations will be involved or when peace would be declared. On this side of the ocean it is believed that a European war would increase indefinitely the demand for wheat and other cereals, and make times livelier.

There is high authority for saying that the standing armies of Europe consist of 12.6 million men. The men are drawn from peaceful pursuits, mostly the industrial classes — mechanics, laborers, farm hands, etc. As a result, in time of war Europe is dependent upon other countries for food, and that is what the United States can supply. Europe, with about 300 million population, expends annually, \$850 million to supply her standing armies, and with the interest on her national debts, together with her annual expenditures to maintain her armies, is required to pay annually \$1.965 billion. When it is understood that this enormous sum comes out of the earnings of labor, it is not surprising that workingmen want to emigrate.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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