



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The continental times. No. 1193. Vol. XXII. No. 51 October 27, 1915

Berlin, Germany: C. White & Co., Ltd., October 27, 1915

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/QD4VJIIDSHSS78G>

Based on date of publication, this material is presumed to be in the public domain.

For information on re-use, see

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

THE POSITION OF GERMANY AMONGST THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

By HOUSTON STEWART CHAMBERLAIN.

A friend, a German, evidently apprehensive, asks himself and therefore me, if there is any hope that a victorious Germany would possess the political ripeness which would enable her to take her place as the leader of the world.

It is not easy in these days to preserve calmness; to see, to judge, to speak, calmly. And yet it is dangerous not to do so, for greatness is not born in or of intoxication, but of serenity, discretion, strength of will.

From reliable sources I learn that the present plan of campaign, down to the smallest details, is the work of the elder Moltke; that he worked out the problem of war on two and also on three fronts.

Thus we have, in the first instance, the act of the genius, then the never-flagging, silent performance of duty on the part of the many.

Thus we see that a nation, in order to achieve true greatness, must possess three factors: steadfast solidarity of the people as a whole, a highly-gifted few, and the methodical training of many.

To a degree unequalled by any other country in the world, Germany possesses everything necessary to attain gigantic results in this field as in others.

What can a people accomplish if it never has an opportunity of revealing itself spontaneously and unanimously as "strength," but year in, year out, is obliged to submit to being talked to death by petty lawyers and tavern politicians about things which it does not understand, only to split up in the end into twenty parties, each one of which is the deadly enemy of the others?

How splendidly great, yes, we may even say how sublimely great, is the German people as soon as the three above mentioned elements work in unison.

As in the army, so in works of peace, there is nothing which Germany cannot attain. And what a glorious prospect for the future of mankind, to have for example such a Germany as the leading state!

Of the three factors which lend to warring Germany her invincible strength, the middle one at most makes itself felt in political Germany.

The official, in order to accomplish great things, should find himself in times of peace in an exalted position, similar to that of the officer in war time, borne aloft as on wings of genius, and carried from below by the masses.

The strength and vigor of the German people should not be parodied in the insufferably trivial form of the German Reichstag.

But, you object, "the Reichstag has behaved very well lately."

Ah, but it was not the Reichstag. It was the entire German people which, as one

man, arose in its unparalleled grandeur. No Reichstag could have stemmed the tide of that tremendous movement. They were not members of Parliament but German men who grasped the Emperor's hand.

If Germany as a political power is to attain results in keeping with the victories she has won as a military power, there must be a thorough clearing out, and for the new requirements new forms and new methods must be found or invented.

In very truth, all the nations of the earth are heartily sick of parliaments, sick of that most sacred universal suffrage, sick of those constantly gushing fountains of oratory beneath which the whole civilized world, overwhelmed as by a modern flood, is hastening to its doom.

If I am asked what role the people as a whole is to play in the dispensation of this new political whole, I would answer: The people shall form the unconscious, all-nourishing root-stock, a fortress of dormant strength, and as such will make good just as it is now making good in the German army.

Representation of People.

A monarch can be represented; a profession, an occupation, can be represented. A people cannot be represented. The people why, it is nature itself, and a Herr Müller or a Herr Meyer can no more "represent" it than he can "represent" a mountain or a forest.

The Most Intolerable.

Yet it is significant, and it is a good sign, if we are obliged to confess that, of all the parliaments in the world, the German Reichstag is the most intolerable.

also the theatrical character of similar pre-arranged debates to which spectators of both sexes flock as to a theatre. All this, however, is entirely foreign to the German character.

No nation in the world can approach Germany in the number and variety of political institutions. She certainly does not need to borrow a form of government from another country.

France and Russia.

How lifeless is France with its one city where politicians, artists, scholars, cocottes, all live together in a heap surrounded by some 500,000 square kilometers of sterile Phillistinism with no science, no society, "agri deserti" in every intellectual sense!

Every single spot in Germany, on the other hand, is alive, because here the most varied historical traditions still live and give shape to the present; because here alone the present has grown organically out of the past.

Bismarck Indicated.

In a no less degree must political Germany follow new lines in the entire conception of her relation to other states. Bismarck has already pointed out the course to be pursued.

No greater misfortune could befall Germany than to allow herself to be ruled again by Metternich principles. Let it not be interposed that history knows but one Bismarck. Principles are powerful as soon as they are clearly recognized and boldly adopted.

When Germany has finally won the day—and that she may win it let us confidently hope—she must begin without delay to occupy herself with highly intellectual, scientific politics.

We hear a great deal about the "people," and yet it is always a certain group of men who seize the power and make use of it for their own selfish interests.

The fact must not be overlooked that, even if Germany be victorious in Europe, that does not mean an end of the struggle. There are the populations of other continents to be considered.

A new era will bring new aims and new methods!

LITERATURE.

OUR THRALDOM TO NEWS.

The Fetters of the News Imp. Situation of the Nations. America and Its Newspapers.

By R. L. Orchelle.

If out of the welter of this war any new liberty for man may be said to have been won so far, it is the refreshing liberty from the cackling gossip called general news.

Our attention, to be sure, is focussed all the more fiercely and feverishly upon the red-hot centers of the war. But because most newspapers bring us no reports of events, important or trivial, in other regions of the world, are we to suppose that there are or have been none?

In State of Siege.

The nations, in fact, are in a state of siege—cut off from all but military news—if the thin, distorted trickle that reaches us may be called by that name.

nations are permitted to have as thickly clouded and colored by surmise, passion, interest and rumor as it was a hundred years ago.

News has given way to rumor—in every land we behold the re-birth of that fantastic female. The tiny seeds she sows send forth monstrous shoots which develop into stupendous parasitic plants that spread into jungles of darkness and cover the continents.

All this bubble-blowing and breaking is not without a wholesome effect upon mankind. It is an heroic cure through shock and disillusion. Civilization had built itself snug bomb-proof shelters—but the bombs have won.

The Mirage Vanishes.

But great shocks came upon us and the veil of complacency was rent—the San Francisco earthquake, the Titanic disaster and now, the concussion of the Great War.

intercourse. But now that fragile tissue has been rent asunder like a spider's web by a sword. The delicate veil of shifting tints and lights through which we saw a nebulous and unsteady mirage of life and the world has vanished.

This condition is not so absolute in America as in England. England, despite telegrams from Paris, Copenhagen and Petersburg, has been made more insular than ever.

Question of Happiness.

To quote that deep and dynamic spirit, now so much misjudged and misunderstood, "the Man of Incurable Intellectual Honesty,"—Friedrich Nietzsche—what was it he said? Man does not desire happiness—only the Englishman desires that!

The newspapers had won a wide and insidious power over our souls. They tyrannized our minds and usurped our judgments. They censored our view of the world for us until neither world nor view were any longer our own.

the age, they still exercise a wide-spread suggestive force over average, lazy and slavish minds, and an all-dominating one over the mob-mind, or (since this compound may be a contradiction in terms) the mob-passions.

Dangers of Journalism.

The news-panderers cater to one of the most rooted but trivial of human instincts—curiosity. In order to cater to a higher form of the same appetite, that is, the thirst for knowledge,—it is necessary that there be something or someone higher in the function of the newspaper—not a panderer, but a prophet, not a reporter, but an interpreter.

If the war have freed us from the obsession of newspapers and the habit of news-drunkness, or if it presages a reform in newspapers themselves—good fruit may yet grow from the blood-sodden earth.

Those juggernauts of our days, the thunderous rotary presses, will roll over us and stamp their messages upon us as upon so much unresisting paper. Dust to dust. The leaden types cry to leaden wits—the rivers of wood-pulp for which noble forests fall, flow through our wooden skulls.

The News Monster.

The Germans may congratulate themselves on having escaped the plague of a yellow press. Here and there a chauvinistic voice may be raised in answer to the attack of the enemy, but in general the German journals are conducted in a seemly and dignified manner.

Whilst we curse war that has broken the lands and the lives of the peoples, let us bless the truce of the news-monster. The truce has restored for a time the broken image of life and death, and set it once more in the light and the shade so that each man may see for himself, even though the light be the glare of battle-fires and the shadow that of universal mourning.

An International Conference Concerning the Causes of the World War.

The repeated attempts to take steps in the different countries calculated to bring about a rapprochement between the belligerent nations have thus far not gone beyond the stage of bare wishes, and up to now all these attempts have lacked in common definite bases upon which a discussion between the opposing parties could in any event take place.

Vague Indications only.

Incitations of this nature can have at most only a negative value, in the sense that it is worth while to know how an affair must not be dealt with, in order that one may see clearly what is to be done and what is to be avoided.

There can not be any earnest question that the termination of existing conditions and the reestablishment of an ordered state of affairs is desired by every human being, and not by some isolated party. One needs only to bear clearly in mind that the war itself is being conducted only for the sake of peace in order that one may at once recognize the goal toward which developments are really being directed.

Return of Normal conditions.

All humanity is striving for normal conditions: But "How?", "When?", "Where?", that is the fatal question about which I perplex myself all day long, says Goethe in his "Faust".

When any one wishes really to alter a specified condition, be it what it may, he must first analyze for himself the conditions which have brought about this situation. The desire to alter a situation without doing away with the conditions which have caused it, is, in its very nature, an inconsistency. The desire to bring about peace, but to leave untouched the causes that have banished it, means in reality a peace with its peace-destroying factors, or, in other words, not a restoration of peace at all.

Basis of Possible Negotiations.

That this, alongside the military decision of the issues, is the single possible basis for negotiations between the parties to the conflict is shown with indubitable certainty by the form and manner in which the war has been carried on since its outbreak, and, generally speaking, by the manner in which the war can be carried on. This is done by twofold means: Through the struggle with weapons and through the struggle of opinions concerning the justice of the war. Both methods are dependent on each other. Justice can not prevail without weapons, and the best weapons lose their value when they can not be employed in the consciousness of a just cause.

Battle of Opinions.

To attain this it would be necessary to make it possible for the warring countries to come into direct contact with each other not only in the battle with arms, but also in the battle of opinions, and in this manner to effect a decision on the existing differences. By such a course of action there would come to pass in an effective manner only exactly what has been striven for, but not in an effective manner, ever since the outbreak of the war: opinions would then come into just as direct contact with each other as do the weapons, and the possibility would thereby be offered for all the factors of war to bring about further results.

Investigating Cause of War.

The very fact that such an exchange of opinions concerning the causes of the war would at the same time deal with an element of the fighting would make such an exchange of opinions, in contrast to the attempts referred to at the outset of this article, a basis acceptable in principle to all parties. For who, one must ask, would not have the urgent wish to maintain the justice

of his cause and demonstrate to his opponent that he is in the wrong? Indeed, that is the expressed purpose of the official explanatory publications, the white, blue, yellow and green books; they all endeavor to represent the justice of the cause of their own land and to locate the responsibility with the opponent. To uphold them thus, also in a direct battle of opinions against the arguments of the opponents, to defeat the enemy here as well, must lie in the very interest of the participants. And he who has the courage to oppose himself to the enemy in the field—and all the participants exhibit this courage—will also be able to do the same thing unconditionally in this field where the conflict is on no other issue than the right which is to be established with weapons on the battlefield.

No Peace! Reparation First!

Thus when Mons. Vandervelde remarked some time ago in Paris with emphasis: "No peace! Reparation must first follow the crime," there comes the question: "What is the deduction to be drawn?" Who are those who must make reparation for a crime? What was it except the demand for reparation when Austria sent its note to Serbia, a note whose unconditional acceptance, by the way, no less a person than then the former Italian minister-president, Marquis San Giuliano, advocated. However, it is not desired in this place to anticipate and to go into details; but to come to an understanding on this matter and on all the other questions connected with it would probably not be supererogatory for all those interested in the truth. And all the parties say, they are interested in the truth.

Free Discussion.

Let it not be thought either that such a discussion could have no limits; it would, in the very nature of things, restrict itself to comparatively few issues, as long as one held oneself only to the main questions. One needs only to take into consideration this: Peace reigned up to June 1914; the world-war broke out at the beginning of August. It can not, therefore be a difficult task to establish the facts which in these days caused the war, and upon whom the responsibility for this outbreak is to be placed. This can offer the less difficulties from the fact that all the belligerent states have issued their defensive publications, so that the entire body of facts with all its conflicting issues lies open for judgment. Despite the copious war literature which has developed, the points at issue which it would be necessary to discuss pro and con are in reality few in number.

Battle for Right.

It should not be attempted at peace, but a battle for right which should bring the opponents together. On this foundation alone is a discussion possible for all participants. He who desires to defend his right and to disseminate the truth, he who is ready to exchange question and answer with his opponent, runs no risk of being misunderstood. Therefore it would be superfluous to ask who shall make a beginning, who shall take the initiative. Every government, every party, every group of interests, every individual, no matter to what country they may belong, have an interest in such a discussion, since they would defend there nothing else than the right for which the nations are fighting or believe themselves to be fighting in the field.

Shortening the War.

And if such a battle of opinions should at the same time result in shortening the present world war, who would earnestly complain? If peace is to be born of battle, all the factors of battle, the moral, as well as the physical ones, must be effective.

For the benefit of all those specially brilliant people who, without being able to give any reasons know perfectly well in advance that "nothing will come of such squabbles anyhow," I want to quote the words of a man who himself had battled for the right to quarrel, and through his very quarrels had brought the truth to light more than once. This quarrelsome man gave the following judgment on the public, which is from principle disinclined to quarrel: "They seem to forget that they have to thank bare controversy for the clearing up of so many an important point, and that mankind would be in harmony over nothing in the world if it had as yet quarrelled over nothing in the world." And in another place: "It may be that the truth has never yet been established by a quarrel: the truth, for all that, has won in every quarrel." Through his own battles Lessing, the author of these words, placed their truth beyond every doubt. E. H.

For Sprains Lane Muscles. Absorbine, Jr., brings quick relief. Keep a bottle of Absorbine, Jr., always at hand ready for instant use—you will find it a big help whenever anyone gets hurt.

German Diction — German lessons Eva Wilcke. Teacher of Geraldine Farrar—George Hamlin—Marcella Craft, f. Royal Opera Munich—Lucy Gates, f. Royal Opera Berlin and Kassel—Estelle Wentworth, f. Gr. Dec. Opera Dessau, Freiburg—George Heider, Royal Opera Stuttgart—Jane Osborn Hannah, Grand Opera Co. Boston—Emma Vilmar, f. Royal Opera Berlin and Deutsches Opernhaus Charlottenburg.

Adolf Schustermann Newspaper Clippings Agency. Berlin, SO. 16.—Rungestr. 22/24. Largest Newspaper Clippings Agency in Germany. Special departments for Bibliography, Politics, Art, Science, Commerce, and Industry.

Nutiden The Only Paper in Germany in the Danish Language. Best Organ for Advertisers. Free Sample Copies from: C André, Berlin W. 50, Rankstr. 35.

Did You Ever Use PRESS CLIPPINGS? Do you want everything printed in the newspapers, magazines and trade press of the United States and Canada on any particular subject? Send us your order, describing what you want to clip, enclosing Doll. 3.00 and we will send you our service for one month, mailing you daily or weekly all clippings found on your topic.

The Great War. A Daily Chronicle of Events Documents, Cables and Reports of the "Frankfort Gazette" (Frankfurter Zeitung) Frankfurt a. Main. Published in serial form fortnightly. Each Number 40 Pfennigs.

Souvenirs from the Estate of George Washington, at Mount Vernon, Va. U.S. PRESS ASSOCIATION 53 Bow Building Washington, D. C.

NEUCHATEL. GRAND HOTEL BELLEVUE & BEAU RIVAGE. THE LEADING HOTEL. RIGHT ON THE LAKE. AUTO-GARAGE. MOST MODERN INSTALLATION. VEVEY. GRAND & PALACE HOTEL. Modern Establishment with Home comfort for Winter Stay. Reduced Prices.

HOTELS. Hotel Del Prado Jackson Park Chicago, Illinois. Best food. Luxurious beds. Select class of guests. Rates very reasonable. Write for terms to: H. H. McLean, Manager.

SCHLITZ HOTEL. Rates: Single, Doll. 1.00 up; Double, Doll. 1.50 up. With Bath: Single, Doll. 1.50 up; Double, Doll. 2.25 up. Ocean Front Rooms for two Doll. 3.00. Ocean Front Rooms for two with Bath Doll. 4.00. "Same Rates throughout the Year"

Davos Leading Establishment. Grand Hotel Belvedere Renovated in 1912.

MONTREUX Lake Geneva. Delightful Health Resort. Ideal Place for all Winter Sports. Several Mountain Railways. Kursaal with Orchestra, Variety Performances, etc.

Interlaken Opposite Central station. Hotel Jura Open all year.

Stockholm. Grand Hotel & Grand Hotel Royal. Two of the finest hotels in Scandinavia, situated opposite the Royal Palace with a magnificent view on the North-Ström and Lake of Mälaren.

Meran South-Tyrol. Palace Hotel. Fine situation in Large Park.

Hotel National. A most modern high-class family hotel. Tarif extremely moderate.

Adelboden (Bernese Oberland) Hotel and Pension Schoenenegg. Delightful situation. Special cooking after medical orders.

Engelberg Victoria Hotel Hug. Open all the year. Wintersports.

Wengen Palace Hotel and National. Magnificent first-class establishment under excellent management.

Bern Most picturesque town in Europe. Seat of Swiss Government. Museums, Theatres.

Montreux Hotel Continental. Beautifully situated, large garden.

Arth-Rigi-Railway. Shortest and most agreeable railway connection from Lucern, Basel, Zurich, Schaffhausen, Bodessee, Voralberg, Bündenland, Italy.

Beatenberg Favourite Alpine Health Resort on the north side of Lake Thun.

The Coit School For American Boys. Ninth Year Opened Oct. 1. German home with American direction; individual instruction. Thorough college and school preparation in all subjects.

The Pattee School for Girls. MUNICH. Was opened Oct. 1. Only a small number of girls above 16 accepted. Instruction and training adapted to individual needs.

Where to buy the Continental Times. Germany. Berlin. At all Street Kiosques. At all bookstalls on Overhead and Underground Railway. At all bookstalls on main railway stations.

Denmark. Copenhagen: A. Gieses Eftf. Osterade 17. Any difficulty in obtaining the paper should be notified to the head office at Augsburgerstrasse 38 Berlin W. 50.

Switzerland. Neuenburg: Verlagsbuchhandlung F. Zahn, Bahnhofstrasse 13/15. Basel: Bahnhofsbuchhandlung F. Zahn. Bern: Bahnhofsbuchhandlung. Zeitungskiosk Bubenberg, Ferd. Wvss.

The "Cologne Gazette" (Kölnische Zeitung). I. Daily Edition. Leading political Journal of Germany, with a large circulation at home and abroad. Daily 4 editions; each and all replete with up-to-date matter.