

The Hohenzollerns

(St. John Globe)
A very interesting and not lightly to be ignored development of the American-German situation is the attention representative American journals are paying to the often-expressed opinion of British journals that when the times comes to negotiate peace there should be refusal, absolute and steadfast, to have anything to do with the Hohenzollerns. To-day in the American press are to be found both letters and editorials advocating the self-same idea. All this is interesting and important as showing the development of popular opinion, but it is far less important, far less significant than the news which comes from Germany of discussion toward the same end. In the very nature of things, discussion of this subject by the German press is negative in character. But the fact that

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there is discussion over the possibilities of a change of the German government system is indicative of a strong undercurrent of popular opinion along that line, and suggestive of a growing sentiment which sooner or later may bring about a political overthrow that will free Germany from Hohenzollern rule. More or less vehement denunciation in the German press of the possibilities and probabilities of the German people trying to overturn the present form of government by no means constitute the only discussion of the subject. These are but the surface indicators of a movement which, despite all the rigors of a vigorous censorship and most drastic repressive measures, is making its influence felt throughout the whole Teutonic empires. One of the cross-currents of this movement was the private circulation through out Bavaria and Southern Germany of a document advocating the abdication of the Hohenzollerns in favor of the Bavarian royal family, the House of Wittelsbach, as the step necessary to secure for Germany a not too disadvantageous peace. Although the circulation

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of this manifesto, which expressed the opinions and hopes of an influential and powerful organization, was suppressed, it gained a sufficiently wide reading to create tremendous excitement. According to a Berne, Switzerland, translation, published in the New York Times, this remarkable document pointed out that—a mere glance at the books, pamphlets and newspaper articles of our enemies makes it obvious that in the Entente countries governments and peoples alike feel a deadly hatred for the present German Emperor. It is against the Kaiser and his son that the most venomous attacks are directed. They are held responsible, not merely for the outbreak of the war, but also for all those acts of war about which our enemies assert that they are justified in complaining. This being so, how can anyone still believe that England, France and Russia will ever consent to negotiate with the present principal personages in Germany—that is to say, with William II and his son?
After instituting a comparison between conditions in Germany to-day and in France when Napoleon was fighting the world, the document points out "if the fortunes of war are finally decided against Germany, then everyone will awake to the fact that, in her own interests, the Hohenzollerns absolutely must, voluntarily or compulsorily, be relieved of their imperial functions." The advantages Germany will derive in that hour from treating with the Allies under a German Emperor and King of Bavaria instead of a German Emperor and King of Prussia, are dwelt upon and the point is made that "a German Empire with the Wittelsbachs as its emperors would not merely make for the security and peace of Europe, but it would also, despite Germany's having been defeated, render possible the realization of the desire for a Greater Germany." The meaning of this sentence is made plain by the suggestions that "there is no longer place in history for such countries as Austria and Turkey." The Southern Germans who want the King of Bavaria given the throne of William II. are willing, according to their secretly distributed document, to see the Southern

Slavs united to Serbia; to give the Trentino and the Austrian coastal regions to Italy; Transylvania to Roumania; Ruthenian Galicia to Russia; Polish Galicia to an autonomous Poland, making Bohemia and Hungary independent and uniting the German Austrians with the German Empire. On such terms and under acceptable rulers, the association behind the secret movement to displace the Kaiser believes it possible not only to secure peace, but for Germany again to resume commercial and friendly relations with the world and perhaps to save some of her colonies. This suppressed document, and the more or less open discussion in the Teutonic press of the question of government changes, throw rays of light on internal conditions in Germany, just as American press endorsement of suggestions that the world refuse to treat further with the Hohenzollerns throws light on a developing public opinion which when the time comes to talk peace may exercise an all-powerful influence. The House of Hohenzollern has placed itself outside the pale and invited its own destruction by the perfidity and lawlessness followed in this war against civilization.

Advertise Seed Oats

A large number of inquires are being received from Ontario and Quebec farmers asking where they can purchase seeds oats. There was a good oat crop last year in some districts, particularly on tile-drained land. Farmers having seed oats for sale should advertise them in at least one farm paper. Some have reported the kinds, quantities and prices of seeds for sale direct to the Seed Branch and this information is being supplied in answer to the inquiries received.

Irritation In Great Britain

London, March 7.—The report current here that Holland is determined to lay up her ships rather than expose them to the dangers of the German submarine war zone is causing so much irritation that it would not be surprising if the governments of the Entente adopted retaliatory measures unless negotiations between London and the Hague reach a successful conclusion. A well informed diplomat expressed the prevailing feeling and policy of the Entente to the Associated Press as follows:
"Should Holland, after stigmatizing the German war zone declaration as wholly illegal, acquiesce in the measure the Entente would be bound to regard such action as unneutral, and would feel constrained to take retaliatory measures, even to the possible extent of using the right which would enable the Entente governments to requisition Dutch shipping now within their harbors. Such action on the part of the Dutch would tend to make the German policy effective, as the holding up of neutral shipping is more serious than an attack on Entente tonnage, which proceeds despite the risk.
"No complain in this direction has been made against the United States, which has already taken action that might lead to war. Therefore, the American govern-

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ment is justified in laying up shipping until measures are taken to safeguard it. The Entente policy is not purely negative, for should Dutch ships come out every effort will be made to protect them. Should such measures fail, then Germany must be acknowledged the top dog and no blame would attach to Holland.

"Scandinavian shipping is already moving to a considerable extent and no disposition is shown to follow Holland's lead.

"The political crisis in Sweden, it is thought, must end in a favorable turn of the relations with that country and the Entente Powers, by whom it is generally believed the outcome will ultimately result in an agreement whereby a reasonable rationing basis will be established."

Only One Way

[Contemporary Review.]
There is only one way to make Germany powerless for harm, and that is to beat her in the field and take securities for her adequate disarmament, making any breach of the treaty a future cause belli with a league of nations to act on it. The idea that safety as against Germany is to be secured by a fiscal policy planned to keep her poor in a folly of follies, far outdoing the Utopianism of any pacifist.

Found Guilty of Sinking Ship

Florence, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers and men of the German Hansa Line freighter Liebenfels, which began sinking in Charleston harbour on the night of Jan. 31, were found guilty of sinking the vessel in a navigable stream by a jury in the United States district court here late yesterday. They were acquitted, however, in one count charging conspiracy to sink the steamer. Captain J. R. Klattenhoff, master of the Liebenfels, was the only one of the indicted men whose trial was postponed. He is ill at Charleston.
The counsel for the defense argued that the men should not be punished,

intimating that they were only carrying out orders. The defense offered no testimony, but after conviction made a motion for a new trial, which was denied. Sentence will be passed to-day.

LATER.

Florence, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers of the German steamship Liebenfels, sunk in Charleston harbour the night of Jan. 31st, to-day were sentenced to a year in the Atlanta Federal Prison and to pay a fine of \$500 each. They were convicted yesterday of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream in violation of the navigation laws.

New Paper Mill At Edmundston

St. John, March 9.—"We expect to start breaking ground in two weeks in connection with the erection of our new pulp and paper plant at Edmundston," said Donald Fraser, a member of the well known lumbering firm of Fraser Ltd., who was in the city yesterday, a guest at the Royal Hotel.

Mr. Fraser added that the matters which were outstanding between the town council of Edmundston and his firm had been entirely settled and that the town would seek the necessary legislation to provide for a specified figure of taxation for the company at the next session of the legislature.

Mr. Fraser is enthusiastic over the prospects for the successful operation of the pulp and paper plant at Edmundston. His brother, Archibald Fraser, is now in Boston in connection with the American business of this well known firm.

British Now Eat Less Meat

London, March 7.—There has been a substantial diminution of meat consumption in Great Britain as the result of the recent appeal to the people by the Food Controller, asking that they place themselves on rations. In consequence of this, it was stated in the House of Commons to-day, there was no intention at present to introduce compulsory meatless days. The returns showed, it was said, an increased disposition on the part of the public to adopt rationing.

The Evening News says that Baron Devonport, the Food Controller, has decided to put into effect measures to regulate the price of bacon, butter, cheese, and lard.

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