

Important State Papers.

GERMAN INDEMNITIES.

REPORT MADE TO THE FIRST CONSUL, IN SENATE,
BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—
SITTING OF SATURDAY, AUGUST 21.

THE Treaty of Luneville had operated the absolute re-establishment of peace between France and Germany. It had regulated in an express and definitive manner, the general reports between these two countries, and France being in every point satisfied, the entire execution of the Treaty would not have required any ulterior regulation, if it had not been acknowledged to be just, and been formally stipulated, that the cession consented to by the Empire for the advantage of the Republic, should be supported collectively by the Germanic Federation; admitting, however, the distinction of hereditary lay Princes, and of usufructuary Ecclesiastics. This principle once laid down, it appeared to belong to the Germanic Body to employ itself upon the application of it spontaneously and without delay.

The sincere desire of the French Government, solely intent upon its internal affairs, was to take no concern in the adjustment of the promised indemnifications; and it confined its influence merely to repeated declarations that it was anxious to see the Treaty of Luneville carried into complete execution by that of the VIIIth Article. But its exhortations remained without effect, and more than a year elapsed without the least appearance of any plan being even commenced for the repartition of the compensations.

The non-execution of one of the principal stipulations of the Treaty of Luneville left all Germany in a state of uncertainty, which became daily more embarrassing, inasmuch as pretensions and intrigues were forming and acquiring strength in proportion as the state of the public mind and public affairs exhibited more indecision. The kind of dissolution which affected the Germanic Body retarded the advantages of the peace to all Europe, and might, in some respects, endanger the general tranquillity. The government of the Republic was not the only one impressed with this danger; and whilst it received from all quarters the applications of the parties interested in the repartition of the compensations, the Court of Russia testified how urgent it was, in its estimation, that the affairs of Germany should be brought to an adjustment. The Emperor Alexander, on his accession to the Throne, felt the noble desire of contributing to maintain the peace which had been re-established; and an intimate concert, a frank and complete association of the most generous views, having promptly taken place between the First Consul and the Emperor, it was felt by them that the pacification of the Continent could not be solidly guaranteed, but by carrying the Treaty of Luneville into complete execution; and that this execution could not be accomplished but by the initiative and influence of two powers perfectly disinterested, whose preponderant mediation might remove all the obstacles which had arisen in the course of eighteen months against the definitive repartition of the indemnities.

It was, therefore, solely for the purpose of sealing the pacification of Europe, and guaranteeing its stability, that the First Consul and His Majesty the Emperor of Russia determined, by common consent, to interfere in the affairs of Germany, to effect, by their mediation, what would in vain have been expected from the internal deliberations of the Germanic Body.

This first point being agreed upon, a discussion was opened, and continued between the two Cabinets, to ascertain the ways and means which should lead to the desired result. It was resolved that a general plan of indemnification should be presented to the Diet; and in digesting this plan the most scrupulous attention was, on both sides, paid to the means of compensating every loss, satisfying every interest, and incessantly conciliating the demands of justice with political expediency.

It was not, in fact, sufficient to ascertain the strict value of the losses sustained, and to proportionate the compensations accordingly; the effects of the war having changed the internal equilibrium of Germany, it was necessary to think of the means of re-establishing it. The introduction of new Princes into the Germanic system, required new combinations. Nor was the real value of the compensations to arise merely from their extent, but in many cases from their position; and the advantages desirable to some powers from the concentration of their old and new territories, were in themselves an important consideration, and which, therefore, required to be attended to.

The two Governments, therefore, applied themselves to examine with scrupulous attention the question of the Indemnities in all these relations. They felt that, if policy required the complete satisfaction of the principal houses, strict justice equally required that the States of the second and third rank should obtain a compensation for their losses, and the First Consul made it his particular business to maintain the rights of those who might have found the least support among the parties interested.

The perfect concert which had been formed between France and Russia, the happy result of the direct intercourse which the First Consul took pleasure in maintaining with His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, having presided in all these discussions, all points were speedily settled, and a general plan of indemnification, agreed upon at Paris by the respective Plenipotentiaries, received the approbation of the First Consul, and that of the Emperor.

It was determined that this plan should be presented to the Diet of the Empire, in the form of a declaration to be made at the same time by Ministers appointed for that purpose. On the part of the First Consul, Citizen Laforest, Minister of the Republic to the Elector Palatine of Bavaria, has received orders to repair to Ratisbon; and on the part of the Emperor of Russia, the Baron de Buhler likewise his Minister at Munich.

This declaration was to have been presented a few days ago, and the First Consul having ordered it to be read to him in the Senate, it will display the principles which have directed the two governments, and the particular care which they have taken in their application.

In fact, the examination of the proposed plan will shew, that in the execution of a system which has for its object the consolidation of the peace of Europe, they have, above all, applied themselves to diminish the chances of war. On this account, care has been taken to avoid all contiguity of territory between the two powers who have most frequently involved Europe in bloodshed by their quarrels, and who being seriously reconciled, cannot now have a more ardent desire than that of removing all those grounds of misunderstanding which arise from neighbouring territories, and which, between rival States, are never unaccompanied with danger.

The same principle adopted, not in all its rigour, but as far as circumstances could admit, has also led to place the indemnities of Prussia beyond the reach of contact with France and Batavia.

From this arrangement Austria will have derived the immense advantage of seeing all her possessions concentrated. The Palatine House will also have received an organization stronger and more advantageous for the purpose of defence.

And Prussia will continue to form, in the Germanic system, the essential basis of a necessary counterpoise.

The adjustment of the secondary indemnities has also been proposed, according to principles of general and particular expediency; and nothing has been omitted towards establishing them in a just proportion to the known losses. It may, however, appear, that the House of Baden has been more favored than the others; but it was thought necessary to strengthen the Circle of Suabia, which occupies an intermediate position between France and the Great Germanic States; and the First Consul is happy that in this circumstance policy perfectly coincides with the disposition of the French Government, which could not but see with pleasure an augmentation of power assigned to a Prince, whose virtues have long attracted the esteem of Europe, the alliances of which have so honorably distinguished his family, and whose conduct, during the whole course of the war, has merited the particular good-will of the Republic.

It is likewise with real satisfaction, that France and Russia, compelled to take the measure of secularization as the basis of the indemnities, have recognized the possibility of preserving in the Empire an Ecclesiastical Elector, and that they have proposed to assign him a suitable establishment, by giving him the title and functions of Arch-Chancellor.

It was further necessary to lay before the Diet some general considerations, which should serve as the basis of the internal arrangements required by the new organization of the Germanic Body; and the First Consul, and His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, can doubtless do themselves the justice, that being solely animated with the desire of consolidating the peace of Europe, and not actuated by any private interest, nothing has been omitted on their part, in order to present to the Diet of the Empire such a plan of indemnification, that it appeared impossible to digest one, the basis and details of which should be more conformable to the spirit and text of the Treaty of Luneville, more analogous to the political circumstances of Europe, and more favorable to the maintenance of peace.

The two Governments of France and Russia are persuaded that the period they have fixed will be sufficient for the decision of the Germanic interests, and in the long course of prosperity which must result to Germany, they will find a pleasing and honorable recompense for the exertions they have made to procure it.

(Signed) CH. MAUR. TALLEYRAND.

DECLARATION.

The First Consul of the Republic, animated with the desire of contributing to the consolidation of the peace and tranquillity of the Empire, has thought no means more proper to obtain the object of his solicitude than to fix, by a plan of indemnities, appropriate, as far as circumstances could allow, to the respective interests of the parties, an arrangement calculated to attain so salutary an end. And a good understanding in that respect having been established between the First Consul of the French Republic and his Imperial Majesty of all the Russias, he authorized the Minister of Foreign Affairs to deliberate, in concert with the Minister Plenipotentiary of his Imperial Majesty of all Russias, on the means the best adapted to apply the principles adopted for the compensations to be made according to the demands of the interested parties. The result of this deliberation having been approved of by him, he has directed the undersigned to communicate it to the Diet of the Empire by the present Declaration; a measure to which the First Consul of the French Republic, as well as his Imperial Majesty, have been influenced by the following considerations:—

The 7th article of the Treaty of Luneville having stipulated that the Hereditary Princes, whose possessions were comprehended in the cession made to the French Republic of the countries situated on the left bank of the Rhine, should be indemnified, it was recognized, that, in conformity to what had been previously decided at the Congress of Ratisbon, the indemnification ought to operate by way of secularization; but although a perfect agreement existed with respect to the basis of the compensations, the States interested in them have entertained such opposite views as to the distribution, that it had been found impossible, until the present moment, to proceed to the execution of the aforesaid Article of the Treaty of Luneville.

And although the Diet of the Empire has named a Special Commission, charged with the adjustment of this important subject, it is sufficiently evident, from the delays it experiences, how much the opposition of interests, and the jealousies arising from various pretensions, prevent the regulation of the indemnities in the Empire from taking place by the spontaneous agreement of the Germanic Body.

This has induced the First Consul of the French Republic and his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the Russias, to think that it became the duty of two powers perfectly disinterested to offer their mediation, and to present to the deliberations of the Imperial Diet a general plan of indemnification, drawn up according to calculations marked with the most rigorous impartiality, and in which every exertion

should be made, as much to compensate acknowledged losses, as to preserve between the principal houses many the equilibrium which existed before the war.

In pursuance therefore of this determination, after having examined with the most scrupulous attention all the memorials and documents equally relative to the estimate of losses and the demand for indemnities, presented by the interested parties, it has been agreed upon to propose that the compensations be distributed in the following manner:—

To the Archduke, Grand Duke—for Tuscany and its dependencies; the Archbishopric of Saltzbourg, the Provostship of Bertolds-garden, the Bishoprics of Trent and Brixen, that part of the Bishopric of Passau situated beyond the Itz and the Inn, on the side of Austria, with the exception of the suburbs of Passau and a line of 500 toises, and the Abbeys, Chapters, and Convents, situated in the above-mentioned dioceses.—The above-mentioned principalities shall be held by the Archduke on the conditions, engagements, and relations, founded on existing treaties. The said principalities shall be taken from the Circle of Bavaria, and incorporated in the Circle of Austria, & their ecclesiastical jurisdictions, both metropolitan and diocesan, shall be equally separated by the limits of the two Circles. Muhlendorf shall be united to Bavaria, and its equivalent in revenue shall be furnished from that of Freisingen.

To the ci-devant Duke of Modena—for the Modenese and its dependencies; the Brisgau and the Ortenau.

To the Elector Palatine of Bavaria—for the Duchy of Deux Ponts, the Duchy of Juliers, the Palatinate of the Rhine, the Marquisate of Bergopzoom, the Lordship of Ravenstein, and others situated in Belgium and Alsace; the Bishoprics of Passau, with the exception of the part given to the Archduke of Wurtzburg, subject to the reservations hereafter mentioned, of Bamberg, Aughtsd, Freisingen, and Augsburg; the Provostship of Kepton, the Imperial towns of Rothenbourg, Weissenbourg, Windheim, Schweinfurt, Gochheim, Sennefeld, Allthausen, Kempten, Kaubeburen, Memmingen, Dinkelsbuhl, Nordlingen, Ulm, Bopfingen, Buchorn, Waugen, Leutkirch, Ravensbourg, and Alchthausen; and the Abbeys of St. Ulric, Irsee Weugen, Soclingen, Elchingen, Urberg, Ruchenberg, Weltenhausen, Ottoburen, and Kaiserheim.

To the King of Prussia—for the Duchies of Cleves (on the left of the Rhine) and of Gueldres; the Principality of Mors, the enclosures of Sevenaar, Huissen, and Mahlbourg; and for the Tolls of the Rhine and the Meuse; the Bishoprics of Hildesheim and Paderborn, the territory of Erford and Untergleichen, Eichfield, and that part of Trefort near Mentz; the part of the Bishopric of Munster situated on the right of a line drawn from Olphen through Munster to Techenbourg, the two towns of Olphen and Munster being comprehended under it; as well as the right bank of the Embs as far as Lingen; the Imperial towns of Muhlhausen, Northausen, and Goslar; the Abbeys of Herforden, Quedlinbourg, Eten, Essen, and Werben.

To the Princes of Nassau, as follows:—To Nassau Usingen—for the Principality of Saarbruck, the two thirds of the County of Saarwerden, the Lordship of Ottweiler, and that of Lahr in the Ortenau; the remainder of the Electorate of Mentz to the right of the Mein (with the exception of the Grand Bailiwick of Aschaffenburg) and those parts between the Mein, the county of Darmstadt, and the county of Erbach; Caub, and the remainder of the Electorate of Cologne, properly called, (with the reservation of the county of Altwied) the Convents of Seligenstadt and Bieidenstadt, the county of Sayn-Alten-Kirchen, after the death of the Margrave of Anspach, the villages of Soden and Soultzbach.

To Nassau-Weilbourg—for the third of Saarwarden and the Lordship of Kirchheim-Polla-Ciden; the remainder of the Electorate of Treves, with the Abbey of Arnstein and that of Marienstadt.

To Nassau-Dillenburg—for the indemnity given to the Stadtholder and the domains in Holland and Belgium; the Bishoprics of Fuld and Corvey, the town of Dortmund, with the Abbeys and chapters situated within these territories.

To the Margrave of Baden—for his part of the county of Sponheim, and the lands and Lordships situated in the Luxembourg, Alsace, &c. the Bishopric of Constance, the remains of the Bishoprics of Spire, Balle, and Stralburgh, the Palatinate Bailiwicks of Ludenburgh, Bretten, and Heidelberg, with the Cities of Heidelberg and Mannheim, &c. the Imperial towns of Offenbourg, Zell, Hamerbach, Gengenbach, Uberlingen, Biberach, Pfulendorf, and Wimpfen; the Abbeys of Schwarzach, Frauenulb, Alle-Hellingen, Lichtenthal, Gengenbach, Etteneim-Munster, Petershausen, and Salzmanweiser.

To the Duke of Wirtemberg—for the Principality of Montbeliard, and his possessions in Alsace and Franche Comte; the Provostship of Elwangen, the Abbey of Zwisalten, and the Imperial towns of Weil, Rentlingen, Ellingen, Rothwell, Giengen, Aulen-Hall, Gmeindt, and Heilbronn.

To the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel—for St. Goar and Rheinfels; the Monk Inclosures of Amenebourg and Feitzlar, with their dependencies, and the village of Holzhausen.

To the Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt—for the whole of the county of Lichtenberg and its dependencies; the Palatinate Bailiwicks of Lindenfel and Otzberg, and the remaining part of the Bailiwick of Oppenheim, the Duchy of Westphalia, with the exception of the indemnities granted to the Prince of Wittgenstein, the Mentz Bailiwicks of Gernheim, Bensheim, and Hoppenheim, the remainder of the Bishopric of Worms, and the town of Friedberg.

To the prince of Hohenloe-Barleslein, Count Lowenhaupt, and the Heirs of Baron de Dietrich—for the allodial parts of the county of Lichtenberg; the Bailiwick of Yaxberg, the parts of Mentz and Wurzburg in the Bailiwick of Knusel-Shan, the Abbey of Rotten Munster, and the Abbey of Heilig-Kreuzthal.

[Here follows a long list of the Indemnities granted to the Petty Princes of the Empire, viz. to the Princes and Counts of Loewenstein, the Princes and Counts of Linagel, the Princes of Salm and Weid-Runkel, the Princes and Counts of Solms, the Duke of Aremburg, the Princes of Wilgenstein, Stolberg, Isenbourg, La Tour Taxis, Brezenheim, Deitrichlein, and the Counts of Wurtemberg, Sickengen, Leyer, Westphalia, & the Grand Prior of Malta.]