

GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

BY CARL WACKERMAN

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Secret Preparations for a Break in Diplomatic Relations or for War Were Made by the German Government, While in Every Note She Was Professing Her Friendship for the United States—Encouraged Hatred Among the People Against President Wilson and the Americans

Army Officers Continually Showed Their Contempt for American Military Observers and Correspondents and Insulted Them—Ambassador Gerard Suppressed Anti-American Propaganda of League of Truth Only After Severe Battle With Von Jagow and the Foreign Office

WHILE Germany was professing her friendship for the United States in every note written following the sinking of the Lusitania, the Government was secretly preparing the nation for a break in diplomatic relations, or for war, in the event of a rupture. German officials realized that unless the people were made to suspect Mr. Wilson and his motives, unless they were made to resent the shipment of arms and ammunition to the Allies, there would be a division in public opinion and the Government would not be able to count upon the united support of the people. Because the Government does the thinking for the people it has to tell them what to think before they have reached the point of debating an issue themselves. A war with America or a break in diplomatic relations in 1915 would not have been an easy matter to explain if the people had not been encouraged to hate Wilson. So while Germany maintained a propaganda bureau in America to interpret Germany and to maintain good relations, she started in Germany an extensive propaganda against Wilson, the American press, the United States Ambassador and Americans in general.

This step was not necessary in the army because among army officers the bitterness and hatred of the United States were deeper and more extensive than the hatred of any other belligerent. It was hardly ever possible for the American correspondents to go to the front without being insulted. Even the American military attaches, when they went to the front, had to submit to the insults of army officers. After the sinking of the Arabic the six military observers attached to the American embassy were invited by the General Staff to go to Russia to study the military operations of Field Marshal von Mackensen. They were escorted by Baron von Matzahn, former attaché of the German embassy in Paris. At Lodz, one of the largest cities in Poland, they were taken to headquarters. Von Matzahn, who knew Mackensen personally, called at the field marshal's office, reported that he had escorted six American army officers under orders of the General Staff, whom he desired to present to the commander-in-chief. Von Mackensen replied that he did not care to meet the Americans and told Von Matzahn that the best thing he could do would be to escort the observers back to Berlin.

As soon as the military attaches reached Berlin and reported this to Washington they were recalled.

Contempt for United States Ever Present

But this was not the only time Von Mackensen, or other army officers, showed their contempt for the United States. After the fall of Warsaw a group of American correspondents were asked to go to the headquarters of General von Bessler, afterward named Governor General of Poland. The General received them in the gardens of the Polish castle which he had seized as his headquarters; shook hands with the Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Swiss and South American newspaper men, and then, before turning on his heels to go back to his Polish palace, turned to the Americans and said:

"As for you gentlemen, the best thing you can do is to tell your country to stop shipping arms and ammunition."

During General Brussloff's offensive I was invited, together with other correspondents, to go to the Volhynian battlefields to see how the Germans had reorganized the Austrian front. In a little town near the Stokhod River we were invited to dinner by Colonel von Luck. I sat opposite the Colonel, who was in charge of the reorganization here. Throughout the meal he made so many insulting remarks that the officer who was our escort had to change the trend of the conversation. Before he did so the Colonel said:

"Tell me, do they insult you in Berlin like this?"

I replied that I seldom encountered such antagonism in Berlin; that it was chiefly the army which was anti-American. Well, that's the difference between the diplomats and the army. If the army was running the Government we would



Mrs. Neumann-Hofer turned upon her former propagandists and confessed.

probably have had war with America a long time ago, he concluded, smiling sarcastically.

Shortly after the sinking of the Lusitania the naval propaganda bureau had bronze medals cast and placed on sale at souvenir shops throughout Germany. Ambassador Gerard received one day, in exchanging some money, a fifty-mark bill, with the words stamped in purple ink across the face: "God punish England and America." For some weeks this rubber stamp was used very effectively.

The Navy Department realized, too, that another way to attack America, and especially Americans in Berlin, was to arouse the suspicion that every one who spoke English was an enemy. The result was that most Americans had to be exceedingly careful not to talk aloud in public places. The American correspondents were even warned at the General Staff not to speak English at the front. Some of the correspondents who did not speak German were not taken to the battle areas because the Foreign Office desired to avoid insults.

Woman Stabbed for Speaking English

The year and a half between the sinking of the Lusitania and the severance of diplomatic relations was a period of terror for most Americans in Germany. Only those who were so sympathetic with Germany that they were anti-American found it pleasant to live there.

One day one of the American girls employed in the confidential file room of the American embassy was slapped in the face until she cried by a German in civilian clothes, because she was speaking English in the subway.

At another time the wife of a prominent American business man was spit upon and chased out of a public bus because she was speaking English. Then a group of women chased her down the street.

Another American woman was stabbed by a soldier when she was walking on Friedrichstrasse with a friend because she was speaking English.

When the State Department instructed Ambassador Gerard to bring the matter to the attention of the Foreign Office and to demand an apology Wilhelmstrasse referred the matter to the General Staff for investigation. The soldier was arrested and secretly examined. After many weeks had elapsed the Foreign Office explained that the man who had stabbed the woman was really not a soldier but a Red Cross worker. It was explained that he had been wounded and was not responsible for what he did. The testimony of the woman, however, and other witnesses showed that the man at the time he attacked the American was dressed in a soldier's uniform, which is gray, and which could not be mistaken for the black uniform of a Red Cross worker.

It was often said in Berlin, "Germany hates England, fights France, fears Russia, but loathes America." No one, not even American officials, questioned it.

The hate campaign was bearing fruit. In January, 1916, there appeared in Berlin a publication called Light and Truth. It was a twelve-page circular in English and German attacking President Wilson and the United States. Copies were sent by mail to all Americans and to hundreds of thousands of Germans. It was edited and distributed by "The League of Truth." It was the most sensational document printed in Germany since the beginning of the war against a Power with which Germany was supposed to be at peace. Page 6 contained two illustrations under the legend:

WILSON AND HIS PRESS IS NOT AMERICA

Underneath was this paragraph: "An American Demonstration—On the 27th of January, the birthday of the German Emperor, an immense laurel wreath, decorated with the German and American flags, was placed by Ameri-

cans at the foot of the monument to Frederick the Great (in Berlin). The American flag was enshrouded in black crepe. Frederick the Great was the first to recognize the independence of the young republic, after it had won its freedom from the yoke of England, at the price of its very heart's blood through years of struggle. His successor, Wilhelm II, receives the gratitude of America in the form of hypocritical phrases and war supplies to his mortal enemy."

One photograph was of the wreath itself. The other showed a group of thirty-six persons, mostly boys, standing in front of the statue after the wreath had been placed.

Gerard Resents Insult to America

When Ambassador Gerard learned about the "demonstration" he went to the statue and from there immediately to the Foreign Office, where he saw Secretary of State von Jagow. Gerard demanded instantaneous removal of the wreath. Von Jagow promised an "investigation." Gerard meanwhile began a personal investigation of the League of Truth, which had purchased and placed the insult there.

Days, weeks, even months passed. Von Jagow still refused to have the wreath removed. Finally Gerard went to the Foreign Office and told Von Jagow that unless it was taken away that day he would get it himself and send it by courier to Washington. That evening Gerard walked to the statue. The wreath had disappeared.

Week by week the league continued its propaganda. Gerard continued his investigation.

July 4, 1916, another circular was scattered broadcast. On page 1 was a large black cross. Pages 2 and 3, the inside, contained a reprint of the "Declaration of Independence," with the imprint across the face of a bloody hand. Inclosed in a heavy black border on page 4 were nine verses by John L. Stoddard, the lecturer, entitled "Blood-Traffickers."

BLOOD-TRAFFICKERS

cowards, who kill three thousand miles away,
 See the long lines of shrouded forms increase!
 Yours is this work, disguise it as you may;
 But for your greed the world were now at peace.

Month after month your countless chimneys roar,—
 Slaughtering your subject, and your motive gain;
 Look at your money,—it is wet with gore!
 Nothing can cleanse it from the loathsome stain.

You, who prolong this hideous hell on earth,
 Making a by-word of your native land,
 Stripped of your wealth, how paltry is your worth!
 See how men shrink from contact with your hand!

There is pollution in your blood-smeared gold,
 There is corruption in your pact with Death,
 There is dishonor in the lie, oft-told,
 Of your "Humanity"! 'Tis empty breath.

What shall it profit you to heap on high,
 Makers of orphans! a few millions more,
 Look at your money,—it is wet with gore!
 And God demands of you to pay your score?

He is not mocked; His vengeance doth not sleep;
 His cup of wrath He lets you slowly fill;
 What you have sown, that also shall you reap;
 God's law is adamant,—'Thou shalt not kill!'

Think not to plead;—"I did not act alone."
 "Custom allows it," and "My dead were few";
 Each hath his quota; yonder are your own!
 See how their fleshless fingers point at you, at you!

You, to whose vaults this wholesale murder yields
 Mere needless increments of ghoulish gain,
 Count up your corpses on these blood-soaked fields!
 Hear . . . till your death . . . your victims' moans of pain!

Then, when at night you, sleepless, fear to pray,
 Watch the thick, crimson stream draw near your bed,
 And shriek with horror, till the dawn of day,
 Shall find you raving at your heaps of dead!

JOHN L. STODDARD.

The League of Truth
 Head Offices for Germany:
 Berlin W
 40 Potsdamer Str.

July 4th, 1916.

Printed by Barthe & Co., Berlin W.

The league made an especial appeal to the "German-Americans." Germany, as was pointed out in a previous article, counts upon some German-Americans as her allies. One day Ambassador Gerard received a circular entitled, "An Appeal to All Friends of Truth." The same was sent in German and English to a mailing list of many hundred thousands. Excerpts from this read:

If any one is called upon to raise his voice in foreign lands for the cause of truth, it is the foreigner who was unable to witness the unanimous rising of the German people at the outbreak of the war, and their attitude during its continuance. This applies especially to the German-American.

As a citizen of two continents, in proportion as his character has remained true to German principles, he finds both here and there the right word to say. . . .

Numberless millions of men are forced to look upon a loathsome spectacle. It is that of certain individuals in America, to whom a great nation has temporarily intrusted its weal and woe, supporting a few multimillionaires and their dependents, setting at naught—unpunished—the revered document of the



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Fourth of July, 1776, and daring to barter away the lives of the white race. . . . We want to see whether the voices of Germans and foreigners have not more weight than the hired writers of editorials in the newspapers; and the words of men who are independent will not render available for a subsidized press to continue its destructive work.

Gerard's investigation showed that a group of German-Americans in Berlin were financing the League of Truth; they named William F. Marten, who posed as an American, was the one and the editors and writers of the publication Light and Truth were being assisted by the Foreign Office. An American dentist in Berlin, Charles Mueller, was chairman of the league. Mrs. Neumann-Hofer, the American-born wife of Neumann-Hofer, Reichstag, was secretary. Gerard reported other names to the State Department, and asked authority to take away the names of Americans who were assisting the German Government's propaganda.

The "league" heard about the Ambassador's report announced that a "Big Bertha" issue would be published in Berlin. For several months the propagandists worked for data. One day Gerard decided to go to the league's office at the people who were directing it.

In the course of his remarks the Ambassador said that the Foreign Office didn't do something to suppress the league; immediately he would burn down the place. The next day Marten and his coworkers went to the Royal Administration of the State Department, No. 1, in Berlin, and through his attorney lodged a criminal charge of "threat of arson" against the Ambassador.

The next day Germany was flooded with letters from the League of Truth," saying:

The undersigned committee of the League of Truth, in their deepest regret, feel compelled to inform the members of the League of Truth that Ambassador Gerard had become involved in a criminal case involving threat of arson. . . . All American citizens now asked whether an Ambassador who acts so unwisely at the moment of a formal threat of a wholly unnecessary war to be considered worthy further to represent a country like the United States.

End of the League of Truth

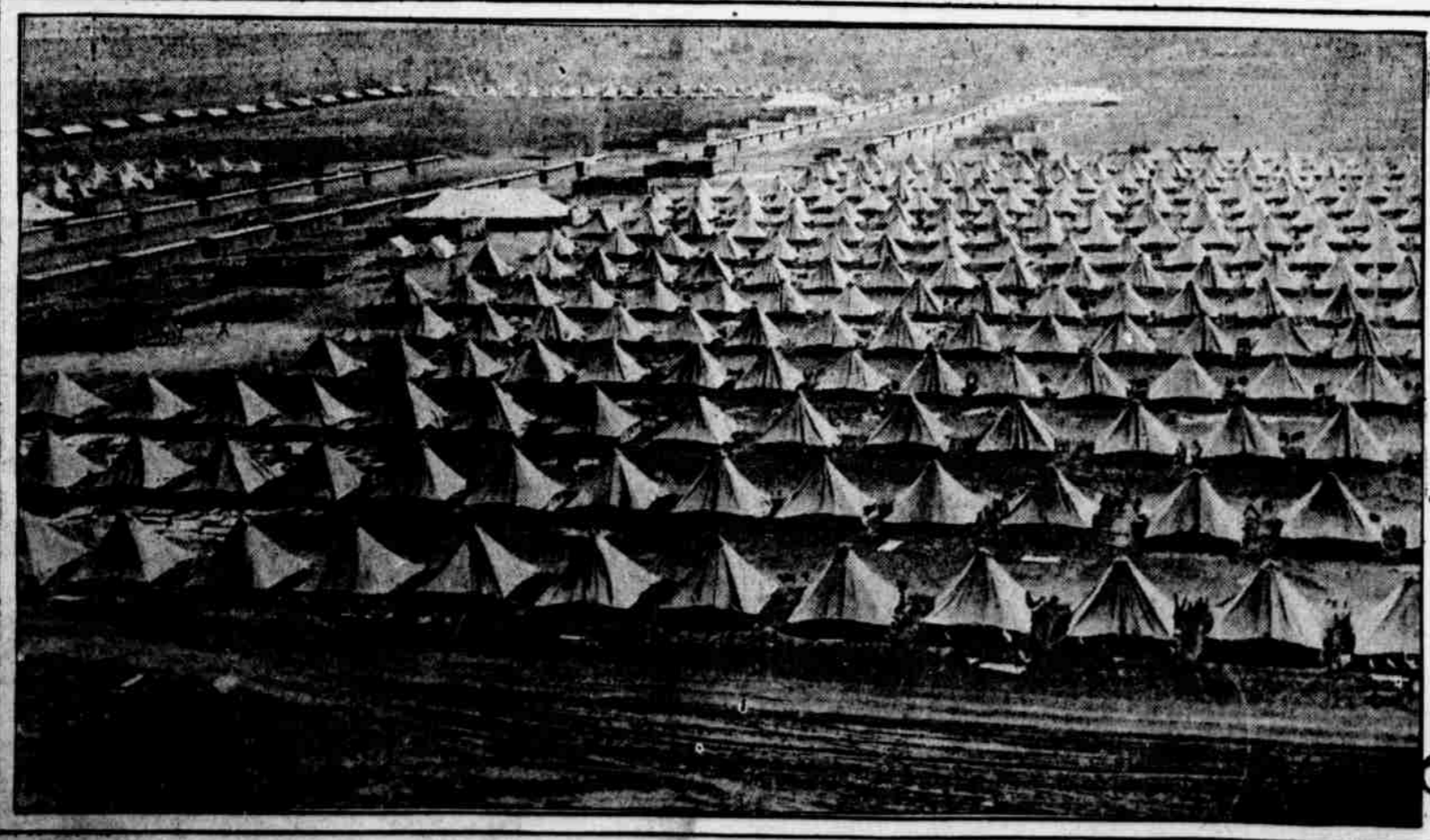
Were it not for the fact that at this time President Wilson was trying to impress upon Germany the seriousness of her disregard of American and neutral lives on the high seas, the thing would have been too absurd to notice. But Germany, to create the impression among her people that President Wilson was not speaking for America, and that the Ambassador's charge was insignificant to notice.

After this incident Gerard called upon Von Jagow and demanded the immediate suppression of the third number of Light and Truth. Before Von Jagow consented Mrs. Neumann-Hofer turned upon her former propagandists and confessed. Her confession is in the State Department, but this is what she said:

Marten is a German and has never been called to the attention of the General Staff has delegated him to direct the American propaganda. (We were talking at the embassy day before the Ambassador left.) Marten is supported by very high officials. He has letters of congratulations from the Chancellor, General von Falkenhayn, Count Zeppelin and for one of his propaganda books entitled "German Bayonet." I think the Crown Prince is one of his backers, but I have been able to prove it.

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

AMERICA'S ANSWER TO GERMAN DUPLICITY—AN ARMY AT THE FRONT AND OTHERS COMING



ONE OF THE MANY TRAINING CAMPS FOR AMERICA'S OVERSEAS ARMIES

The rendezvous of the Rainbow Division at Camp Mills, near Mineola, L. I., is characterized by an orderliness that might well delight the heart of the Kaiser if it were not contemplated to work his undoing.



ROLLCALL OF AMERICAN AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS IN FRANCE

Section Commander Northover takes a last accounting of his men before their departure upon their duties on the firing line. Many of these men have been cited for bravery.

Photo from Kadel & Harber