

# GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

BY CARL WACKERMAN

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"Zimmermann said the United States would never go to war with Germany, because German-Americans would revolt." This was one of Zimmermann's hobbies. He told American officials and foreign correspondents that President Wilson would not be able to bring the United States to the brink of war, because the "German-Americans were too powerful."

**Believing That War With the United States Could Be Averted by Sowing Seeds of Discontent Among Germans in This Country, Mexico, South America and Spain, the Krupp Ammunition Interests Furnished the Money and the German Government the Organization for This Propaganda**

**The Kaiser's Censorship Prevented American Correspondents From Sending News as They Gathered It in Germany—Overseas News Agency Used to Work Up Sentiment Against President Wilson—Zimmermann Always in Close Touch With Work of Von Papen and Boy-Ed in America**

ON JULY 4, 1915, the League of Truth issued what it called "A New Declaration of Independence." This was circulated in German and English throughout the country.

The League of Truth, however, was but one branch of the intricate propaganda system. While it was financed almost entirely by German-Americans living in Germany who retained their American passports to keep themselves, or their children, out of the army, all publications for this bureau were approved by the Foreign Office censors.

Germans connected with the organization were under direction of the General Staff or navy.

In order to have the propaganda really successful, some seeds of discontent had to be sown in the United States, in South America and Mexico, as well as in Spain and other European neutral countries. For this outside propaganda, money and an organization were needed. The Krupp ammunition interests supplied the money and the Foreign Office the organization.

For nearly two years the American press regularly printed dispatches from the Overseas News Agency. Some believed they were "official." This was only half true. The Krupps had been financing this news association. The Government had given its support, and the two wireless towers at Sayville, L. I., and Tuckerton, N. J., were used as "footholds" on American soil. These stations were just as much a part of the Krupp works as the factories at Essen or the shipyards of Kiel. They were to disseminate the Krupp-fed, Krupp-owned, Krupp-controlled news of the Overseas News Agency.

### The Two-Faced Propaganda

When the Overseas dispatches first reached the United States the newspapers printed them in a spirit of fairness. They gave the other side, and in the beginning they were more or less accurate. But when international relations between the two countries became critical the news began to be distorted in Berlin.

At each crisis, as at the time of the sinking of the Arabic, the Ancona, the Sussex and other ships, the German censorship prevented the American correspondents from sending the news as they gathered it in Germany and substituted "news" which the Krupp interests and the Imperial Foreign Office desired the American people to believe. December, 1916, when the German General Staff began to plan for an unrestricted submarine warfare, special use was made of the Overseas News Agency to work up sentiment here against President Wilson. Desperate efforts were made to keep the United States from breaking diplomatic relations. In December and January last records of the news dispatches in the American newspapers from Berlin show that the Overseas Agency was more active than all American correspondents in Berlin. Secretary of State Zimmermann, Under Secretaries von dem Busche and von Stumm gave frequent interviews to the so-called "representatives of the Overseas News Agency." It was all part of a specific Krupp plan, supported by the Hamburg-American and the North German Lloyd Steamship Companies, to divide opinion in the United States so that President Wilson would not be supported if he broke diplomatic relations.

Germany, as I have pointed out, has been conducting a two-faced propaganda. While working in the United States through her agents and reservists to create the impression that Germany was friendly, the Government labored to prepare the German people for war. The policy was to make the American people believe Germany would never do anything to bring the United States into the war, but to convince the German public that America was not neutral and that President Wilson was scheming against the German race. Germany was Janus-headed. Head No. 1 said:

America, you are a great nation. We want your friendship and neutrality. We have close business and blood relations, and these should not be broken. Germany is not the barbaric nation her enemies picture her.

Head No. 2, turned toward the German people, said: Germans, President Wilson is anti-German. He wants to prevent us from starting an unlimited submarine war. America



"I overheard in a Berlin cafe two naval officers discuss plans for destroying Allied ships sailing from American ports. One of these men was an escaped officer of an interned liner at Newport News."

has never been neutral, because Washington permits the ammunition factories to supply the Allies. These factories are killing your relatives. We have millions of German-Americans who will support us. It will not be long until Mexico will declare war on the United States, and our reservists will fight for Mexico. Don't be afraid if Wilson breaks diplomatic relations.

The German press invasion of America began at the beginning of the war. Doctor Dernburg was the first envoy. He was sent to New York by the same Foreign Office officials and the same Krupp interests which control the Overseas Agency. Having failed here, he returned to Berlin. There was only one thing to save German propaganda in America. That was to mobilize the Sayville and Tuckerton wireless stations, and Germany did that immediately.

At the beginning of the war, when the British censors refused the American correspondents in Germany the right of telegraphing to the United States via England, the Berlin Government granted permission to the United Press, the Associated Press and the Chicago Daily News to send wireless news via Sayville. At first this news was edited by the correspondents of these associations and newspapers in Berlin. Later, when the individual correspondents began to demand more space on the wireless, the news sent jointly to these papers was cut down. This unofficial league of American papers was called the "War Union." The news which this union sent was German, but it was written by trained American writers. When the Government saw the value of this service to the United States it began to send wireless news of its own. Then the Krupp interests appeared and the Overseas News Agency was organized. At that moment the Krupp invasion of the United States began and contributed 800,000 marks annually to this branch of propaganda alone.

### How Germany Colored the News

Doctor Hammann, for ten years chief of the Berlin Foreign Office propaganda department, was selected as president of the Overseas News Agency. The Krupp interests, which had been subscribing 400,000 marks annually to this agency, subscribed the same amount to the reorganized company. Then, believing that another agency could be organized, subscribed 400,000 marks more to the Transocean News Agency. Because there was so much bitterness and rivalry between the officials of the two concerns the Government stepped in and informed the Overseas News Agency that it could send only "political news," while the Transocean was authorized to send "economic and social news" via Sayville and Tuckerton.

This news, however, was not solely for the United States. Krupp's eyes were on Mexico and South America, so agents were appointed in Washington and New York to send the Krupp-bred wireless news from New York by cable to South America and Mexico. Obviously the same news which was sent to the United States could not be telegraphed to Mexico and South America, because Germany had a different policy toward these countries. The United States was on record against an unlimited submarine warfare. Mexico and South America were not. Brazil, which has a big German population, was considered an unannexed German colony.

News to Brazil, therefore, had been colored differently than news to New York. Some of the coloring was done in Berlin; some in New York by Krupp's agents here. As a result of Germany's anti-United States propaganda in South America and Mexico, these countries did not follow President Wilson when he broke diplomatic relations with Berlin. While public sentiment might have been against Germany, it was, to a certain degree, antagonistic to the United States.

Obviously, Germany had to have friends in this country to assist her, or what was being done would be traced too directly to the German Government. So Germany financed willingly German-Americans in their propaganda schemes. And because no German could cross the ocean except with a falsified neutral passport, Germany had to depend upon German-Americans with American passports to bring information over. These German-Americans, co-operating with some of the Americans in Berlin, kept informing the Foreign Office, the army and navy, as well as influential Reichs-

tag members, that the real power behind the Government here was not the press and public opinion, but the nine million Americans who were directly or indirectly related to Germany. At this time the Government felt so sure that it could rely upon these so-called German-Americans that the Government considered them as a German asset whenever there was a submarine crisis.

### Thought Wilson Was Only Bluffing

When Henry Morgenthau, former American Ambassador to Turkey, passed through Berlin, en route to the United States, he conferred with Zimmermann, who was then Under Secretary of State. During the course of one of their conversations Zimmermann said the United States would never go to war with Germany "because the German-Americans would revolt." That was one of Zimmermann's hobbies. Zimmermann told other American officials and foreign correspondents that President Wilson would not be able to bring the United States to the brink of war, because the "German-Americans were too powerful."

But Zimmermann was not making these statements upon his own authority. He was being kept minutely advised about conditions here through the German spy system and by German-American envoys, who came to Berlin to report on progress the German-Americans were making here in politics and in Congress.

Zimmermann was so "dead sure" he was right in expecting a large portion of Americans to be disloyal that one time during a conversation with Ambassador Gerard he said that he believed Wilson was only bluffing in his submarine notes. When Zimmermann was Under Secretary of State I used to see him very often. His conversation would contain questions like these:

"Well, how is your English President? Why doesn't your President do something against England?"

Zimmermann was always in close touch with the work of Captains von Papen and Boy-Ed when they were in this country. He was one of the chief supports of the little group of intrigues in Berlin who directed German propaganda here. Zimmermann was the man who kept Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein, former Ambassador to Tokio, in the Foreign Office in Berlin as chief of foreign propaganda and intrigue in America and China. Mumm had been here as Minister Extraordinary several years ago and knew how Germany's methods could be used to the best purpose, namely, to divide American sentiment. Then when Zimmermann succeeded Jagow he ousted Mumm because Mumm had become unpopular with higher Government authorities.

One day in Berlin, just before the recall of the former German military and naval attaches in Washington, I asked Zimmermann whether Germany sanctioned what these men had been doing. He replied that Germany approved everything they had done "because they had done nothing more than try to keep America out of the war; to prevent American goods reaching the Allies, and to persuade Germans and those of German descent not to work in ammunition factories." The same week I overheard in a Berlin cafe two reserve naval officers discuss plans for destroying Allied ships sailing from American ports. One of these men was an escaped officer of an interned liner at Newport News. He had escaped to Germany by way of Italy. That afternoon when I saw Ambassador Gerard I told him of the conversation of these two men and also what Zimmermann had said. The Ambassador had just received instructions from Washington about Boy-Ed and Von Papen.

Gerard was furious.

"Go tell Zimmermann," he said, "for God's sake to leave America alone. If he keeps this up he'll drag us into the war. The United States won't stand this sort of thing indefinitely."

That evening I went back to the Foreign Office and saw Zimmermann for a few minutes. I asked him why it was that Germany, which was at peace with the United States, was doing everything within her power to make war.

### Germany Paid Americans for Spy Work

"Why, Germany is not doing anything to make you go to war," he replied. "Your President seems to want war. Germany is not responsible for what the German-Americans are doing. They are your citizens, not ours. Germany must not be held responsible for what those people do."

Had it not been for the fact that the American Government was fully advised about Zimmermann's intrigues in the United States this remark might be accepted on its face. The United States knew that Germany was having direct negotiations with German-Americans in the United States. Men came to Germany with letters of introduction from leading German-Americans here, with the expressed purpose of trying to get Germany to stop its propaganda here.

What they did do was to assure Germany that the German-Americans would never permit the United States to be drawn into the war. Because of their high recommendations from Germany here some of them had audiences with the Kaiser.

Germany had been supporting financially some Americans, at the State Department has proof of checks which have been given to American citizens for propaganda and spy work.

I know personally of one instance where General Director Heinicke, of the North German-Lloyd, gave an American in Berlin \$1000 for his reports on American conditions. The name cannot be mentioned because there are no records to prove the transaction, although the man receiving this money came to me and asked me to transmit \$250 to his mother through the United Press office. I refused.

(CONTINUED MONDAY)

## "Der Bindestrich"

LIGHT AND TRUTH

THE LEAGUE OF TRUTH

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AND

ausgabe Nr. 2

## Mitteilungen

des Wahrheitsbundes

Read, then help! | Befen, dann helfen!

THE LEAGUE OF TRUTH.

A Society

for Destroying international Falsehood

Without any blame of trumpets, but in the quiet and seclusion which gives birth to all significant enterprises, a League was formed in year ago in Germany. Its motto is "For Light and Truth." The League now steps forth into the light of day in order to continue its activities in a more official manner.

The "League of Truth" whose Head Offices for Germany are located at 48, Potsdamer-Str., Berlin W., is able to glance back over a series of splendid results, of which more will be heard later on.

In order that still wider circles may interest themselves in the ideas and activities of this private educational society maintained on true

Der Wahrheitsbund.

Eine Vereinigung

zur Vernichtung internationaler Falschheit

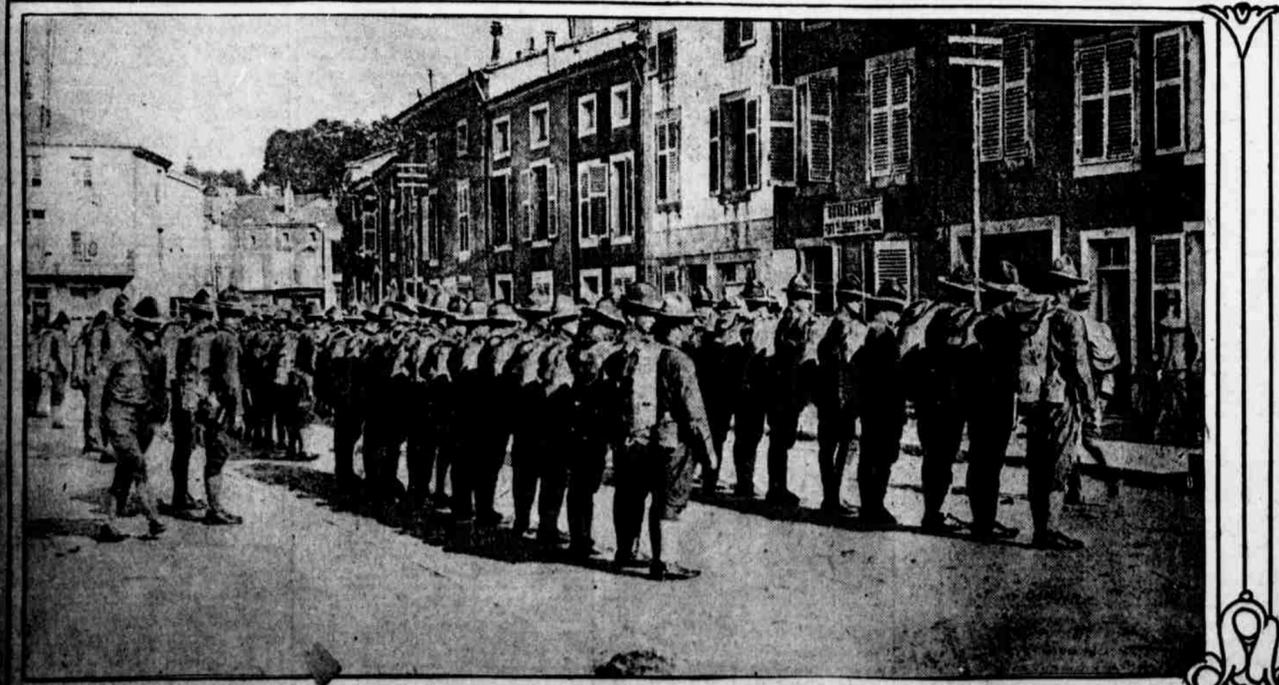
Ohne Aufheben, nur große Dinge zu erfordern, wurde nur über einen Jahr im Stillen gegründet, der man heute die Worte "Für Licht und Wahrheit" in die Öffentlichkeit tritt, um endlich seine Aufgabenstellung festzusetzen.

Der "Wahrheitsbund" der "Wahrheitsfreunde" zentrale für Deutschland, Berlin W., Potsdamer-Str. 48, kann bereits auf eine Reihe von Erfolgen, über die später noch zu reden sein wird, zurückblicken.

Um nun weitere Kreise für die Idee und Tätigkeit dieses privaten, überparteilichen Aufklärungsinstitutes zu gewinnen, gibt der Wahrheitsbund dem auch Reichländer, insbesondere Amerikaner, anzuvertrauen. Seine erste

FIRST PAGE OF THE MAGAZINE "LIGHT AND TRUTH"

## SAMMEES DRILL IN STREETS OF FRENCH TOWN—CAPTURED TOMMIES ON WAY TO GERMANY



AMERICAN TROOPS "ADOPT" VILLAGE NEAR THEIR CAMP

to the delight of the villagers, who idolize their Yankee visitors, the Americans pay frequent visits to this town, on the outskirts of which they are encamped while in training for actual war duties.



TOMMIES CHEERFUL EVEN IN CAPTIVITY

This photograph, one of the few to appear in this country since the war, shows the captured German soldiers in a state of cheerfulness.