

GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

BY CARL WACKERMAN

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When Ackerman Arrived in Berlin He Did Not Find Any Hatred of the United States, but Found That Officials and Citizens Alike Were Doing All in Their Power to Keep Relations Friendly—All Their Efforts Were Turned Toward a Military Victory

Later, However, in the Fall of 1915, the Situation Changed Sharply, and the Mere Fact That a Person Was American, Looked Like an American or Talked English Made Him the Butt of Unfriendly Remarks and Unusually Boorish Treatment on All Sides

WHEN I sailed from New York two years ago it seems to me that sentiment in the United States was about equally divided; that most people favored neutrality, even a majority of those who supported the Entente. The feeling of sympathy which so many thousands of Americans had for Germany I could, at that time, readily understand, because I myself was sympathetic. I felt that Germany had not had a fighting chance with public opinion in the United States.

I could not believe that all the charges against Germany applied to the German people. Although it was difficult to understand what Germany had done in Belgium; although it was evident and admitted by the Chancellor that Germany violated the neutrality of that country, I could not believe that a nation which before the war had such a high standing in science and commerce could have plotted or desired such a tremendous war as swept Europe in 1914.

When I arrived in Berlin on March 17, 1915, and met German officials and people for the first time I was impressed by their sincerity, their honesty and their belief that the Government did not cause the war and was fighting to defend the nation. At the theatre I saw performances of Shakespeare, which were among the best I had ever seen. I marveled at the wonderful modern hospitals and at the efficiency and organization of the Government. I marveled at the expert ways in which prison camps were administered. I was surprised to find railroad trains clean and punctual. It seemed to me as if Germany was a nation which had reached the height of perfection and that it was honestly and conscientiously defending itself against the group of Powers which desired its destruction.

The Attitude Toward America Changes

For more than a year I entered enthusiastically into the work of interpreting and presenting this Germany to the American people. At this time there was virtually no food problem. German banks and business men were preparing for and expecting peace. The Government was already making plans for after the war when the soldiers would return from the front. A Reichstag committee had been appointed to study Germany's possible peace-time labor needs and to make arrangements for solving them.

But in the fall of 1915 the changes began. The Lusitania had



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been destroyed in May and almost immediately the hate campaign against America was started. I saw the tendency to attack and belittle the United States grow not only in the army, in the navy and in the press, but among the people. I saw that Germany was growing to deeply resent anything the United States Government said against what the German Government did. When this anti-American campaign was launched I observed a tendency on the part of the Foreign Office to censor more strictly the telegrams which the correspondents desired to send to the American newspapers. Previously the Foreign Office had been extremely frank and cordial and permitted correspondents to send what they observed and heard as long as the dispatches did not contain information which would aid the Allies in their military or economic attacks on Germany. As the hate articles appeared in the newspapers the correspondents were not only prohibited from sending them, but they were criticized by the Foreign Office for writing anything which might cause the American people to be angered at Germany. One day I made a translation of a bitter article in

the B. Z. am Mittag and submitted it to the Foreign Office censor. He asked why I paid so much attention to articles in this newspaper, which he termed a "Kaeser-blatt"—literally "a cheese paper." He said it had no influence in Germany; that no one cared what it said. This newspaper, however, was the only noonday edition in Berlin and was published by the largest newspaper publishing house in Germany, Ullstein & Co. At his request I withdrew the telegram and forgot the incident. Within a few days, however, Count zu Reventlow, in the Deutsche Tageszeitung, and Georg Bernhard, in the Vossische Zeitung, wrote sharp attacks on President Wilson. But I could not telegraph these.

A Division in the American Colony

Previous to the fall of 1915 not only the German Government, but the German people were charitable to the opinions of neutrals, especially those who happened to be in Germany for business or professional reasons; but as the anti-American campaign and the cry that America was not neutral by permitting supplies to be shipped to the Allies became more extensive, the public became

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PROF. CHARLES GRAY SHAW, of New York University, stated before one of his classes in philosophy that there was a new "will" typified in certain of our citizens, notably in President Wilson.

"The new psychology," said Professor Shaw, "has discovered the new will—the will that turns inward upon the brain instead of passing out through hand or tongue. Wilson has this new will; the White House corroborates the results of the laboratory. To Roosevelt, Wilson seems weak and vacillating; but that is because T. R. knows nothing about the new will. T. R. has a primitive mind, but one of the most advanced type. In the T. R. brain, so to speak, will means set teeth, clenched fist, hunting and rough riding."

"Wilson may be regarded as either creating the new volition or as having discovered it. At any rate, Wilson possesses and uses the new volition, and it remains to be seen whether the political world, at home and abroad, is ready for it. Here it is significant to observe that the Germans, who are psychologists, recognize the fact that a new and important function of the mind has been focused upon them."

"The Germans fear and respect the Wilson will of note writing more than they would have dreaded the T. R. will with its teeth and fists."

As a psychologist Professor Shaw observed what we saw to be the effect in Germany of Mr. Wilson's will.

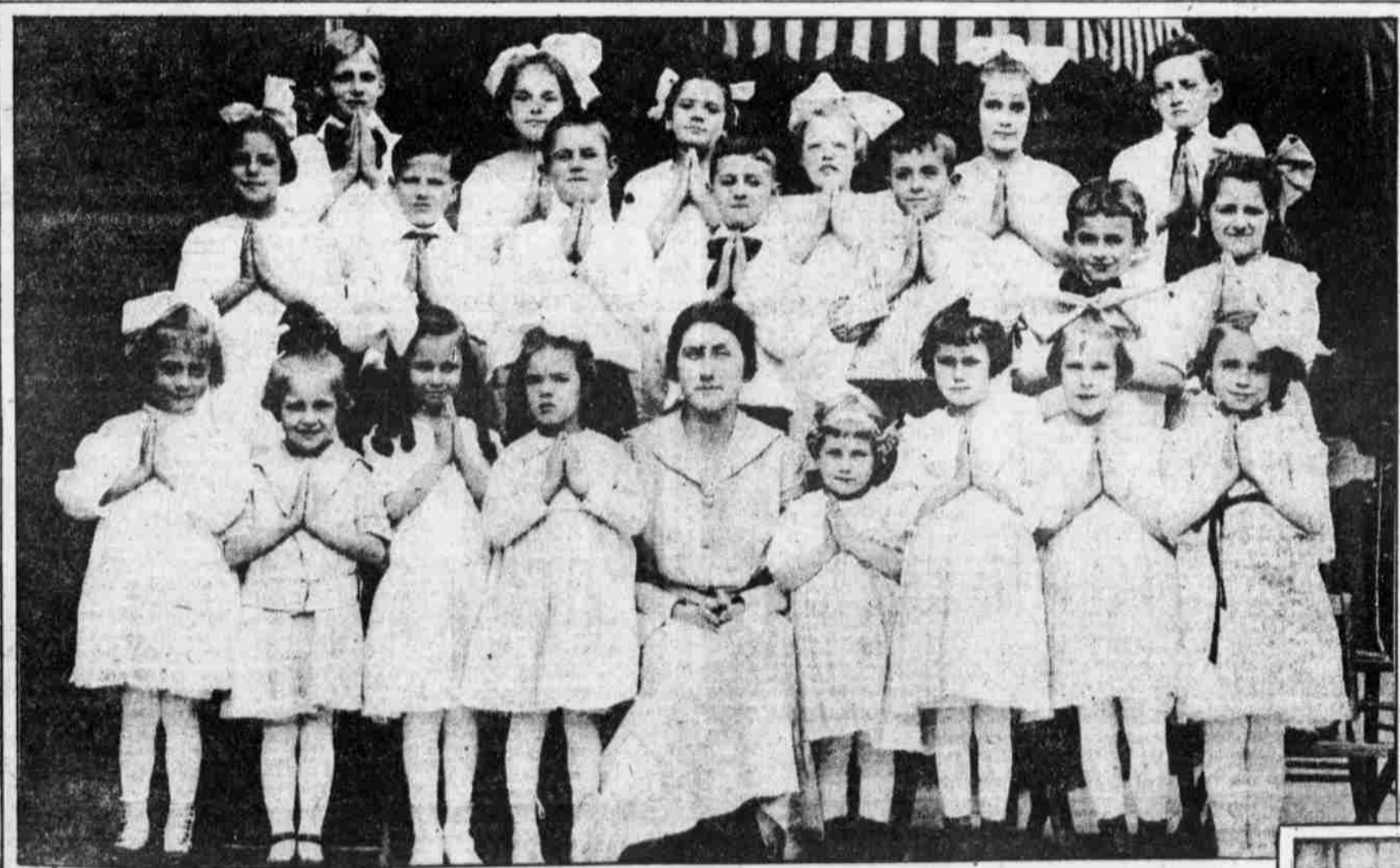
less charitable. Previously a neutral in Germany could be either pro-German, pro-Ally or neutral. Now, however, it was impossible to be neutral, especially if one were an American, because the very statement that one was an American carried with it the implication that one was anti-German. The American colony itself became divided. There was the pro-American group and the pro-German Government group. The former was centered at the American Embassy. The latter was inspired by the German-Americans who had lived in Germany most of their lives and by other sympathetic Americans who came from the United States. Meanwhile there were printed in German newspapers many leading articles and interviews from the American press attacking President Wilson, and any one sympathizing with the President, even Ambassador Gerard, became automatically "Deutschfeindlich."

As the submarine warfare became more and more a critical issue German feeling toward the United States changed. I found that men who were openly professing their friendship for the United States were secretly doing everything within their power to intimidate America. The Government began to feel as if the American factories which were supplying the Allies were as much subject to attack as similar factories in Allied countries.

I recall one time learning at the American Embassy that a man named Wulf von Igel had asked Ambassador Gerard for a safe-conduct, on the ground that he was going to the United States to try and have condensed milk shipped to Germany for the children. Mr. Gerard refused to ask Washington to grant this man a safe-conduct. I did not learn until several months afterward that Herr von Igel had been asked to go to the United States by Under Secretary of State Zimmermann for one of two purposes; either he was to purchase a controlling interest in the du Pont powder mills, no matter what that cost, or he was to stir up dissatisfaction in Mexico. Zimmermann gave him a card of introduction to Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador in Washington, and told him that the German Embassy would supply him with all necessary funds.

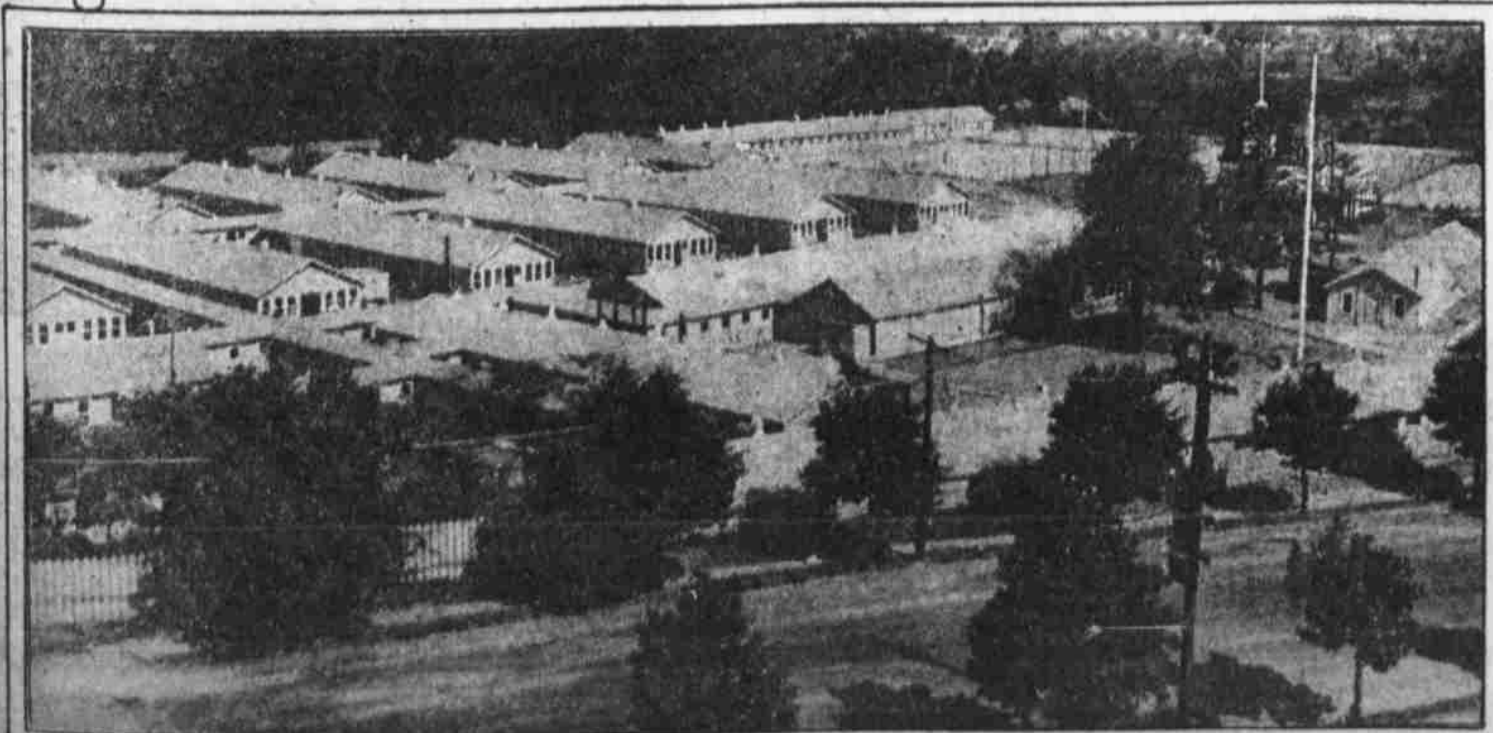
(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

FEATURES IN THE NEWS THAT THE CAMERA'S INSTRUMENTALITY MAKES CLEARER



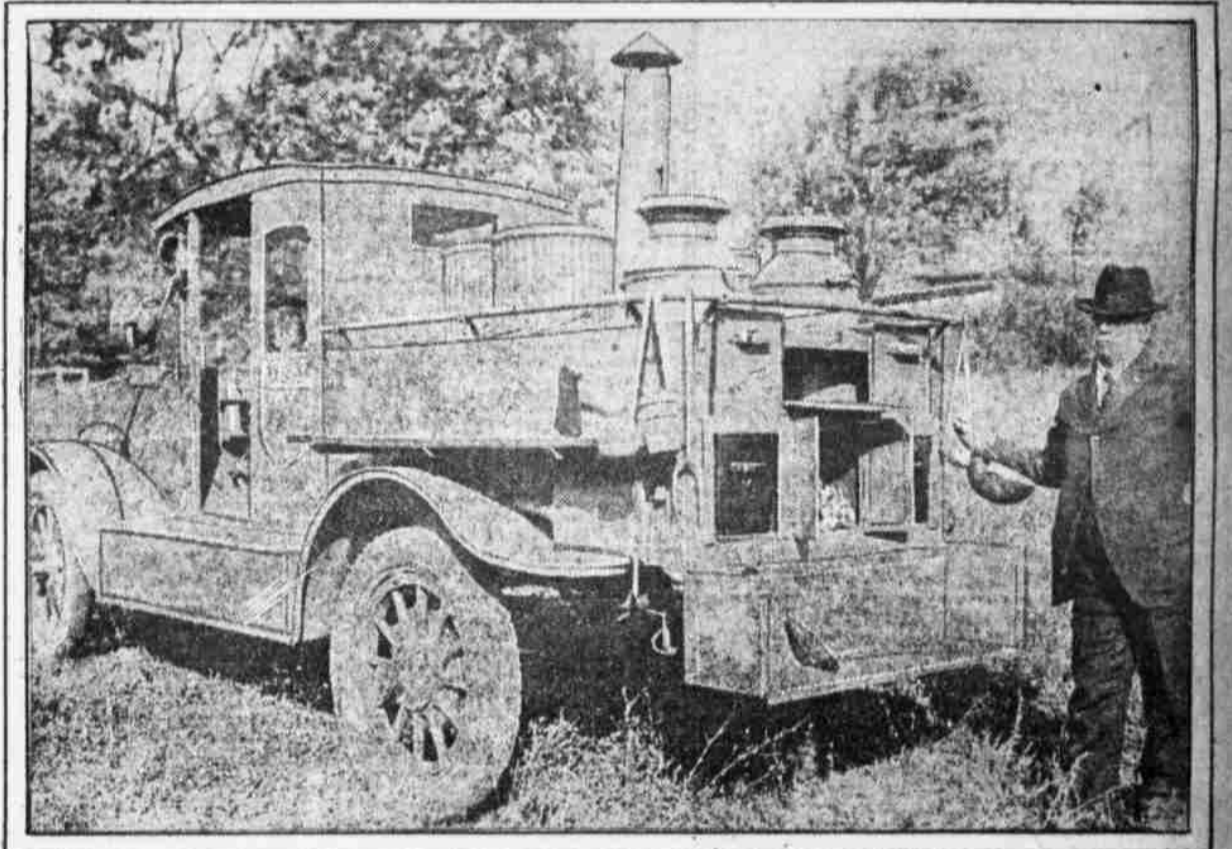
"OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES AND SUKLINGS THOU HAST PERFECTED PRAISE"

The "baby choir," organized and led by Mrs. Harry Rodgers, 2566 North Eighteenth street, an interdenominational chorus of twenty-four voices, has sung in more than 100 churches and at Willow Grove. The children range in age from four to ten years, Irene Eisler, a soprano, being the youngest.



COLUMBIA WAR HOSPITAL, TRANSFERRED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

This institution, known as General Hospital No. 1, comprising fifty-four buildings, covering sixteen acres on Columbia Blvd., Halseybridge Avenue and Oak Hill Road, New York, has facilities for 1,000 patients and is attended by 75 nurses and 24 physicians and surgeons.



HOW UNCLE SAM FEEDS HIS FIGHTING NEPHEWS WHILE ON THE MARCH
Copyright, by Harris & Ewing.
Captain F. H. Buzzacott, of Chicago, and a model of his army rolling kitchen, which saw service in the Mexican campaign, when it fed 300 men at a time. The truck can be detached and utilized for ordinary transportation.



"HOST AT CAMP MEADE"

It makes Philadelphia visitors "feel at home" to be welcomed to General Kitchin's headquarters by Sgt. A. F. Schoeppe, a fellow citizen.



WHERE THE "LITTLE FELLOW" FIRST SAW THE LIGHT

Old residents of Southwark point out this house on Greenwich street east of Kings-messing Avenue as the birthplace of Senator "Big Boy" New. It is the Greenwich Street Methodist Church.