

# GERMANY THE NEXT REPUBLIC?

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**Ambassador Gerard Had a Most Difficult Time of It During His Stay in Berlin, for While the Foreign Office Was Hampered by the Military and Navy, He Had to Overcome the Meddling and Heckling of Pro-German Americans in Berlin**

**Notwithstanding These Obstacles, the American Representative to Germany Fulfilled the Double Duties of the Minister of His Own Country and the Guardian of the Rights of Several Other Nations at War With the Kaiser's Government**

DURING 1915 and 1916 our diplomatic relations with Germany have been expressed in one series of notes after another, and the burden of affairs has been as much on the shoulders of Ambassador Gerard as on those of any other one American, for he has been the official who has had to transmit, interpret and fight for our policies in Berlin. Mr. Gerard had a difficult task because he, like President Wilson, was constantly heckled and ridiculed by those pro-German Americans who were more interested in discrediting the Administration than in maintaining peace. Of all the problems with which the Ambassador had to contend, the German-American issue was the greatest, and those who believed that it was centered in the United States are mistaken, for the capital of German-America was Berlin.

"I have had a great deal of trouble in Germany from the American correspondents when they went there," said Ambassador Gerard in an address to the American Newspapers Publishers' Association in New York on April 26.

"Most of them became super-Ambassadors and proceeded to inform the German Government that they must not believe me—that they must not believe the President—they must not believe the American people—but believe these people, and to a great extent this war is due to the fact that these pro-German Americans, a certain number of them, misinformed the German Government as to the sentiments of this country."

### An Ambassador as a Reporter

James W. Gerard's diplomatic career in Germany was based upon bluntness, frankness and a kind of "news instinct" which caused him to regard his position as that of a reporter for the United States Government.

Berlin thought him the most unusual Ambassador it had ever known. It never knew how to take him. He did not behave as other diplomats did. When he went to the Foreign Office it was always on business. He did not flatter and praise, bow and chat or speak to Excellencies in the third person, as European representatives usually do. Gerard began at the beginning of the war a policy of keeping the United States fully informed regarding Germany. He used to report daily the political developments and the press comment, and the keen understanding which he had of German methods



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was proved by his many forecasts of important developments. Last September he predicted, in a message to the State Department, ruthless submarine warfare before spring unless peace was made. He notified Washington last October to watch for German intrigue in Mexico and said that unless we solved the problem there we might have trouble throughout the war from Germans south of the Rio Grande.

During the submarine controversies, when reports reached Berlin that the United States was divided and would not support President Wilson in his submarine policy, Ambassador Gerard did everything he could to give the opposite impression. He tried his best to keep Germany from driving the United States into the war. That he did not succeed was not the fault of his efforts. Germany was desperate and willing to disregard all nations and all international obligations in an attempt to win the war with U-boats.

Last summer, during one of the crises over the sinking of a

passenger liner without warning, Mr. Gerard asked the Chancellor for an audience with the Kaiser. Von Bethmann-Hollweg said he would see if it could be arranged. The Ambassador waited two weeks. Nothing was done. From his friends in Berlin he learned that the navy was opposed to such a conference and would not give its consent. Mr. Gerard went to Herr von Jagow, who was then Secretary of State, and again asked for an audience. He waited another week. Nothing happened and Mr. Gerard wrote the following note to the Chancellor:

"Your Excellency—Three weeks ago I asked for an audience with His Majesty the Kaiser.

"A week ago I repeated the request.  
"Please do not trouble yourself further.  
"Respectfully,  
"JAMES W. GERARD."

The Ambassador called the embassy messenger and sent the

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note to the Chancellor's palace. Three hours later he was told that von Bethmann-Hollweg had gone to Great Headquarters to arrange for the meeting.

Sometimes in dealing with the Foreign Office the Ambassador used the same roughshod methods which made the Big Stick effective during the Roosevelt Administration. At one time Alexander Cochran, of New York, acted as special courier from the embassy in London to Berlin. At the frontier he was arrested and imprisoned. The Ambassador heard of it, went to the Foreign Office and demanded Cochran's immediate release. The Ambassador had obtained Mr. Cochran's passports and showed them to the Secretary of State. When Herr von Jagow asked permission to retain one of the passports so the matter could be investigated, the Ambassador said:

"All right, but first let me tear Lansing's signature off the bottom, or some one may use the passport for other purposes."

The Ambassador was not willing to take chances after it was learned and proved by the State Department that Germany was using American passports for spy purposes.

### Official "Billets Doux" by the Score

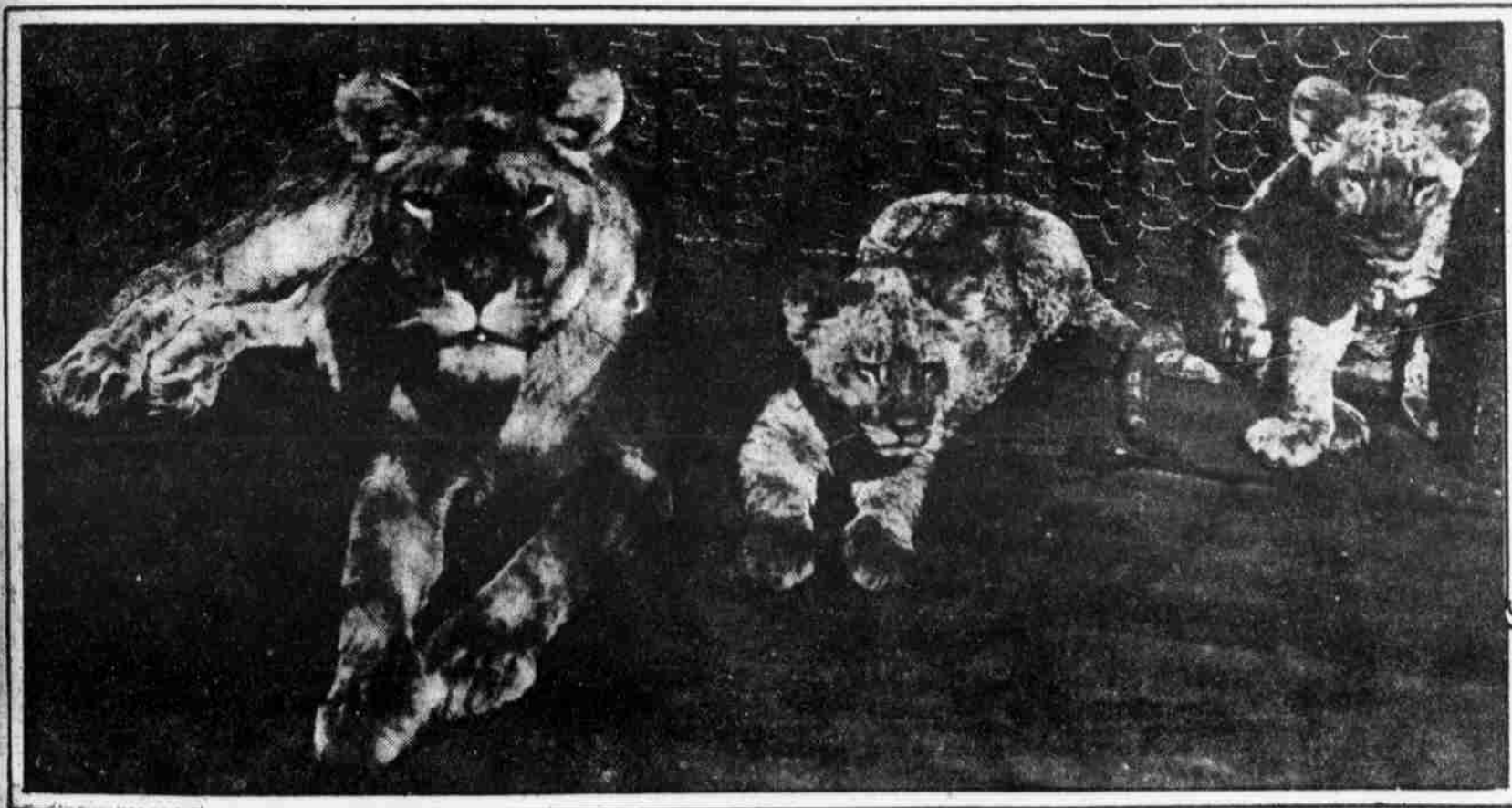
In one day alone, last fall, the American embassy sent ninety-two notes to the Foreign Office, some authorized by Washington and some unauthorized, protesting against unlawful treatment of Americans, asking for reforms in prison camps, transmitting money and letters about German affairs in Entente countries, and other matters which were under discussion between Berlin and Washington. At one time an American woman instructor in Robert College was arrested at Warnemunde and kept for weeks from communicating with the Ambassador. When he heard of it he went to the Foreign Office daily, demanding her release, which he finally secured.

Mr. Gerard's work in bettering conditions in prison camps, especially at Ruhleben, will be long remembered. When conditions were at their worst he went out daily to keep himself informed, and then daily went to the Foreign Office or wrote to the Ministry of War in an effort to get better accommodations for the men. One day he discovered eleven prominent English civilians, former respected residents in Berlin, living in a box stall similar to one which his riding horse had occupied in peace times. This so aroused the Ambassador that he volunteered to furnish funds for the construction of a new barracks in case the Government was not willing to do it. But the Foreign Office and the War Ministry and other officials shifted authority so often that it was impossible to get changes made. The Ambassador decided to have his reports published in a drastic effort to gain relief for the prisoners. The State Department granted the necessary authority and his descriptions of Ruhleben were published in the United States and England, arousing such a world-wide storm of indignation that the German Government changed the prison conditions and made Ruhleben fit for men for the first time since the beginning of the war.

This activity of the Ambassador aroused a great deal of bitterness and the Government decided to try to have him recalled. The press censorship instigated various newspapers to attack the Ambassador so that Germany might be justified in asking for his recall, but the attack failed for the simple reason that there was no evidence against the Ambassador except that he had been too vigorous in insisting upon livable prison camp conditions.

(CONCLUDED TOMORROW)

## PHILADELPHIANS AND NEAR-PHILADELPHIANS FURNISH THESE NEWSY PHOTOGRAPHS



### A ROYAL FAMILY THAT MAKES ITS HOME IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY

The first lion cubs born at the Philadelphia Zoo to survive more than a few days. Since their birth, June 3, they have been under the watchful care of C. Emerson Brown, acting superintendent, and are now the size of Newfoundland dogs. They are lively and healthy.



### A HEALTHY SCHOOLGIRL ATHLETE

Miss Esther Harris is a living exponent of outdoor physical recreation as practiced at the Palmyra High School.



### COACHES CENTRAL HIGH RUNNERS

Much of the success attained by the Red and Gold cross-country speed boys is attributed to Doctor Gallager's advice.



### CHINESE INFANTRYMEN SERVE IN UNCLE SAM'S ARMY

Lee Pon and Tom Sun, two sons of the Far East, are as eager to "do their bit" against the Boche enemy as their Caucasian messmates now learning the war game at Camp Upton, New York.



### PHILADELPHIA BOYS AT CAMP MEADE ARE NOT NEGLECTING ATHLETICS WHILE ACQUIRING THE ART OF WAR

Members of Companies F and G, of the 315th Infantry, indulge in a lively game of soccer ball with the same zest that they display in their military maneuvers that go to make up their daily routine.