

from the curriculum entirely. In Germany elementary education is free. The school age is from six to fourteen years and attendance is compulsory. One authority says that "obedience and discipline are the two moral lessons of the elementary schools, as indeed they are nearly sure to be when the teachers are government officials and part and parcel of the machinery erected, at any rate in Prussia, for carrying on the business of the State, as the most important sphere of human activity." In Germany separate schools are allowed where mixed confessions exist.

We might be allowed to publish our newspapers but their pages, devoid of all political discussion and criticism, without the prominence now given to news of the British Empire and substituted for that, German news, with every article written with the fear of hurting the feelings of some German official, ~~they~~ would lose their main charm. Germany has no great newspapers of international reputation like the London Times, the Paris Figaro and the New York Herald, and the principal reason for not having them is that the papers of Germany have very little political influence. The Kaiser, Government and ruling classes are unquestionably hostile to an independent and strong press.

All books we would be allowed to publish would probably come under a strict censor. Our libraries, both private and public, would be inspected and every volume, which did not have the approval of the Kaiser, confiscated.

The question of taxation would certainly be carefully attended to and if this rich field for revenue was not drained dry, it would be a miracle. We in Canada do not know what taxes are, but a tax on all the commercial privileges, on our merchants, banking and brokerage houses, insurance companies, manufacturing concerns, incomes, farming industries, to say nothing of stamp taxes on checks, legal forms, and, in fact, upon everything that could be taxed, would soon teach us how vicious such an institution can be. In addition to direct taxation in the German colonies, the home government enforces a system of compulsory labor for certain public works.

What would be our standing with the nations of the world?

Our relations with England and her colonies at an end, our right to make treaties with the United States terminated, all the special privileges which we now enjoy, gone a sorry spectacle, indeed. We would be at the mercy of the Kaiser with his almost absolute control. The annoyance of the soldiers and of the policemen would become part of our daily life. Persistent official interference would be the rule. We would be dragooned where we are now free.

A German once said in jest that the German heaven is a place where "everything is forbidden on pain of severe punishment." We would be looking for a place to live where the state is less all-important and where the individual counts a little.

And as a climax to this ruthless upheaval in our economic, social, personal and political condition we should probably be called upon to pay an immediate war indemnity of possibly one billion marks. And we would have to do it whether we liked it or not, and then sing as if