

to fear as among the causes of the war is not to overlook the plainly aggressive intentions of the Prussian war party.

It may be perfectly true that the Prussian party had from the first plotted the conquest of France or of England, or of both, but it is not in support of that plot that they won the sacrifices and enthusiasms of the whole German people which alone made it possible for them to prosecute it. When the German Government desired to get its budgets voted in the Reichstag, or to insure the co-operation of the Social Democrats, it was obliged to disavow any intention of aggression, and to base its appeal on the danger that Germany was exposed to from Russia and consequently (by the alliance) from France. If, during the last decade, the Government had been obliged year after year to avow that its armaments were for the purpose of conquest and aggression, there would have been a movement of opinion even in Germany which would have killed Pan-Germanism. The Social Democrats, for instance, have been won to the support of this war, and 65 million Germans are now fighting as a united nation, because all have been deluded into the belief that it is a war of defence against hostile nations determined to destroy German nationality. This, of course, is an utterly false view. But it happens to be that held by the German people.

This, then, is the common motive, and it will operate with even greater force after the war. Let us cast our minds forward to the stage at which England is completely victorious and is able to say to Germany: "You must never renew this mad race for armaments. Your military forces must be confined within such and such limits."