

sympathy with the Boers was general. . . . Bjørnstjerne Björnson expressed his sympathy openly and publicly, but I did not see that the British press banned him on that account or threatened the whole Norwegian people with punishment . . . and when Björnson died I saw nothing else but high esteem for him expressed by the great British newspapers, *The Times* at their head."

Collin's voice is not that of a partisan, the tone of his articles on the war in general is impartial and detached. He speaks of opinion in Norway—at that time—as "much divided," and also as if its character depended more on the political ideals and tendencies of the individual than on any opinion about the rights or wrongs of the conflict. That is very significant and it agrees with the impression one gets from reading Scandinavian publications, especially at the beginning of the war. But as Norway is predominantly democratic in sentiment there is little doubt that the general sympathy of the people is with the Entente Allies. But the primary condition of Norway is weak both on land and sea. Within recent years an optimistic pacificism, the pious contentment of a people who were conscious of having no warlike designs on themselves, made Norway neglect national defence. For long it has been a sure means for politicians and journalists seeking favour with a Radical ministry to make light of the need of defensive preparation and to preach the sufficiency of inviolable neutrality as a safeguard. Bjørnstjerne Björnson gave weight of his great name to this policy and contributed not a little as Hjalmar Christensen remarks in a recent article to the ideas of weaker heads on this subject. The tension of the constitutional conflict with Sweden on union and the final break in 1905 had the effect of awakening the Norse people to the need of natural defence, especially as the growth of German naval power and the opening of the Kiel Canal had still further shaken Norway's sense of security. But there is still a socialistic party that advocates complete disarmament for Norway and the abandonment of any attempt to defend even the country's neutrality against a Great Power by force of arms. Norway is to trust to *Kulturærgnet*, the defence which high culture may give. Edvard Bull, for example, points to the fate of Belgium as a warning and sees