

Imperial Germany

tain the unity of the Prussian State; we should not have had a Polish problem, we should have had a Polish danger.

The Policy in the Eastern Marches a National Duty for Germans

Our policy in the Eastern Marches is a national duty which the German nation owes to itself. A highly cultured and strong nation may not, without a struggle, give up national possessions, once they have been acquired; it must have such belief in the power of its national culture, and such faith in its own strength, that it feels itself capable of, and justified in, enriching them. Whether we hold fast to our possessions in the East or not, whether our policy in the Eastern Marches continues in its national course, what is to become of our Eastern Marches—these are not questions of party politics, but of general national importance; and not only the fate of the Germans in the East of Prussia, but the future of Prussia and of the Empire, nay, of the whole German nation, depend on whether these questions are answered in the affirmative or in the negative. In my opinion, as I said in January, 1902, the problem of the Eastern Marches is not only one of our most important political problems, but, what is more, it is the problem on the solution and development of which the immediate future of our country depends.