

FOUR

GERMANY'S FEELERS FOR BELGIUM WILL NOT REGRET COLONIES; BRITAIN CANNOT RESCUE THEM

Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, France, Belgium and Portugal Are the Independent Possessors—Kaiser's Hope of Mittelafrica Blasted—British Colonies Fooled Prussia.

By Frank H. Simonds

Author of "The Great War," "They Shall Not Pass."

(Written for The London Advertiser and the New York Tribune—Copyright 1917—The Tribune Association.)

In the last few weeks there has appeared in many quarters, mainly under German inspiration, the assertion that Germany was prepared to evacuate Belgium provided her colonies were restored to her. This proposal, which is a mere "feeler" and does not come from German official sources, has provided German sympathizers and the German-American press of the United States with the opportunity to assert that the real obstacle to peace now is the determination to hold German colonies. This discussion has had precisely the effect the Germans have hoped, because the situation as to the German colonies is very little understood in America and there is a very wide belief that the colonies are held by Great Britain and that Great Britain purposes to annex them. Now, the fact is quite different. Germany's possessions in the Pacific, aside from Kiau-Chau, which was taken by Japan and remains in Japan's control, were occupied by Australia and New Zealand, and Great Britain possesses no authority to compel Australia or New Zealand to restore these colonies to Germany. The other day, when Sir William Holman, prime minister of New Zealand, was in New York, I asked him to make for me a statement of the view of Australia with reference to German colonies in the Pacific. This statement follows. It is the opinion of an Australian prime minister, who in the public life of Australia has an influence only second to that of the prime minister of all Australia, the Right Hon. William M. Hughes, and like Hughes, Sir William Holman is a member of the Labor party and expresses the view of the mass and not of the class of Australia.

Mean To Hold It.
"Nothing authoritative can be said about Australia's determination with regard to New Guinea except by the Australian Federal Government. It is their right, and theirs alone. But, speaking as a citizen of the Australian Commonwealth, with some knowledge of Australian feeling and desires, I would say—

(1) German New Guinea—now in Australian hands—borders for many hundred miles a coast which is a portion of the island which has always been Australian. (2) New Guinea would furnish a base—naval and aerial—for future hostile enterprises against Australia. (3) German New Guinea is within four days' steam of Australia's northern (Queensland) ports, and within three other days of New South Wales ports.

"When hostilities began, Australia was asked to capture New Guinea. This was in order that she should destroy it without incurring the responsibility of doing so, almost bloodlessly, but through the leadership of General Holmes, one of the most valiant soldiers since killed in Flanders.

"These are the facts: The retention of New Guinea by Germany after the war from which Germany had emerged uncrushed would mean to Australia:

(1) The fortifying and guarding of the New Guinea frontier. (2) The fortification of all east coast ports. (3) The immobilization of a large destroyer fleet for defence only on the east coast station. (4) The impeding of the trade route by the north coast of Australia in war time. (5) Continuous menace to Sydney, Australia's largest town and chief port.

"This would involve a heavy, almost impossible, burden on a community of five million people, already weighted with large responsibilities for defence. For Germany, on the other hand, proposes to keep New Guinea out of German hands. There is no visible reason against the retention in her own hands. Beati possidentis. She has it. She means to hold it."

South Africa For Keeps.
Turning now to Africa, the situation is this: German Southwest Africa was conquered by troops belonging to the Union of South Africa and led by the prime minister of South Africa in person, General Louis Botha. Prior to the invasion of German Southwest Africa, it had served as the basis of an invasion of the Union of South Africa, and from it had been fomented the De Wet rebellion, which was a German effort to arouse the Boers against the British and thus take South Africa out of the British Empire as a prelude to its entrance into a German South Africa, contemplated as far back as the days when the emperor sent his niece, the Kaiser's daughter, to the South Africa to contest the return of German Southwest Africa and the return of German influence to the South African frontier, the return of German soldiers to the border of the colony is even today a subject of anxiety to the Australian case, because, after all, the Germans held no territory on the mainland of Australia, and were separated by a considerable breadth of water from the Australian coast. On the other hand, the frontiers of the Union of South Africa and of German Southwest Africa march for many hundreds of miles, and the German line of London—next to Botha the most conspicuous of South Africans, and like Botha a Boer—has very emphatically asserted that under no circumstances would the South Africans consent to the restoration of German power in South Africa, using language quite as forcible in direct reasons as those as cogent as those of Sir William Holman quoted above.

Now, there is not the smallest possibility, of course, that Great Britain would use her fleets or her armies to coerce Australia or to coerce South Africa to restore this territory. To suppose that the British would fight with Australians and the South Africans, who have contributed very much to the British cause in the present war, to re-establish Germany in her Pacific and South African colonies is just as absurd as to suppose that Great Britain would go to war with Japan to compel the restoration to Germany of Kiau-Chau, Austria, New Zealand, and South Africa are self-governing commonwealths, and the German colonies in final, and it has been made.

There remains now the question of three other German colonies—Togo, which is insignificant in size and value, the Kamerun and German East Africa. Now, so far as the Kamerun is concerned the situation is this: It was completely conquered in the first year of the war, but its conquest was not the work of the English soldiers alone. On the contrary, the greater part of the work was done by French colonies of the adjoining French colony of Equatorial Africa, and by Belgians from the Belgian Congo. At the present time the British occupy only a very small area of the Kamerun, adjoining the eastern frontier of British Nigeria. All the rest is in French hands. Consequently it lies outside the power of Great Britain to restore the Kamerun. Moreover, almost half of the Kamerun belonged to German armies, with the exception of the Kamerun which was taken from France under the threat of war during the Agadir crisis. The German claim to this territory rests on

west coast, the cooling station for the South American trade, was French, while at Cassablanca, a new harbor and a new French base were rising. At the other end of Africa another million of whites, British subjects, were settling a new empire, which was moving northward toward the Congo valley, with wide leaps along railroads which were already approaching the shore of Tanganyika.

Nor had German colonial rule, despite the construction of some railroads and the subject matter of the success of the German had expected. The subject had produced one of the bloodiest of all wars between the white races, and to the German colonies, Southwest the struggle with the Herero had ended only with the present extermination of the native, and the colony had been left without labor when the terrible contest was over.

Yet it is just to say that before the outbreak of the war there had been a growing appreciation in Germany that the African adventure had been badly conducted, and that unless new German success comparable with that of France with its millions of British Africa, or with that of Britain all over the world. Tales of atrocities, the subject matter of the German press, and men of the commercial, rather than of the colonial offices.

Belgium and Portugal Roused.
In the making of the colonial empire in Africa Germany had already roused the ire of the Belgians, who held territory between the Atlantic and lake Tanganyika, the object of German ambition was not Bernhardi who had suggested, long before the war, that Belgium had forfeited her right to have her territory in Europe respected.

France, after the Agadir affair, had seen her Congo territory threatened by German efforts in Africa with something between disdain and benevolence. Even a German colony, because the French mind already developed in the folds of the German, was considered as a German colony. Already the French Congo was for the French a second Quebec.

As for Britain, until the outbreak of the war she regarded the German Union of South Africa with the same

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SEVEN YEARS' TORTURE Nothing Helped Him Until He Took "Fruit-a-lives"

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PRO-CONSCRIPTION LIBERALS ARRANGE FOR A CONVENTION

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SEA RAIDER MAY HAVE LANDED STR. WAIRUNA

VICTORIA, Oct. 5.—Speculation has been revived in shipping circles regarding the fate of the British steamer Wairuna and her crew, following the announcement from Washington reporting a German raider in the South Pacific.

The Wairuna is now 100 days overdue on a voyage from Auckland to San Francisco, California, and hope for the safety of the freighter was long ago abandoned.

MASONS VISIT INGERSOLL. INGERSOLL, Oct. 5.—Between 75 and 100 St. Thomas Masons tonight paid a fraternal visit to King Hiram Lodge, A. F. and A. M. Degree conferred by the visiting brethren, after which an enjoyable social period was spent.

There are even in the Conservative party many men of same reasoning and right comprehension of the situation as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who do not in the least share the safety of the Dominion.

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