

## Warlike Prussia

THE BEGINNINGS of the German Empire may be traced to the father of Frederick the "Serene King" of Prussia, was dull, suspicious, and given to inflammatory outbursts of rage, when occasionally he threw plates at the Queen. Diplomatically he was not brilliant. Seckendorf, the Austrian Minister, led him by the ear through the chasms of Europe for a dozen years. Yet he had a sound understanding of business, and particularly of economy. He strode through Berlin hunting for an idle man. When he found him he did not scruple to lay about lustily with his walking stick. His father, the first King of Prussia—the preceding rulers being Electors of Brandenburg—had a taste for display and Berlin overflowed with Superb Gold Sticks and Sub-Deputies to the High Chamberlain of the Household.

FREDERICK WILLIAM put the Palace on an efficiency basis and spent a good portion of his time in disbanding the Fine Arts. His son, the Crown Prince, afterwards Frederick the Great, had a trick of turning French verses into another trick of playing the flute and another of dressing like a French courtier. Once he planned to desert from the Army. Bourgeois' papers ranged separately on each one of these counts. On the last he frothed and popped his dillettante son into a fortress.

THE ARMY was the apple of his eye. For years he collected tall recruits from all over Europe till his Regiment of Guards was the mockery of Europe. Many of the sergeants were over seven feet high. One Irish giant, it is said, was nearer nine than seven. The Army was drilled to the pitch of perfection. I began to be a factor in German politics, and surrounding States began to have a wholesome fear of it. Such a blue-faced old veteran as the Prince of Anhalt-Dessau was in high command. One day, in deep, laborious thought, he wondered whether an iron ramrod was a feasible attachment for a musket. He hunted a convenient blacksmith, experimented, and found that iron was not only feasible but immensely effective in tightening the powder-charge, and therefore in increasing the range. "Brown Bess" was capable at best of a range of 200 yards. In those happy times no soldier fired until he saw "the whites of the foeman's eyes." It was close work, and laborious, for the delay of muzzle-loading with the ramrod was undesirable.

WHEN FREDERICK WILLIAM went grumbling into the grave and Frederick the Great came to the throne, the whole Prussian Army carried iron ramrod was drilled to perfection, and had the fashion of moving quickly. Suddenly in the year —, Frederick seized the Austrian Province of Silesia. Thus began the war of the Austrian succession, France being ranged with Prussia and England with Austria. The English were occupied continuously with the French, and did not come into contact with Frederick, who was nailing down Silesia and sometimes getting Austrian fingers under his hammer.

DETTINGEN and Fontenoy were the English contributions to the campaign—the first a victory, the second a drawn affair, which, however, furnished the spectacle of an English infantry regiment charging a squadron of cavalry and sweeping it away. Frederick, at Mottwitz and at Chotusitz did a workmanlike stroke upon his enemy, and

in due course went home for ten years of peace, flutings, dallings with opera, and literature study with Voltaire.

IN 1756 CAME the Seven Years' War. This time Prussia and England were in alliance against Austria, France, Russia and the States of the German Reich. For six campaigns Frederick maintained himself in the face of untold difficulties, but drenched Europe in blood. The rest of his life was spent in the task of rebuilding his shattered kingdom and strengthening the power of the monarchy. Poland was partitioned and Prussia took a generous slice, which has never yet been reconciled to German rule and never will.

BUT PRUSSIA had "arrived." It grew in influence and power until the Napoleonic era. Naturally an autocracy was horrified by the excesses of the French Revolution. Liberty, Equality and Fraternity was an heretical doctrine. In 1792 Prussia, under Frederick the Fourth, new to arms, but Napoleon



owa, and Prussia robbed Denmark of Schleswig-Holstein. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 is familiar. It ended with the crowning of King William at Versailles as Emperor of Germany.

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## Open Letter

To W. F. Coaker, Esq., M.H.A.  
President F.P.U.—The greatest and most powerful organization in the country.

To you sir, the great masses of the bread winners of the country are indebted for the fearless and independent stand you have taken in the greatest crisis that was ever known in the country, and while you are fighting the interest of the people every other paper is dead silence to their own interest and to where they can make the biggest grab.

The whole country endorses your action, and also the letter of Mr. Grieve and other parties who came forward in the press in the interest of the trade in general and the best plans that should be adopted.

### Paralysed

Here we are to-day the whole country paralyzed because the Government is not moving to compel or put the banks in a position to let the trade go on. Never before did starvation steer people in the face for the coming winter as it do to-day. Men, or the under dogs as you often style them, after their summer's toil will be forced to sacrifice their voyage for half its value and pay double the price for grub to keep the wolf from the door, while those who are hold-

ing fat offices and drawing big salaries that the people are bled to pay are living on the fat of the land. Is there no authority in the country to step in and improve the condition of affairs and check the enormous and unreasonable charges that are asked to-day for provisions.

### 100 Per Cent. Increase

Sugar has gone from 3½ to 8 cents per lb. What warrants that enormous increase, over 100 per cent.? The same thing applies to flour. Was not all that sugar bought at a low figure and many thousands of barrels likewise that are to come in? The same applies to other articles. Should not the authorities step in and in the interest of the people check exorbitant charges?

I understand that many who do handle such goods are members of the upper house,—"honourables." Is that the way to show their patriotism to the country, while Britain is fighting the greatest battle that was ever fought in the interest of freedom and civilization.

### Look to Coaker

The people, Mr. Coaker, are looking to you to show up such men in their true colors. Tell us what sugar did cost and what it will cost to land it the present day, also flour and other provisions. Surely it lies with the authorities to bring such people to book in the interest of the country

at large. You have done your part as leader of that great organization that represents the very large majority of the sons of toil, the wealth producers of the country. When you appealed to the Prime Minister to move in the matter why did he not recognize you instead of treating you with contempt when you were prepared to assist him? But the day will come when you will not be treated with contempt from such quarters.

### Help the Workers

England with all its excitement preparing for this great fight did not overlook the interest of the working people, neither did Canada, while those in authority here were tongue-tied.

The Legislature should be called together at once and pass laws to protect the commercial interest of the country in the interest of the great masses.

Fish to-day is worth in the foreign markets from \$7 to \$8 with a profit to the shippers, and prices will be good as the markets are bare. Then why should the unfortunate fishermen be forced to sell the produce of their toil for half its value?

Surely something can be done by those in authority. Where are Sir Edward Morris' brains now? He was always looked upon by the working people to have a certain amount of common sense in their interest but he has lacked ability so far in the present crisis.

### Convene the Assembly

Let him call the House together at once and pass laws to the country's interest. Also let him cut off such extravagant and unnecessary work as is now going on.

Reduce salaries from the highest to the lowest 20 per cent. and dismiss 25 per cent. of the useless officials that the country is bled to support, and let us continue that for the next ten years and save to the country \$100,000 per year that is now squandered without any returns to the country's interest.

You continue the fight, Mr. Coaker, the people are at your back. You are fighting the rights of the people and right is bound to win.

While England's brave warriors are fighting the battle of freedom in the interest of the civilised world, and their rich men on shore are providing for the wants of the working men, our rich men here are trying to such the life blood out of them in driving up the price of the necessities of life.

Is it not the place of those in authority who are representing the people to step in and pass laws to check such unlawful conduct?

Yes,—the whole country says "yes."

—BRITISH JUSTICE.

Aug. 14, 1914.



## GENERAL POST OFFICE.

### Notice to Postmasters

Payments to families of the Newfoundland Naval Reserve is being made by means of British Postal Orders and when presented to any Newfoundland Post Office they should be cashed when receipted by the payee, date stamped by the Postmaster and forwarded as cash to the General Post Office when remitting for stamps, &c., or they may be forwarded as Money Order remittance or for deposit to the Bank of Montreal.

The orders are in sterling and should be cashed at the rate of \$4.86 to the £.

H. J. B. WOODS,  
Postmaster General.  
August 14, 1914.—3i,eod

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