

might have been regarded as within the limits of free discussion, but which, given on a foreign soil to a foreign audience, may bring upon him just criticism from his brother Americans.

Mr. Bigelow's warm sympathy with the Entente Allies, and his hearty dislike of the Germans, have been on several occasions brought to the notice of Canadian readers. That so eminent a writer, and one so well acquainted with Germany and the Germans, should be so heartily in sympathy with us in this war is a cause of gratification to British subjects. Nevertheless, there is room to doubt the wisdom of Mr. Bigelow in using a foreign platform for such an attack on things American. What he said about the Germans naturally wins our sympathy. But was it either necessary or discreet for him, speaking in Toronto, to say such unpleasant things of his own country as this?

"Describing the consular service of his own country Mr. Bigelow declared that it comprised 'broken down, wheezy, political huns; cheap worn-out lawyers and dentists; broken brokers, men who could not earn a living at any honest or respectable business. These are the men I find I have to go to as representing the majesty of my nation, and I have to sew my pockets up before I enter their offices. Then I have to turn from their door and go to the British consul to get what I want.'"

The concluding sentence is flattering to us as Britons, and perhaps especially gratifying to us at a time when not a few British writers exercise their propensity for grumbling by telling us that the British consular service is quite inferior to that of some other nations. But is an attack like the above on the American consular service wise or just? The American system of public affairs has not in the past lent itself to the training of men for the diplomatic or consular service. There are signs of improvement now. In nearly all the important foreign posts of the American Government there are young men who occupy minor positions while preparing to serve the nation later in higher rank. As the years roll on there will unquestionably be a better representation of the United States abroad than there has been. In the absence of such training in the past the diplomatic and consular service has been recruited from the general ranks of American citizenship. That many men have been chosen for political reasons who have not been well qualified for their posts is doubtless true; such a result is inevitable where the system of party patronage exists. But Mr. Bigelow's condemnation of the American consular service is much too broad and sweeping, and does great injustice to many American officials whose good qualities could not be obscured by the fact that they happened to be either Republicans or Democrats. The consular appointments of the Government are many. If in some instances the men chosen have no exceptional qualifications for their duties it is only fair to say, from the experience and observation of Canadians, that the cases in which the consuls brought discredit upon their country have been very rare. As a rule the American consuls in our chief Canadian cities have been estimable gentlemen who have filled their places in a manner to do no dishonor to their Government, and the same may be said in the case of most of the men sent to the less important points. In this important respect the Americans are far from being as bad a lot as Mr. Bigelow has pictured them for the entertainment of a foreign audience.

Questionable, too, is the good taste exhibited by Mr. Bigelow in the following passages:

"We might as well understand each other," continued Mr. Bigelow, "because on my side of the line there is scarcely a University where a white man with red corpuscles can find a place, and there is hardly a paper that will accept letters that interfere with the neutrality that has been invoked upon them. Even our naval commanders have been recommended to be neutral—that means to be very kindly to the Huns."

"Speaking of South Africa he described Paul Kruger as 'nothing but a mere American politician; an apostolic cowboy, with the mouthiness of William Jennings Bryan and the slim tergiversation of the Hon. Josephus Daniels.' He was able to apply an even lower standard if any of his compatriots in the audience could help him."

It has been the duty of the American Government, unless prepared to declare war, to maintain a strict neutrality in the present conflict, a fact which is too often ignored by writers on our side of the border. But American citizens and American journals are free to manifest their sympathies as they please and they have done so. Not only by the admission of letters to their correspondence columns, but also in their editorial pages, many of the leading journals of the United States have been as cordially sympathetic with the British side as Mr. Bigelow is, though they have perhaps been more careful than he is in their choice of words. As to Mr. Bryan and Mr. Daniels, they are eminent public men of the United States, the latter still Secretary of the Navy in President Wilson's Cabinet. If there is need of attacks on these distinguished American citizens would not a platform in the United States have been better suited for the purpose?

We welcome Mr. Bigelow's cordial expressions of sympathy with our cause in the great war. For his own sake we regret that he has deemed it necessary, in expressing that sympathy, to reflect so severely on the men and things of his own country.

The German Threat

THE German Government's declaration of intention to carry on a ruthless system of submarine warfare should surprise nobody outside of the United States. That is what the Germans have been doing for many months. Nobody here doubts that whatever was possible with their submarines they have done, not only to ships of the Entente Allies but also to many vessels of neutral powers, in violation of all the laws of God and man. In the United States probably some people had been willing to believe that Germany had repented of her earlier atrocities, such as that of the Lusitania, and would hereafter pay a little more regard to considerations of humanity. President Wilson, no doubt, had some such hope when he penned his peace address. Yet the only difference between the German position of to-day and that before the latest note from Berlin is that Germany feels she now has more submarines ready and is therefore able to carry out her policy in a broader way.

So far as Britain and her Allies are concerned there is nothing new in the situation. Germany has all along been doing her worst and the announcement that she means to continue to do so is not surprising. The Entente Allies, no doubt, fully expected her to do so and have governed themselves accordingly. Whatever is possible on the part of the allied navies is, we may be sure, being done to meet the German attacks. The best that is possible

in such a case will not prevent disasters. A murderer may rush out into the street and kill a number of persons before he can be arrested. But in the end he is captured and probably hanged. So it will be with Germany. She can and will do much damage before the hanging time comes. We must expect the remaining months of the war to be a period of even greater horror than the months that have passed since the war began. On land and on sea the enemy will play the part of desperate men, staking everything upon the chance that something may turn up to help what their leaders must feel is a lost cause.

Mr. Roosevelt Again

COLONEL THEODORE ROOSEVELT evidently is determined to be in the limelight. There is hardly any American question of importance upon which Mr. Roosevelt is not prepared at a moment's notice to give a very emphatic opinion. His vigorous denunciation of President Wilson's peace speech was much in evidence a few days ago. Now Mr. Roosevelt, in conjunction with his financial friend Mr. George W. Perkins, has undertaken to discipline the Republican party. In the United States popular government is carried to a point where perpetual organization of political parties seems called for. The composition of the National Committees of the respective parties is therefore a matter of considerable interest. It became necessary a few days ago for the Republican National Committee to elect a Vice-President of the organization. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Perkins, representatives of the "Progressive" element which came to the support of Mr. Hughes in the recent Presidential contest, had a candidate for that office. But the Republican Committee took the ground that as the recent election had revealed the fact that the Republicans were losing power in what is known as the "Middle West," the party machinery needed strengthening in that quarter, and with that object in view they selected a Middle West man for the place. Against this decision Messrs. Roosevelt and Perkins register a vigorous protest. And now some Republican journals are moved to inquire by what warrant these gentlemen assume a right to guide the policy of the Republican party. The part played by Mr. Roosevelt and his friends in bringing about the defeat of the Republicans in 1912 is once more set out in plain view of the faithful. As to the efforts of these Progressives to recover their places in the Republican ranks in 1916, oldtime Republicans frankly say that the presence of Mr. Roosevelt and some of his associates did more harm than good to the Republican cause. Indeed, one journal plainly says that while Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Perkins have been severe critics of the administration at Washington, "to them more than any other two citizens of the United States Woodrow Wilson owes his election." This seems to be the unkindest cut of all.

The next Presidential election is far away—nearly four years—but the present is not deemed by Mr. Roosevelt too soon to shape movements bearing on it. He will need, however, to modify his vehemence in many things if he is to be an available candidate for the nomination of 1920.

The London Times is suggesting that some differences that seem to have arisen respecting the relative treatment of British and Canadian officers at the front be referred to the Duke of Connaught for adjustment. Better keep the Duke out of such squabbles. It is not desirable that a member of the Royal Family be called upon to discharge duties of that kind.