

German Press Raises Chant of Hate Against Britain and Things British But Extol 'High Mission' of Germany

THE German press has gone mad. What is more the German press grows madder and madder as the days roll by. Reading in the columns of even the foremost German dailies outbursts of merciless hatred, one would imagine that the ultimate fury and madness has been reached; but nay, the next day's mental crop produces fruits of a still weirder bitterness.

Undoubtedly similar conditions exist in all of the other European countries at war. For this war is not confined to guns and armor and blood and battlefields, but all the talent and wit and brain of the journalistic light are combining to illuminate the sinister face of the great conflict, by drawing still more sinister word pictures.

Germany's "Mission."

The outstanding feature of the "war psychology" in Germany, however, is that it is not confined to the preaching of hatred of Britain, Belgium, Japan and Russia. The traditional idea of Germany's divine mission to bring "Kultur" and peace to the rest of mankind has never been so frankly, so openly and so triumphantly heralded with journalistic fanfare as since the Kaiser pushed the button that meant "Mobil" for Germany's gigantic war machine.

Here is, in a few words of plain English, the psychology of the German press:

"We Germans are right. Of course we are. That needs no mention. Not only are we right, as, incidentally, we always were, but all the world is wrong. At least all that part of the world that is not with us.

Fity France for Her Position and Her Associations, but Express Most Venemous Dislike for Britain and for Japan—Saner Classes in Germany Raising a Protest Against the Campaign of Vilification Conducted by Their Own Papers.

"We were forced into this war; dragged into it by tricky, treacherous neighbors who had for years feigned to be our friends. We were, and are, for peace. We are a greater nation than any other in the face of the globe; greater in every respect. We need learn nothing from the outside world, while the outside world has to learn much from us.

"As a matter of fact, that is the essential reason for our existence, the purpose of our greatness; our mission is to make the world as good and as great as we are.

"Now then, having been thus treacherously and nefariously attacked, stabbed in the back when we weren't looking; as if we were, we must punish our assailants. We must crush them, and crush them forever. By force of our invincible arms on land and at sea we are called upon by God to avoid a repetition of the present conflict.

Mercenary Britons.

"To avoid such a repetition, we must add to our own might in such a way as to hold all the world in check. For the people of all the world outside of the boundaries of German territory are

more or less moral, they are not 'Gebremschen' (which we Germans are). We have God and might and right with us, a trinity that means in itself victory."

Britain, in German eyes, is Satan nationalized. No doubt, to be called English is now, and will long be, the greatest insult that can be inflicted upon a German.

"The Briton is a mercenary," says the Kreuzzeitung. "He fights only for despicable lucre. Great Britain started the war for money, and her opera bouffe soldiers go to the slaughter without any thought except of shillings with which to purchase whisky and with no more concern about the lives they are going to take than if it were a question of killing flies."

It almost seems as if every man, woman and child in Germany believes that.

"Poor France, too, has been victimized," says the Kreuzzeitung in the same editorial. "The Frenchman one can understand. Like the Germans, he is obliged to fight for his country and his hearth."

Kind to France.

The German press is extremely kind toward France. Traditionally Germany's arch enemy, France is now looked upon with pity, as one would look upon a misguided child. France, the Germans say, was misled by her perfidious ally, Britain, and by her traditional craving for revenge.

Japan's action, next to that of Britain, is the sorest spot on the wounded heart of journalistic Germany. "The yellow Britons" is the expression used to denigrate the Mikado's peo-

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ple. In trickery, hypocrisy and treachery the Japanese have no rivals except the Britons, according to the German view. Added to vilifications of the Japanese character there comes now and then a solemn prophecy of "the yellow peril" growing "really perilous" to the white races of Europe. Incidentally, of course, the United States is repeatedly told that the Mikado has his eye on the supremacy of the Pacific, but that, the Germans hold, is the concern of the United States. Britain and Russia are warned that some day Japan will send her "yellow hordes" to conquer those two countries.

Good Weapon for Allies.

In all the allied countries at war with Germany excerpts from the German newspapers are published freely and quotations are made with great ingenuity, if not distorted or misapplied, in order to keep before the readers in those countries the extreme statements of the German press and inflame public opinion to the utmost against the fatherland.

Slowly but steadily there is developing in Germany just now an undercurrent of protest against the campaign of vilification of the enemy. Only recently at the mothers' conference in Berlin one of the fatherland's leading clergymen voiced a warning against the preaching of hatred of nations.

Bit of a Contrast.

How striking the contrast between that doctrine and the words of the Berlin clergymen:

"Emphasize the fact to your children that in the nations with which we are at war there are, just as in Germany, mothers and children who must allow their husbands and fathers to go forth to be massacred!" Speaking of children, the following editorial article in a recent issue of the Koelnische Zeitung is appropos: (Continued on page 3)

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