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## THE LIES OF LORINGHOVEN

*THE new book by the Deputy Chief of the German General Staff is the best example extant of Hun propaganda woven from an absolute divorce between truth and the Hun. When shall we have as good a propaganda using nothing but the truth?*

**L**EARNED professors have written long essays to indicate it; five-minute men have lectured for hours to expound it; honest parsons thump their pulpits as they proclaim it; most reasonable people believe it—and history will prove it.

The mental and moral processes of the Teutons are fundamentally different from the rest of the civilized world.

And now, one of the greatest living mendacity experts in Europe has added his testimony to establish the truth of one of the most outstanding facts of the war. Baron von Freytag Loringhoven, mouth-piece of Militarism and Deputy Chief of the German General Staff, has, with unconscious clarity, given evidence which should convince even the most sentimental silly-body that the desires and illusions of the German national mind are as far removed from the reasoning of the rest of the world as a rotten egg is from a farmer's new-laid.

Loringhoven is anyhow not a Deputy Liar. He is Chief of Staff and he has set his say-so down in a book, the title of which, done into English, reads: "Deductions From The World War." It was intended only for domestic consumption and the authorities put a "verboten" on its export beyond the German frontiers. But a copy or two got overseas and a translation has just been published in English. It is patently a piece of propaganda to prepare the way for tremendous demands which the Kaiser and his counsellors are going to make from the German people to prepare for a war which they have planned to follow this one. The bulk of the book bulges with the lessons in strategy which the German staff professes to have read from the major sequences of the war. Our own military men may realize the inward significance of the declared "deductions" and estimate the worth of the warning.

**I**T is in the early chapters and the last few paragraphs—the preliminary whirl of the propagandist's whip and the final crack of his lash—that Loringhoven puts special emphasis upon the fundamental qualities of German philosophy. They have a significant sound to those who should see how militarism has driven, and always will drive, the Teuton mind to a common consent and disciplined docility.

Comment on the back-handed casuistry and colossal conceit of the thing is superfluous. To the German mind every sentence uttered by Loringhoven is logical and crammed with common sense. Contrast their creed with your own. The difference between their conception and your own is the difference between Christian civilization and German Kultur—or may the Lord have mercy on you.

"We had to wage war," says this almost amusing distortionist, "against enemies who were under the influence of a mass-psychosis. This has engendered phenomena such as Europe has not witnessed since the time of the wars of religion. Deeds of horror and senseless rage of destruction have again made themselves manifest. The notion that humanity as a whole had advanced spiritually was proved to be an error. The vast distance between civilization and Kultur was clearly revealed. . . . The naturally

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amiable and, under ordinary circumstances, good-natured Frenchman easily degenerates. The human beast is always roused in him with surprising suddenness. The French, both white and black, and their women no less, have not scrupled to jeer at and ill-treat our prisoners in the most flagrant manner. In stirring up and working upon the feelings of the masses, England in fact showed no more scruples than France. This stirring up of hatred has in his case, too, engendered distressing excesses as regards the treatment of German prisoners. In certain cases, even if not as a general rule, the English have shown themselves not behind the French in brutality."

"Even distinguished minds are subject to mass-suggestion," whines the wily baron, "as is shown in the case of numerous distinguished scholars and artists among our enemies. Neither judgment nor good taste availed to prevent them from joining in the general orgies of hatred directed against everything German."

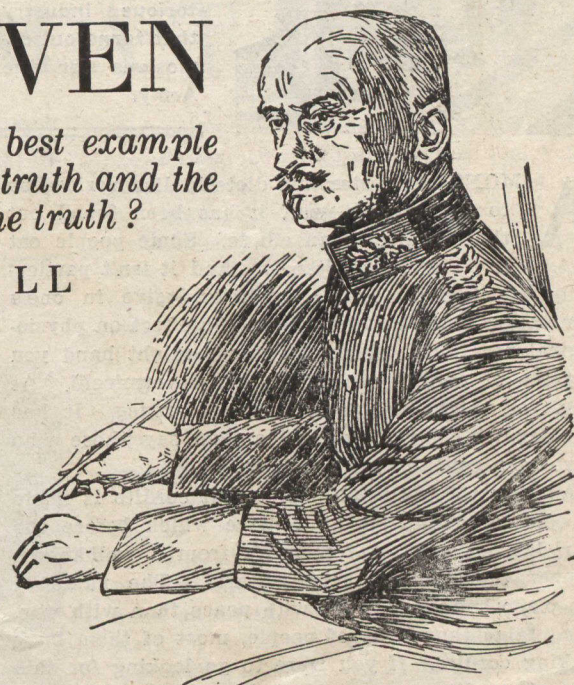
"For England," says the baron, "it was a commercial war with a view to her own enrichment and the annihilation of her chief rival." And he continues, "The English reached a high degree of technical efficiency, but their fighting tactics remained defective. Also, for all that tough courage peculiar to the Englishman, they lacked that spirit which can be engendered only by the consciousness of a lofty national purpose. Voluntary army or national army, it served only the ends of English politics and the economic war against Germany."

Then, with a top-gallery rah-rah of self-gratulatory ranting he says: "In the case of the Central Powers, that lofty moral strength, arising from the sense of righteous self-defence in a war which had been thrust upon them, showed its superiority to the zeal which a commercial and predatory war could kindle in our enemies."

Dodging the spectre of Louvain and wriggling away from the wraiths of the Lusitania which ride the Seven Seas, he blames the submarine campaign on "our geographical situation." Says he, "The disadvantages of our economic position in the world have made themselves felt all the time. The fact that we have resorted to submarine warfare as a means of self-defence is in itself a proof of it."

His only reference to Belgium is this: "As a result of the thoughtless adoption of franc-tireur methods of warfare in Belgium, with the support and approval of the authorities, the War acquired from the outset still more of the character of a struggle of nation against nation. The principle that war is directed only against the armed strength of the enemy-State and not against its population could not under these circumstances be upheld by our troops. They found themselves compelled to resort to severe measures of retaliation. Thus the war acquired a character of brutality which is otherwise very alien to the nature of our well-conducted German soldiers."

The "deductions" which follow are more or less deftly drawn to indicate that the very existence of



The Author of Deductions from the World War waiting for truth to do another acrobatic feat before he sets it down.

Germany depends upon an extensive development of her national army through the continuance of compulsory military service for all males, and vast preparations for another war to follow the present conflict. The whole military system, he says, is to be reconstructed on "an indestructible economic foundation," with immense levies upon capital.

**N**O apology for the policy: just a little encouragement and assurance that Germany will be quite equal to the effort. Says he: "The levy on capital of a thousand million marks, measured on the scale of the costs of the war, now no longer seems to us the enormous sacrifice which caused doubts as to whether it could be demanded of the German people. The war has, on the one hand, revealed to us the full financial strength of Germany; but, on the other hand, it has proved that additional expenditure on the army at the right time would have been profitable. We should then have saved in this war not only milliards of marks, but in all probability we should have had to offer up a far less considerable sacrifice of men. In view of the central position of the Fatherland, larger expenditures on the land-army, in addition to the necessary expenditure on the fleet, was absolutely essential. The demands which in this connection were put before the Reichstag were but a feeble minimum of what was really desirable, as the World War has proved."

Then follows the announcement of a plan of universal compulsory military training for every man of military age in Germany to continue, after the war, just as it has been enforced during the last two years of the present conflict.

Loringhoven knows the German people much better than Lansdowne. Speaking of mutual agreements devised to rid the world of war, Loringhoven declares: "Such agreements will, after all, only be treaties which will not on every occasion be capable of holding in check the forces seething within the States. Therefore the idea of a universal league for the preservation of peace remains a Utopia."

Deductions from the World War. Baron von Freytag Loringhoven.—McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart.