

INTRODUCTION.

Germany has reached that stage in the war at which nothing matters. If she wins, the foulest crimes of her government will be forgiven and forgotten. If she loses, nothing will be forgotten or forgiven and the fate of her military rulers is sealed.

In these circumstances, it is perhaps not surprising that the authorities of that country with their peculiar psychological outlook should have lost the extreme sensitiveness—symptomatic of the morbid, nervous fear of one about to commit a crime—they exhibited in 1914 as to the causes of the war. However, notwithstanding the present apparently nonchalant attitude of the militarists in respect of such matters, the publication of several documents written by men of the highest standing in Teutonic circles created several distinct sensations in the ranks of the people themselves, who, if they had not forgotten the explanations of the commencement of the war had at least ceased to think about it in their anxiety to see the finish.

To the German people the recent remarkable disclosures of Prince Lichnowsky and the almost equally remarkable statements of Herr Von Jagow and Dr. Muehlon were revelations indeed; because of all the peoples involved in, and affected by, the war, those of Germany have been the most deceived. Rather, it may be said, they alone have been deceived. To a nation not mentally trained and organized as they have been the story of the war from genesis to revelations, as expounded by its leaders, would have been inexplicable; but they, probably, for the present at least, in the same blind confidence, have accepted the one as they accepted the other, as a mystery of the divinity swaying its destinies. To the documents in question, with their suggestiveness and timely interest, the following pages are devoted.

[We are indebted to Current History Magazine of the New York Times for the text of the Lichnowsky Revelations.]

REMARKABLE PUBLICATION.

One of the remarkable publications that has come out of Germany in respect of that nations' part in the war is what is known to English readers, for whose benefit it has been translated, as "Revelations of the Last German Ambassador in England, 'Prince Lichnowsky.'" It is the most remarkable, because it contains the clearest and most authentic refutation of the claims put forward by Germany at the outbreak and for a long time subsequent that the war was forced upon her by her enemies, and that she was fighting for her existence. Not only were these claims put forward and proclaimed officially and by the public men and the press of Germany in that country as an excuse to her own people, but a propaganda almost world-wide was set in motion to educate the people of neutral nations and the pacifist elements of the nations of the Allied cause. In the United States, which Germany was the most anxious to influence, German professors and pro-German advocates openly toured the country delivering addresses, and the press of the United States so far as its columns could be made available, was flooded with articles of German origin.

Not only did Germany proclaim in this wholesale way that she was engaged in a defensive war into which she was compelled to enter to save her own people from being crushed by her enemies, but the invasion of Belgium, whose neutrality by treaty she was bound to respect, was explained in two ways:

First, as a matter of "military necessity," regarding which war knows no law, but this was buttressed by the falsehood that the German military authorities had certain knowledge that France intended striking through Belgium. The German Chancellor in his celebrated apology for this outrage on humanity and international rights specifically stated that he knew France stood ready for invasion. "France," he stated, "could wait; we could not. A French attack on our flank in the lower Rhine might have been dangerous. Thus we were