

## THE GERMAN IDEA

of subject races, as being a policy of "destroying our Fatherland."

It is broadly and irrefutably true to say that the Central Powers and their allies would gleefully have "destroyed" all the other Fatherlands in Europe could they have done so. Germany would certainly have handed over Serbia and Montenegro to Austria and annexed Belgium. How long it would have abstained from annexing Holland is an interesting question. We have seen that Professor Wagner thought it worth while to make a point of stating that "even after our great success we will not turn our arms against Holland, Switzerland, and the other neutral German countries" [*i.e.*, presumably the Scandinavian States]. The implication is that Germany might rightfully do so: else why the proposition? For any other Power the thing would be a matter of course, not to be even considered. For Germany it is otherwise. The situation being so understood, the States in question had notice of what they might expect in the fullness of time.

In this connection we have now to consider the cases of Switzerland and Holland. The German sections of the Swiss people, while in the main maintaining the correct attitude of neutrality observed by the Swiss Government, have certainly been more in sympathy with Germany than with the Powers of the Entente. Yet it is equally certain that the entire Swiss people would have resisted to the utmost any German infraction of their territory, just as did Belgium. The Dutch people would no less certainly have done the same. This being perfectly well known to the German people, they either regard