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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1921

SLAVISM AND TEUTONISM

The Struggle for Supremacy in the Balkans—Still a Dangerous Point.

(Hamilton Fish Armstrong in New York Evening Post.)
Williamstown, Mass., August 8.—Baron Sergius A. Korff made a valiant attempt this morning to untangle for the members of the Institute of Politics the crisis in the Balkans between Russia and Austria-Hungary for domination in the Balkans—the great conflict between Slavism and Teutonism, which, developing all through the last half century, finally flared up in the great war, and now, though momentarily dormant, is not dead.

In the period immediately after the Berlin Congress, when Bismarck arranged for Austria to occupy Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Iron Chancellor inspired the main principles of the Hapsburg monarchy's Balkan policy. But towards the close of the century the dominating role began to be played by the Magyars, who, Baron Korff said, "are much like the Prussians, nationalistic and chauvinistic, railing their subject Slav populations most ruthlessly."

Under this dual tutelage developed the

cramping and unyielding policy by which Austria-Hungary strove incessantly to spread her dominion southwards, which in turn was to provoke a counteracting pan-Slav movement. "With Russia," said Baron Korff, "pan-Slavism was promoted much more by hatred of the Germans than love of the Slavs, and Vienna paid far too little attention to this factor. It soon proved to be the main source of trouble between Austria and Russia. For a long time it disturbed the peace of Europe and unfortunately the question is still with us: Is it solved?"

Bismarck, while encouraging Austria, spent much time and effort endeavoring to build up an understanding with Russia. "He displayed his usual great diplomatic skill," said Baron Korff. "Harping on the monarchical idea, he conceived the three Emperors of the necessity of a personal meeting to further strengthen their autocracies. "One can easily judge of the involved game Bismarck was playing by the fact that simultaneously he succeeded in reinforcing the Dual Alliance by the addition of Italy, which was to act by the same time as a counterweight to Austria. The Balkan trouble, just developing between Bulgaria and Russia, added fuel. Thus the web of diplomatic intrigue was woven unabatingly by the Eastern autocracies, which were finally fated to perish themselves, strangled in the vicious tangles of their own construction."

Proceeding then to a description of Count d'Arenth's policy, Austria's canny and enterprising Minister of Foreign Affairs, Baron Korff detailed his intrigues to establish Hapsburg supremacy in Serbia and oust Russian influence from the Bal-

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kans, leading up to the sudden coup of October, 1908, when Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina. "This was a deliberate infringement of the Berlin Treaty," said Baron Korff, "and was a terrible blow to all the Slavs. The Serbs were very much alarmed, considering D'Arenth's policy a direct threat to their kingdom. Finally, Italy looked askance on the increase of Austria's strength, and here we see probably the first fissure in the Triple Alliance."

"Now, that Austria-Hungary is dead," said Baron Korff in conclusion, "none is found to say a word for the old lady, for the simple reason that there is very little good one can possibly say; She is unregretted."

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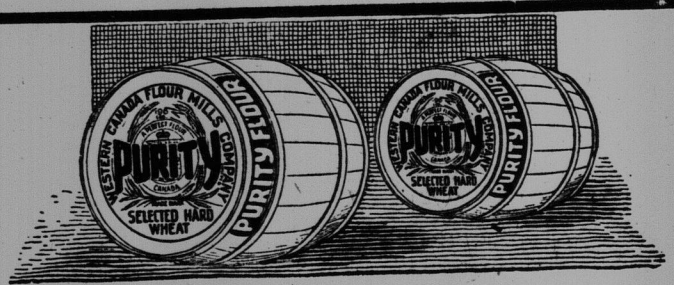


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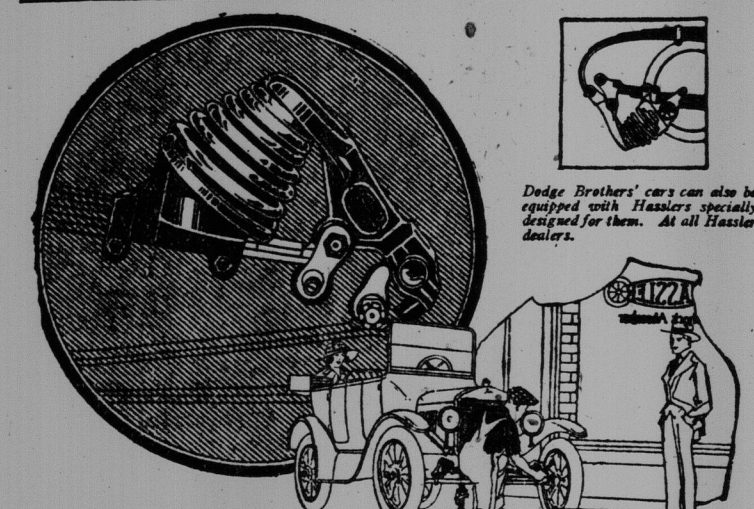
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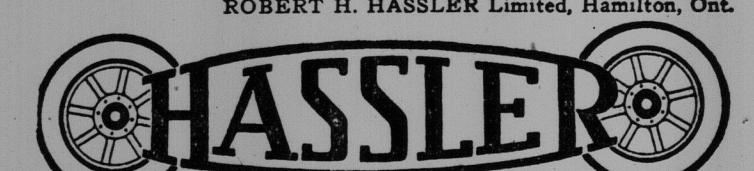


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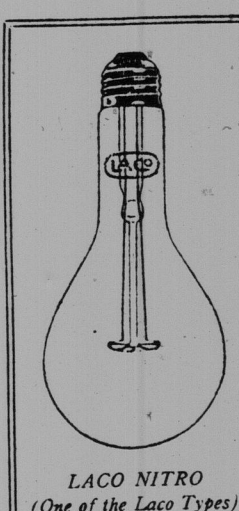
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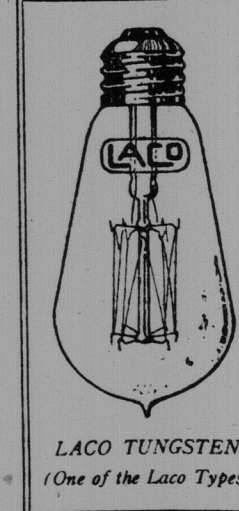
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