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Special Articles

A Business Administration,
By W. W. SWANSON.

The Speedwell Plan,
By J. W. MACMILLAN.

England and Seed Supplies,
By GEO. E. SHORTT.

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Preference and Peace

PRESIDENT Wilson's fourteen principles that should govern a peace treaty included a mention of freedom of commerce which has been interpreted in various ways. Some of his opponents in American politics, seeking for useful points in the political campaign, have endeavored to arouse the hostility of the manufacturing interests by representing that the President has declared for free trade, an interpretation that Mr. Wilson has repudiated. Another question is the effect of Mr. Wilson's principles on British preferential tariffs. In some quarters it has been assumed that the President means no preference should be granted. There is no doubt that he means that all nations should have equal opportunity. He is clearly against the policy of boycotting any nation — even Germany. But it is not at all probable that he has any thought of interfering in the internal trade policy of any nation. Let us take our own Dominion for illustration. Canada led the way in preferential trade in 1897, and still applies the principle of preference in her tariff. That, however, is entirely a matter of trade between Canada and the mother country, or between Canada and other parts of the British Empire. The Empire, though composed of many countries—perhaps we might say of many nations—is a unit for all international purposes. If suited the purposes of Germany, at one stage, to treat Canada as a separate nation, and to claim that Germany was entitled to all the privileges which Canada granted to Great Britain. Against that claim Canada very properly protested. As a result of that protest the old treaties, which did grant such rights to Germany, and also to Belgium, were cancelled. Germany penalized Canada for a while, by applying her highest tariff to our products. Canada struck back, most effectively, with the surtax on German goods. Ultimately Germany sued for commercial peace with Canada, acknowledging Canada's right to make such trade arrangements as she pleased within the British Empire without reference to any foreign power. Some American writers at one time argued that Canada should give her preferential tariff to American goods. But this claim was incapable of being sustained by argument. If the American Government ever contemplated putting forward the claim they abandoned it. They were themselves granting preferential terms to their new overseas possessions, Porto Rico and the Philippines. How could they maintain a denial of Canada's right to grant a preference to another part of the British Empire? In both cases the affair was a family matter, in which outsiders could not properly meddle. There is no reason to suppose that

President Wilson, in setting forth what he thought was a proper basis for peace, had any intention of meddling in trade relations between the several parts of the British Empire. That question will be one settled among themselves by the representatives of Great Britain and the colonies. If they can arrange matters to their mutual satisfaction, it is not likely that any foreign nation will attempt to intervene.

Punish the Kaiser

THE glorious victory of the forces of civilization over the hordes of barbarism will be incomplete and very disappointing if means cannot be found to administer personal punishment to the German Emperor and his son, the Crown Prince. In the minds of careful observers of the events immediately preceding the outbreak of war, there can have been no doubt that on the German Emperor rests the chief responsibility for the conflict. He who had the power to maintain peace deliberately resolved to have a war which he thought would give him the domination of the world. On the surface the war was made to appear a result of a quarrel between Austria and Serbia; but the careful student of the time clearly saw, behind the weak-minded old Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, the sinister figure of the young Emperor at Berlin. Austria, on no better ground than unwarranted assumptions respecting the cause of the murder of the Austrian Archduke at Sarajevo, made a demand on Serbia so insolent that only a refusal of it could have been expected. Serbia's relations with Russia were such that war against the smaller nation inevitably involved war with Russia. Germany wished to strike at Russia and at France, with which Russia was closely allied. Extension of the field of war was possible, even probable, but this much was clear, and to accomplish these ends the German Emperor would hesitate at nothing. His son, the Crown Prince, there is reason to believe, more than seconded his father's policy. He was even more ready than the Emperor to plunge the world into war.

The pretence of Germany that Austria acted independently in issuing the ultimatum to Serbia hardly deceived anybody at the time. There is less possibility now of any misunderstanding. The later admission of Prince Lichnowski, the German Ambassador at London, and now the testimony of the Bavarian Government, make it clear that the German Emperor deliberately plotted to bring on the war, that the insolent Austrian ultimatum to Serbia was planned by the German Government, and that it was because of this wicked German conspiracy that the noble efforts of Sir Edward Grey to maintain peace were unsuccessful.

Others there are who have bloody hands, men who, once the war was started, readily made