

GERMANY AND OTHER POWERS

Dr. Spahn's Urgent Plea in Favor of a Rapid Naval Expansion

The Berlin correspondent of the London Times, writing under date of August 13th, says:

Dr. Spahn's urgent plea at Bonn, near Bonn, on Sunday, in favour of rapid naval expansion by Germany on the most up-to-date lines played the part of an elaborate address which the leader of the German Centre party delivered to his constituents. In allusion to his references to naval policy, Dr. Spahn appeared in the Times today. Dr. Spahn, the usual master of German politicians, centred his attack on China to Peru, and described in detail the relations of the various powers to one another and to Germany. In his opinion, the United States, Japan, China, England, France, Italy and America had become the most important

ant powers from the point of view of foreign policy, in England a Liberal Government was elected. The Conservative regime, but British foreign policy had not been affected by the change of Government. The purpose and rapidity of action followed by King Edward, who had shown how powerful a factor the monarchy still remained in the contemporary England. Great Britain had emerged from her splendid isolation. The maritime agreements which England had concluded to secure the maritime approaches of the British Empire by diplomatic safeguards, extended to the Mediterranean and the Navy. The British Fleets, thus released from their duties in other quarters of the globe, were now being concentrated in English waters. The colonies were beginning to build navies of their own. Great Britain's power was now based upon the command of the seas, and the naval government, like its predecessor, was determined to maintain the British naval supremacy.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the Mediterranean trip allegedly for the purpose of attending the German Emperor and Empress to visit Windsor in the autumn, the Tsar had to have a preliminary interview with the British Ambassador, in which there had recently been a meeting between the Emperor and the Tsar of Sweden.

After reference to British and French domestic affairs, Dr. Spanner drew attention to the naval policy of the American Government, and to the efforts to safeguard American interests, both in the Atlantic and in the Pacific, and to the question of the Panama Canal. Whether Japan was preparing to treat America as she had treated Russia he did not know, but he desired to see the United States to strike before the Panama Canal was shunk from commerce. Both parties desired to fight, he said. If the United States desired to fight, she would have to strike before the Panama Canal was shunk from commerce. Both parties desired to fight, he said. If the United States desired to fight, she would have to strike before the Panama Canal was shunk from commerce. Both parties desired to fight, he said. If the United States desired to fight, she would have to strike before the Panama Canal was shunk from commerce.

Russia's position abroad had been weakened by the war with Japan, but the importance for Germany of good relations with Russia had remained unchanged, and the existence of these relations had been demonstrated by the Imperial meeting on the Danube. The Russo-German relations had been tacitly prolonged, and Italy, owing to her membership in the alliance, was at liberty to cultivate the friendship of Russia. The result was that she was able to effect economies in her military and naval budgets.

German foreign policy was unquestionably pacific, and the domestic vicissitudes through which the Empire had recently passed would not affect German policy abroad, since domestic and foreign affairs remained in the same hands. The fact that Prince Bülow had seen fit to change his attitude in domestic politics did not mean that German foreign outlook was not menacing. The Centre, as a party, were far too patriotic to allow their domestic grievances to influence their policy in the domain of foreign policy. For that reason the Centre had passed without a word of protest the vote

It had become customary to speak of England as attempting to "pen German in", but the ill will toward Germany on the part of the United States was a point that the kind promised, did not exist, and the term was, therefore, inaccurate. "As a matter of fact," Dr. Spain explained, "all that has happened is that the United States has consulted in the settlement of various questions, in some of which, at any rate, her interests were not directly concerned, and it is not possible to say that this would have been dangerous if the settlement of these questions ran counter to German interests. The agents which have been concluded do not exhibit any tendency of this kind."

With regard to the proceedings of the conference, the German delegates welcomed the careful preparation which the German delegates had bestowed upon their proposals, with the appearance of leading the discussion of the conference Germany had even arms, which seemed to menace considerable trouble in the spring, had now been safely disposed of in perfect order. The German delegates had not early to discuss the work of the conference, but he regretted that for the second time, the German delegates had been taking part in the proceedings.

On the whole, therefore, Dr. Spann added, there seemed no danger of war and in his opinion the danger of an upheaval against which the government would be powerless. As Moltke had said, the German people were not a boasting state was the greatest danger to peace. For the moment there was no reason to fear a breach of peace. The German government would maintain the efficiency of her armaments. Additional expenditure to the amount of £2,000,000 would be required for the army in 1908, and if his suggestions with regard to the increase of tonnage of warships and the increase of the German fleet were followed, an additional naval expenditure of £2,000,000.