

sions of the Danish people is the possibility of England's trying to establish a naval base on Danish ground. 'Harrowing' is the word deliberately used, because the Danes feel that under such circumstances they would be forced to fight beside their natural enemies against their natural friends and allies. The time when such a fear might have been warranted is long gone by ; and just now, when a sense of responsibility on behalf of Belgium has so largely caused England's decision to take up arms, such a fear is particularly groundless. A step of that kind, however advantageous in some ways, would in other ways prove all but fatal to the cause of the Allies. And this fact ought to be as clear to Denmark as I know it is to England. What, then, can make the Danes, against their will and against all reason, cling to this fear ? Well, here we have another evidence of German 'diplomacy'. False statements with regard to England's intentions have no doubt been sedulously circulated—and this has been done not only in Denmark, but in Norway as well, where fears of exactly the same kind have been encountered by numerous trustworthy and well-informed travellers. Of course, we know that, if Danish distrust of England be explicable though unwarranted, such a fear on the part of Norway must be held nothing less than ridiculous. But it is there, it has to be counted with, and it should be dispelled.

To return to the more deep-lying Danish friendliness toward the Allies, this is probably strengthened by a realization on the part of Denmark that this may be not only its best but its only chance of recovering Sleswick. But, as I have already said, the Danes are intensely practical in spite of their sentimentality (their practical tendency being enforced by a strongly-developed sense