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Germany's Intentions

(St. John Sun editorial)

In "Germany's real attitude toward England," Mr. Tuchmann, a German Journalist, holds that Germany has no desire to invade England and no wish to annex her overseas dominions. As to whether Germany is ready for war he has no uncertain reply. She is, and was never more so. He does not hesitate to aver that if war were declared tomorrow Germany's intimate knowledge of this country and this country's ignorance of Germany would astonish even those bellicose critics of naval preparedness who are continually crying danger. But having said this much, he wishes to show that although Germany is ready for war with any country, war was never further from her intentions. "Why should not Germany be in a state of preparedness for any emergency?" he asks. "Why should she be dictated to by any country as to how she should safeguard her interests? Whatever else her critics and her enemies allege, Germany is not an 'impulsive, irrational country that leaps at opportunities and damns the consequences.'" He says that Socialism is increasing throughout Germany and is even rampant in the German army. Socialists are opposed to war, and the Kaiser and his advisers are aware that a war would arouse opposition that might also develop into a revolution. Mr. Tuchmann acknowledges that Germany desires colonial expansion. "Her increasing population renders it a necessity. He also acknowledges that England has staked out many claims which Germany would like. But he persists that her desires now lie in an altogether different direction. "There may be moments when she secretly covets, say, Java or Sumatra, but what interest has England in either one of those islands? Let me express a candid opinion—the day is not far distant when Asia Minor will fall, figuratively, to pieces. It would be a 'contretemps' to the liking of Germany. Who could prevent annexation in that direction when Germany would have only to walk through Austria in order to plant her flag on the desired spot?"

He urges the truth, as obvious to Germans as to Englishmen, that war between England and Germany would mean inevitable and irreparable ruin for both countries. He says that all intelligent Germans have one desire—"the wish for a better understanding for an 'entente cordiale' with England." In the end, he rather strangely endeavors to substitute one scare for another, by prophesying that some day—perhaps very soon—Great Britain and Germany will have to fight side by side to repel the "Yellow danger." Apart from this rather wild conclusion, there is a good deal in Mr. Tuchmann's article that deserves consideration, remarks the Montreal Witness. Many Germans fear a British invasion. We all know that this is pure moonshine. It is then, not unreasonable to suppose that the British fear of a German invasion is almost as absurd. To be sure, there are German officers and journalists who, when the fumes of Rhine wine and Bavarian beer have risen to their brains, talk war, and great gusto. These, however, do not represent the level-headed bulk of the population. German and British nerves just now, however, are in a state of "jumpsiness" strange to the national character of both peoples. Where there is this mutual suspicion there is, of course, danger, but one in blood, one in religion, one in all sorts of mutual interests, there is no one but admits that war between England and Germany would be a crime as well as an unmixed and immeasurable harm to both. Ethical and religious considerations are not supposed to carry such weight in politics, but they cannot be altogether absent from the consciousness of the peoples and rulers of the two leading Protestant European countries. There are, however, other considerations than sentimental which should prevent an Anglo-German rupture.

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THE LUSCIOUS MALPEQUE.

How the Famous Bivalve is Secured in Prince Edward Island.

Richmond Bay, as you view it from the northern shore of Prince Edward Island, is a big half-circle of blue water, with a broken diameter of islands, which, besides adding a needed touch of beauty to the scene, serve to make the waters the best oyster-fishing grounds in eastern Canada, says L. J. Miller in a recent article in The Toronto Globe. To be sure, a map of the island will at once show that the bay is not rounded (the sprawled amoebe of the biological text-book would better describe it), that the sharply-defined islands to be seen from the shore are not the ones that play chief part in making the grounds safe and sheltered for toteming spat, but this is only the testimony of unimaginative maps—a half-circle, a broken diameter of green, and you have the home of the Malpeque oyster, one of the best of the world produces.

You may satisfy your head as to the truth of the latter with the knowledge that Prince Edward Island oysters took highest award at the Exposition Universelle at Paris, in 1900, where they were in competition with the best products of Europe and America. But, after all, it is not an affair of the head. On a fine, crisp November afternoon you must drive down to the shore of the bay and have some bronzed, hard-handed, old fisherman open with his jackknife one of the muddled pairs of fast-gripped shells which he has just brought in, cold and sweet with the clean salt of the sea. Then, and not till then, will you fully realize it. You will also be in a position to say the least, the words of oysters.

You will be repaid, too, in other fashion, for oyster-fishing, as carried on in Richmond Bay, is essentially picturesque. The fishermen keep to primitive methods, which experience has shown to be least destructive to oysters and beds, and their most appalling nightmare is the picture of a puffing tug dragging shovel and bag over their grounds and turning topsyturvy shells and bed beneath. And so the scene is quiet; a few rude houses huddle together on the broken, red banks; plover and sandpiper wheel and alight and run daintily over the hard, red sand; gulls slide lazily through the air. Only the whistle of a curlew or the cry of a gull breaks the stillness of the shore. It is with surprise that you awake to the fact that between you and the diameter in the distance hundreds of men are silently at work.

Later, when you are in the midst of them, you do not wonder at the silence. The very nature of the task demands it, for it is the hardest of hard work this—no stubborn dragging of shovel or scoop, but the patient, hand-chilling, back-breaking task of groping with heavy, long-armed tongs for the shells below and lifting them up hand over hand, through, perhaps, twenty feet of water. It is a lesson in patient industry. The fisherman braces himself astride a thwart, and lowers his pair of tongs (two long poles hinged about three feet from a pair of iron rings some forty inches wide) to the bottom. The water is always jolly cold, and may be anywhere from one to three fathoms. Off Curtain Island, where the choicest oysters are found, it often runs to four or four and a half fathoms. On the bottom, the shells are attached to the hard sand, to one another, or to anything that is solid enough to hold their grip. An old hand can quickly tell when he has landed a good spot. Opening wide the jaws of his tongs, he reaches down into the bed, brings the jaws together, and lifts up, foot by foot, the heavy load of muddy sand and oysters.

"How would you like to keep at that all day?" asked a grizzled old chap, as he balanced the long pole on the gunwale, and knocked sand and mud into the water. "It's not very bad this afternoon, but, I tell you, it's cold work when the water freezes on your tongs, and the wind blows through you."

That is the other side of it. It is undoubtedly picturesque on a fine, sunny day; the two or three hundred boats make a pretty sight in the bay, particularly when at evening they all hoist sail and make in, but, "I tell you, it's cold work when the water freezes on your tongs and the wind blows through you."

Skyscrapers For Montreal.

Three ten-story buildings will be erected during the coming summer on St. James street, Montreal, close to the postoffice.

The old seminary property, which has been leased for a period of 90 years by the Grand Trunk Pacific, will be occupied by a ten-story structure. On the opposite corner, the Old St. Lawrence Hall landmark will be replaced by another ten-story building to be used by the Canadian Pacific for downtown offices, while the third skyscraper will be built on the same street directly opposite the St. Lawrence Hall by the Yorkshire Insurance Co. The cost of the two railway buildings will be half a million dollars each, while the insurance structure will cost about a quarter of a million.

One on Sir Henry.

A good joke on Sir Henry Pellatt is being told in military circles. On New Year's morning it is the custom of the officers to visit the various sergeants' messes, and this year when Sir Henry and some of the officers of the Queen's Own Rifles visited the sergeants' mess of the Mississauga Horse one of the party entering their names in the visitors register wrote: "Col. Sir H. Pellatt, A.D.C." The Mississauga Horse Sergeants had a boy watching the registration who announced each officer as he entered the reception room. When it came Sir Henry's turn the boy called out much to the amusement of all present: "Colonel-Serg. Pellatt of the A.D.C.'s." Needless to say Sir Henry appreciated the joke as much as any one.

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Don't blame advertising for your failure if you do not do what you promise.

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