

## The Philosopher

### THE WEAKEST OF WEAPONS

It is proclaimed from Germany that preparations are being made for Zeppelin raids against England next spring on a greater scale than before. The Teutonic belief in Schrecklichkeit, or "terribleness"—that is to say, outrage and murder, as exercised on land upon women and children in Belgium and France, at sea by the submarines, and from the air by the Zeppelins—is evidently deep-seated. What is there about the German mind that prevents recognition of the plain fact that "terribleness" cannot achieve anything decisive, and that, on the contrary, it only serves to rouse the spirit, strengthen the arm and nerve the will of every people against whom it is used? It is but the emptiest of threats and the weakest of weapons.

### WHAT GERMANY'S RULERS NOW KNOW

Germany, having reached the climax of her military achievement, is now exerting every possible secret effort in the desperate hope of introducing, if not discouragement, then distrust and dissatisfaction in and between the Allied nations. The whole purpose of Germany now is to endeavor to the utmost to procure an inconclusive peace. All that the once vaunted German might, which was so confident of dominating the world, can now do is to score harassing successes which wound, but cannot cripple, her principal opponents. This is thoroughly realized by the masters of German policy and power, and their efforts will increase henceforth to bring about a peace which will cheat human freedom and the hope of the world's future of the full measure of the security for which the Allies have already made such incalculable sacrifices. Time is on the side of the Allies. The increase in military resources and equipment is going forward with a constantly accelerating speed, and when spring comes the Allies' sheer mass of accumulated resources and weight of metal for forcing the fighting will stand before the world as the result—which will go on mounting in an increasing ratio—of an executed plan, the greatest in all history.

### BRITISH TAXATION OF INCOMES

The suggestion has been heard more than once that in looking about for fresh sources of taxation, the Dominion Government may decide to follow the British precedent and tax incomes. In Ontario and some of the other Provinces incomes are already taxed; but that, of course, would not prevent the Dominion Government from imposing a super-tax on incomes if it should see fit so to do as a war emergency measure. In Great Britain the well-to-do and rich classes are paying income taxes now on an unprecedented scale, by reason of the war. Incomes under £3,000, or in round figures, \$14,500 a year, are heavily taxed; but at that figure the rate of taxation begins to mount rapidly. The person in Great Britain with an income between £3,000 and £4,000 gives up one-sixth of it. If his income is between £4,000 and £5,000, he gives up a little more than one-fifth of it. And so the proportion goes on increasing, until the very rich are arrived at—those having incomes of \$250,000 a year and more, from whom the Government takes a third and more of their incomes as their contribution to the carrying on of the war. There are in Great Britain several hundred people with incomes greater than \$250,000 a year.

### GERMAN SECRET SERVICE METHODS

An interesting and important article in the English Review sets forth a mass of facts in regard to German secret service activity in England previous to the war. All the world understands by this time how neither trouble nor expense are considered in the carrying on of the work of the German secret system, which was begun in France sixty years ago by Stiebert, the tool of Bismarck, who, through some mental obliquity left memoirs (which were suppressed, so far as German power could suppress them) relating with genuine pride some of his achievements. It is a record of cunning, ability and perfidy. For sixteen years before Prussia made war on France the Berlin Government had its "fixed posts" of German informers established all over France. When the Prussian legions rushed upon France in 1870, the organization of spies of which Stiebert was the head in that country numbered 35,000. In the past forty years that system has extended to all parts of Europe, America, Australia, South Africa and India. The facts which have been brought to light in the United States during the past few months—and they are, of course, only a mere fraction of the whole—of the activities of the German secret service in that country make an amazing revelation of perfidy and ruthlessness. That Great Britain was over-run and permeated by German spies for years before this war began is undeniable. Even Emperor Wilhelm himself, as Lord Roseberry mentioned in a recent speech, took a hand in the work. While holidaying in Bournemouth, he spent much of his time in motoring about in the

New Forest and photographing important military positions. A German in a position to know has confessed that the Emperor selected points for the deposit of German arms and ammunition, for the invasion. A few years ago German officers took a staff-ride through the eastern counties of England; and there is a German map of England which shows the whole east and south coast districts divided up and marked with the names of German regiments—for colonization purposes, after the consummation of the design of dealing with England as Belgium has been dealt with. The facts set forth in the article in the English Review are startling in their number and in the manner in which they all fit together. When, for example, it is found that a German occupies a house near the opening of a ventilation shaft of a railway tunnel near London, which is of the utmost importance and which he could easily destroy with dynamite, and that another German, an electrician, lives in a house from which he could easily tap the main telegraph wires to the east coast, it is conceivable, of course, that these may be purely accidental coincidences. But when such coincidences run into the hundreds and thousands, it is impossible, knowing what we do of German methods, not to see their meaning. The British authorities took active measures immediately upon the outbreak of the war, to deal with this danger and the measures taken have been eminently and entirely successful, as the facts all go to show.

### RACIAL STRAINS IN CANADA

There have been many varying statements made about the number of persons of German, or Austrian, extraction there are in Canada. Figures have been compiled from the latest available official statistics which convey all the information there is to be had in regard to this question, as in regard to the other main racial origins of the population of the Dominion. It must be remembered in noting that three racial origins are of special importance, namely, British, French and Teuton, the word British is not used with any intention of conveying any suggestion that the French-Canadian is any less British than the British-Canadian. It is used in this connection to describe people who were born either in the British Isles, or elsewhere in the British Empire, of English, Scotch, Irish or Welsh stock. The French stock has, of course, but slight relation to Old France; French-Canadian families have been rooted on Canadian soil for three hundred years. Under the heading Teuton come Germans, Austrians and all the other peoples who belong to the heterogeneous Empire which has been ruled from Vienna—some of whom, though they have been included in the catalogue of subjects of the Emperor Francis Joseph, are Slavic in origin, and whose sympathies are against the Germans. In Manitoba the people of British stock number 266,415; of French, 30,944 and of Teuton, 74,195. In Saskatchewan, the figures are—British, 251,000; French, 23,251, and Teuton, 110,279; and in Alberta—British, 192,698; French, 19,825, and Teuton, 63,259. In British Columbia the figures are—British, 252,683; French, 8,907, and Teuton, 63,259. For the whole Dominion of Canada the figures are—British, 3,896,905; French, 2,054,889 and Teuton, 522,390. These figures are as nearly comprehensive and accurate as it is possible to get them.

### A TYPICALLY GERMAN PLEA

Germans in the United States have appealed to the Government at Washington to assist them in the shipment of large quantities of food supplies to Germany. They ask the United States Government to use its influence to secure "safe passage for food supplies through the war zone." The German Ambassador at Washington is informally aiding in this demand, which furnishes striking proof of two things—first, of course, the fact that British sea power rules the waves, and second, the curious inability of the German mind to realize why the whole world does not gladly submit to what the German mind wants done. Why does not the German sea power come out and attempt to break the blockade? This preposterous appeal to the United States (whose citizens, women and children as well as defenceless men, the Teuton submarines murder on the high seas without compunction) is, in effect, a roundabout appeal to Great Britain for clemency—an appeal to Great Britain, of which the United States is asked to become the mouthpiece, to waive the advantage which the British sea power holds. But the Germans who are making this demand that the United States shall be the go-between for this appeal to Great Britain do not appear to realize what a figure they are thus cutting before the eyes of the world. They declare that the British blockade of Germany is barbarous. But Zeppelin raids against women and children they consider superb triumphs of Kultur. Thus do they continue to exemplify the truth which Rudyard Kipling pointed out, that their minds work like the minds of primitive savages—when a savage hurts you he laughs delightedly, but when you hurt him, he roars with grief and indignation.

### WHILE HUMANITY ENDURES

A chaplain, with the Canadians at a location on the front which has only the stereotyped designation, "somewhere in France," writes a letter to a friend in which he says that he is encamped on the identical spot where Julius Caesar assembled his legions for the invasion of Britain. He also tells of securing some coins and other relics of that ancient time which were come upon by the troops in digging drains. There have been many wars since Julius Caesar, and many fields in France, as in other old lands, have again and again been drenched with blood. Before Caesar crossed over to Britain it had cost him several hard-fought, bloody campaigns to bring Gaul, which was the France of ancient times, under the Rule of Rome. But not all the wars in all history preceding this war caused such destruction and left such relics of their fury as this war is leaving. In the time to come, far more remote in the future from this time, than this time is from the time of Julius Caesar, this war will live in the memory of mankind and memorials of it will be viewed with deep interest.

### DISPROVING THEIR OWN CONTENTION

From the beginning of the movement in Great Britain towards some form of conscription, it has been proclaimed by the newspapers of Germany as a complete violation with the ideals hitherto held by the British people, a complete breach with the British past. The Berliner Morgen Post says: "It is too late. Decades are required to build up a people's army." The Vossische Zeitung says: "It is in vain that the British fanatics hope with the infantile British militarism to achieve a victory over the full-grown German militarism." The Voerwarts says that Great Britain finds itself compelled to "adopt militarism to combat German militarism." Such are the queer workings of the German mind that all these utterances, in which the press of Germany are unanimous, fail to appear to the German press and the German people in their true light, namely, declarations that while for decades Germany has been straining every effort in preparation for this war, Great Britain was quite unprepared except for defence purposes at sea. And yet every voice that speaks for Germany, from the Emperor down, and every German paper, from the organs of Prussianism in Berlin to the most lying sheet in the United States of the Fatherland species, maintained by money from Berlin, never ceases to utter the falsehood that Great Britain plotted and planned the war and began it, and that Germany is fighting in self-defence.

### JOTTINGS OF A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

There was recently brought to the Philosopher's attention an old work in two volumes by John Lambert, an Englishman who travelled through Canada and the United States in 1806, 1807 and 1808—or, to speak more exactly, he travelled through the only part of the Canada of that time which he thought it worth while visiting, namely, Lower Canada, that is to say, what is now the Province of Quebec. Montreal and Quebec were the only considerable Canadian cities then. Toronto was only a village, known as Muddy Little York. These old books give interesting glimpses of the life of the time; and Lambert was at pains to record prices and much other information. Beef was from 1½d. to 4d. a pound, mutton 4d. to 6d., and pork 5d. to 6d., and wild pigeons were 1s. 6d. to 4s. a dozen. Salt came in as ballast and sold at 3s. 6d. per bushel, but in winter it sometimes rose to 14 shillings. The best butter was 6d. per pound. The south shore of the St. Lawrence, below Quebec, was the wheat-growing region of those days, what is now Western Canada being still a vast lone land dotted with the posts of the Hudson's Bay Company and held in fee simple by the Indians and buffaloes. In 1808 wheat sold at Quebec at 7s. 6d. per bushel. Good arable land around Montreal sold for as much as £5 an acre, but in the back country uncleared land could be got for as little as 6d. an acre. The price of flour and bread was regulated monthly by the magistrates. Imperial customs duties were levied on liquors, sugar, coffee, molasses and pepper, while the Canadian authorities taxed manufactured tobacco, put an extra impost on liquors, together with a duty on salt, and collected a small revenue from the licenses issued to publicans and hawkers. A good deal of smuggling was done, according to Lambert, many of the factory goods from the United States being cheaper than like goods from England. These smuggled commodities were placed on rafts and floated down the St. Lawrence from above Montreal to far below Quebec. In 1808 a project for establishing a bank was brought before the legislature. Mr. Richardson, member for Montreal, opposed it on the ground that it would encourage the spirit of gambling. As the disaster which had befallen the paper money—or "card" money, as it was called—of the ancien regime, when Quebec belonged to France, had not been forgotten, the people were not disposed to take kindly to the idea of bank notes.