

But later conditions abroad have not been such as to necessitate the clear perception of the difference of ideals as in 1848. Then he who ran might read, but afterward the issues were blurred and clouded, and many who came failed to recognize the real cause or their coming.

They saw, perhaps, only a better chance of prospering and failed to see that this better chance existed because of the difference of national ideals. If these people had to make their choice, they, too, would choose America, but some great necessity will have to arise to compel them to this choice and to crystallize their thought into a discriminating judgment. So long as this necessity for choice can be avoided, it is easier and pleasanter for them to let their sentiment run wild and to shout for Germany.

Can't be American and German.

These people cannot be both Americans and Germans. I believe that nearly all of them are Americans, even though they do not know it and think themselves Germans.

There is of course among them a number of the blatant and the loud-mouthed, who shout for the Kaiser in order to bring personal prominence to themselves or to boom the sale of their papers. They claim to be representative of their fellows, and the falsity of this claim is not made obvious on account of the natural repugnance of the more clear-minded of those of German origin to declare against their native land.

This blatancy also aids to color the views of those who have not the ability to reason and to differentiate, and in this is capable of great harm. The Ridders are from this point of view a real misfortune, not that they can mislead the wise, but that they may deceive the foolish.

Unquestionably there are in the United States a certain number of German spies. The system of espionage has been carried by Germany to such an extent that reports from every country are constantly going to Berlin.

But the fatuous State Department there seems absolutely unable to draw conclusions from the facts laid before it.

Since it has never been allowed in Germany to criticize the Government, that Government believes that in other countries criticism means hatred. It is unable to comprehend that those whom we love we chasten. It fully believed that the British possessions and Dominions overseas would seize the opportunity of the war to throw off what it regards as the British yoke. The loyalty that comes from freedom is a sealed book.

This stupidity at home to a great extent nullifies both the harm and the good that might come from the reports of these spies, for in so far as these reports relate to conditions of opinion Germany cannot understand them, and in so far as they relate to physical conditions of defence and armament they are futile because Germany will never be in a position to wage war on the United States in the United States. The number of these spies is also insignificant in comparison with the number of people of German origin, however large it may be compared with spies of other nations.

Yammerings Should Not Deceive.

The extraordinarily amateurish Government now at Washington does not understand these conditions. One of the reasons why it is so sedulously maintaining the neutrality which patriotic Americans deem selfish and shameful undoubtedly is a fear of the German-born population in the nation. Mr. Wilson is probably above sacrificing the honor of his country for party reasons, and does not guide his actions solely by fear of Germanic votes, but really fears internal rebellion if he takes the stand that the history and ideals of his country demand.

This fear I believe to be entirely unfounded, but it is doubtless one of his excuses for inaction. He ought to recognize that this fear must either have or lack a basis in fact. If the latter, he is building up a bogey-man and is