

THE PREVENTIVE WAR

7

which was "envious" of Germany, to share in the attack in order to cool in a European deluge her forty-year-old lust for revenge;

That the Tsar, who was personally good-natured and peace-loving the man who had suggested and promoted the Peace Conferences at The Hague, the ruler of a Russia which was already too great, internally unfree and permeated by revolutionary aspirations, supported his two accomplices in their plans for booty and revenge.

The arguments of the honest and the dishonest preventive politicians are the same. The recipe out of which the poisonous *ragout* of Germany's peril was and is concocted is as follows: The historical calendars of the last fifteen years are opened and all the visits of Kings, Emperors and Presidents, all ministerial conferences, so far as they took place on the side of the Entente Powers, are carefully noted; mention is then made of the enthusiastic reception accorded to King Edward in Paris and to Fallières and Poincaré in Petrograd, of the meetings which took place in Reval and other maritime towns, of the imperial, royal and presidential toasts, of the jingoistic articles of the chauvinistic Press (known to exist in all countries, worst of all in Germany); the names of Delcassé, Clemenceau, Isvolsky, Northcliffe, Millerand and Poincaré are introduced as often as possible; the mixture is stirred and beaten together as may be required; King Edward's policy of "encirclement" is added as a sauce, and the dish is ready. It is served hot and steaming to the credulous German people, and appears in the menu as "The Entente Powers' *Blutgericht* for the German people." The bill presented for it takes the form of the approval of millions for new army proposals, new soldiers, new cannons and new ships, and finally for the preventive war which is to save us from having to swallow the witches' brew concocted by the others at the moment which appears favourable to them.

Anyone who reads all the writings now being issued in vast quantities by the defenders of the German Government and of their angelic innocence, the works of men like