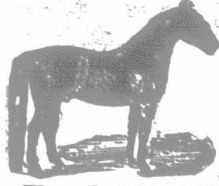


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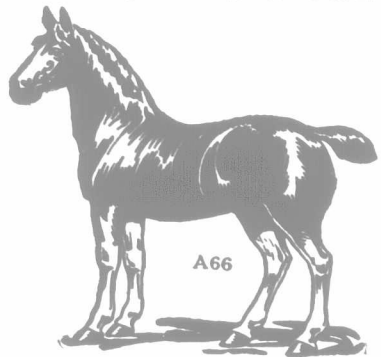
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"Germany's Tragic Destiny."

Lovat Fraser, writing in the Daily Mail, of London, England, in an article re-printed by World Wide:

The Nation on Saturday published a remarkable article in which the writer spoke of a United States of Europe, of a Standing Council of States, of Leagues of Peace, of insurance against all wars, and similar ideas which are much in the minds of men who have to stand aside and are therefore able to think. I sympathize with these conceptions, for with out them, and the hope they inspire, the world would be dark indeed; but I fear they are dreams.

We are not looking back far enough into the origins of this war. It springs from causes older than written history. Since man climbed down from the trees in which he dwelt and stood erect upon the earth, there have been throughout the Old World two persistent, recurring, pulsating movements of humanity, alternately advancing and retiring like the waters of the sea. One is the ebb and flow of the encounters between Europe and Asia. The other is the outward flow of the peoples of Northern Europe, who have repeatedly burst forth like a torrent and spread far and wide until they either spent their force and were absorbed, or, more rarely, were stemmed and at last thrust back.

I will not pause to consider the movements between East and West. For three hundred years the tide of European domination has flowed outwards over Asia, and there are signs that it has slowly begun to ebb. This war may accelerate the process, but a pulsation which has lasted three centuries should be equally protracted in its systole. We are witnessing a sudden outburst of the Germanic peoples on a scale for which we must go back to the days of ancient Rome to find even an inadequate precedent. The horde which swiftly overran Belgium is comparable only to the German multitudes who seated themselves on their shields and shot down the snowy slopes of the Alps into an astonished Italy. Every episode in this war has figured a thousand times in history, and only the armaments are novel. The Emperor Commodus was the earliest exponent of the view, "Don't humiliate the Germans." His father, Marcus Aurelius, in a final campaign lasting three years, fought them to exhaustion and then died. His son made a peace "which surrendered to the all but beaten enemy every advantage that had been wrested from them." In thirty years they were attacking again, and in fifty years they were pouring into Italy.

GERMANS ALWAYS DESTROYERS.

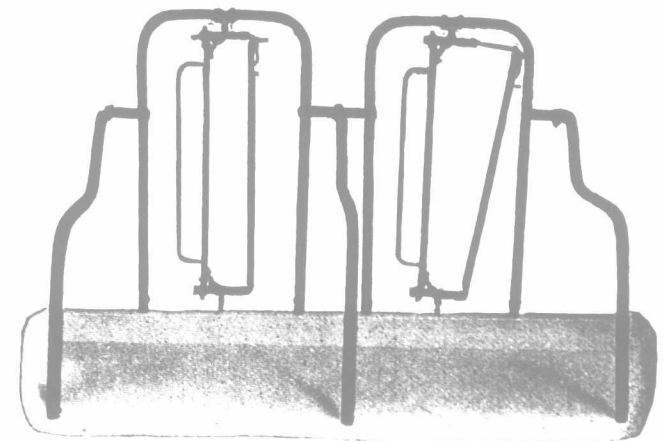
The Germanic peoples have always been destroyers. The last German sack of Rome less than four hundred years ago, was so barbarous as to be almost without a parallel. They have stamped upon countless cities, and sometimes amid the ruins reared fresh civilizations of their own, which in their turn have flowered and died. The impulses which drive them forth are complex and obscure, but are probably in their subtler forms climatic. Their earliest known home is the western shores of the Baltic, the hardest, bleakest, most unattractive land in Europe. To-day it is the home of the Prussians, and it is to the Prussians alone that we owe the present upheaval. Next to climate, and in modern times in far greater degree, the influence which has shaped Germany is geographical position. The unceasing effort of the Germanic peoples to burst the bonds which constrain them is as great and central a factor in world history as the influence of Rome. It is far more enduring, and it seems unchangeable. Their offshoots do not retain the same traits because they are relieved from pressure.

The geographical position of Prussia is, when all other influences have been counted, the final explanation of the Prussian system of government and the Prussian cult of militarism. Seeley saw this when he came to study the life of Stein. He saw that the vast individualism of England and America would never have done for Prussia, and the Prussian counter was so difficult to defend. The people had to be governed by a despotism which in other lands would be damnable and their government had to be chiefly military. Periodically, someone used the army for purposes of pleasure. For the last two

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