

would have had the same result at whatever time Germany should think opportune for herself. It does not speak well for the insight of her statesmen that they should have allowed the war to come in circumstances which kept Italy neutral, instead of joining Germany, and brought Britain to the side of France and Russia. We may doubt whether Bismarck would have taken any chances of this kind. It is apparently true that in modern Germany there is no statesman of commanding genius. Germany has brought four great powers, Russia, France, Britain and Japan, together as her foes in war; she has violated the neutrality of Belgium, a helpless and unoffending state, and has thus caused an intense public opinion against herself in the United States and other neutral countries; she has waged war by methods that have destroyed, as far as she is concerned, the whole promising fabric of international law. These are achievements due not to political genius but to political madness. Democracies are not always or even usually wise, but even a democracy, which had only the elements of political education, could hardly have proved so defiant, for there is an instinct in a democrat that makes him feel his responsibilities as a citizen of the world. Here once more is written large the tragedy of Germany's lack of political training.

If Germany has as yet done little to educate herself in politics she has unconsciously done much to educate and mature British imperialism. The democracies of Greater Britain were in danger of concentrating their thought on purely local issues, of being content to enjoy a smug prosperity, and of leaving the mother land to solve alone the problems