

THE WORLD PROBLEM

accumulating tools and toilers and tactics for hellish slaughter and destruction. New historians read and re-wrote old history in the modern spirit. The universities were put into the traces of the militarists: the universities controlled the whole school system and influenced the press. The Church, fed by the state, espoused the philosophy of the state and the preachers were gagged against the light of modern knowledge—though theoretical professors were free. The *dichter*, i.e., all writers of imagination, have been for forty years discredited, unread. And yet they live, the heart of a true Germany, now submerged.

The result is that the people as a whole have come under the culture of the god of self, the Fatherland and the Kaiser.

There has flowed from the press a stream of popular books, elaborating this philosophy in the frankest manner, reflecting accurately the evolving plans of German militarists to meet France, Russia, Britain, America, in detail and to place *Deutschland ueber Alles*. The old slogan has changed, or rather enlarged its meaning to, "Germany must rule over all nations." Of these books General Bernhardt's "The Next War," etc., seems to be typical. If read by an ordinary outsider before the war, the whole thing would sound like a satire—an unbelievable joke—splendidly developed in classic style, philosophic and religious, culminating in impossible devilishness. But in the light of events, as they are translated and circulated to-day, these books depict the actual plans of a nation, now in process of execution, to overwhelm, by a ruthless extension of the politics of Prussia and mad Hohenzollerism, one by one the great nations and then to be the world-ruler.