

nation, was at stake. The military caste, the Junkerism, the bureaucracy, had been threatened by the great increase in Socialism. True, the Socialists could only speak through their representatives in the Reichstag, and under the peculiar form of German government it mattered not at all what they said in the Reichstag. Germany has the forms of a parliamentary chamber, but this chamber has none of the powers of a real parliament. It is absolutely subject to the throne and to the Bundesrat, and is nothing except a safety valve through which the dissatisfactions of the people might be harmlessly blown off. The brilliance of Bismarck's ability was in no way more clearly manifested than in his giving much of the appearance with none of the substance of popular representation.

Powerless as the Reichstag was, it was none the less very disconcerting to the Junker rulers to see the seething Socialism which was becoming so prevalent throughout the country, and they realised that however impotent this Socialism might be under existing forms of government, any further great extension of it might easily make it so powerful that it would overthrow the regulations which made it impotent, and with them bring the Junkers crashing down. The burdens of militarism were becoming almost too