

## GERMANY CAME AS A NATION AMONG EQUALS

Ready to Take Every Advantage of Differences Between Allied Statesmen.

### FIRST STEP TOWARD PRE-WAR CONDITIONS

Spa Conference Will Take Place in History With Aix-La-Chapelle Congress.

(By FRANK H. SIMONDS.)

The decision of the Allies to permit Germany to appear at Spa not as a prisoner at the bar, but as a nation among equals, due reservations being made for the fact that the business discussed placed her in the posture of a debtor among creditors, was logical and inevitable. To keep Germany in the position which her representatives occupied at Versailles was unthinkable. Then they were literally caged in a portion of the park and visitors came by hundreds on Sunday to peer across the barriers and see the German representatives for all the world like tame deer walking back and forth discussing what they were not permitted to discuss with their conquerors.

With the bitterness which the war had provoked, with the memory of German crimes still fresh, and the ruins of French towns destroyed in the final German retreat hardly cold, it was natural that in 1919 the Germans should have been treated rather as the Romans treated their captives than as European ambassadors have been accustomed to meet, even after a war which laid one nation low and gave to the conquerors something approaching absolute, if only momentary, power.

Yet the Germans were surprised by their reception. They came expecting to be allowed to visit Paris. Journalists in the party expressed to a friend of mine their surprise and disappointment at being denied the right to go to the theatres, the cafes, to enjoy Paris again as they had enjoyed it before the war. That isolation was necessary as a mere protection against the anger and resentment of the French people, an anger and resentment hardly to be criticized, they did not understand, for the Germans who came to Versailles were totally devoid of suspicion of the passion which German methods of making war had aroused all over the world and particularly in France and Belgium.

Such an attitude could hardly endure, however. A hundred years ago the conquerors of Napoleon only three years after Waterloo bade the French king attend the conference of Aix-la-Chapelle, held only a short distance from Spa, where the latest international gathering assembled. At that conference France was admitted not merely as an equal but invited to join that league of nations, the Holy Alliance, which was created nominally, at least, to fulfil exactly the mission prescribed for the later league which was called into existence at Paris, two years ago.

**New Situation Arises.**  
But with the admission of the Germans, even to the preliminary degree which Spa authorizes, a new European situation arises. The Germans came to a gathering of their conquerors to find the conquerors slightly divided as the victors in the Napoleonic struggle were divided at the Congress of Vienna. Great Britain, following the policy which Wellington and Castlereagh advocated at Vienna, would deal with Germany more lightly than would France. At Vienna, Prussia was the Power most eager to dismember France, today the positions of these nations have changed, but British policy remains the same.

France and Britain are divided, between moderation and harshness toward Germany, harshness which means compelling Germany to pay all or only a fraction of her indebtedness to those she has wronged. France and Britain are also at odds in the East, differ over the policy to be followed toward Russia. Italy is estranged from France because of French policy in the Adriatic and from Britain because of the British support of the Greeks. The two rivals of Italy in the east, Jugoslavia on the Adriatic and Greece in the Aegean are thus backed by Italy's recent allies to the natural indignation of the Italians.

In addition, the United States has already assumed the position which Britain presently came to adopt toward Continental questions a century ago. In a word, then, the Germans arrived at Spa to find the alliance which defeated them almost as completely shattered as was the Congress of Vienna at the moment when Napoleon landed from Elba. Then the reappearance of a common foe, the resurgence of a common peril served to restore the alliance, which Napoleon eliminated forever. Presumably the return of the Kaiser and the renaissance of old Junker purposes would reunite the present conquerors of Germany but even this is doubtful and there is small prospect that William will return.

Thus the chance which Talleyrand

seized at Vienna and was only prevented from turning to the profit of France by Napoleon's fatal venture lies before Germany, not perhaps at Spa, but in the international assemblies of the immediate future, of which there will be many. They will have full opportunity to endeavor to capitalize Anglo-French quarrels, Franco-Italian disputes, to deal with the various European nations severally instead of collectively as hitherto. Only a Talleyrand seems fortunately to be lacking to them.

Spa then is, in fact, the significant disclosure of a real change in Euro-

pean affairs. Germany is on her way back, she is taking her first step toward the position which from 1815 onward France first and then Germany occupied in Europe. She has lost much by the war in territory and in commercial prosperity, her fleets gone irrevocably and her colonies and Alsace-Lorraine likewise. Her losses to Poland, on the other hand, seem for less final and she has not yet been compelled to make any considerable payment against the indemnities demanded by the victors, indemnities which would, in reality, prevent her becoming a great military power in

the next thirty years. To wiggle out of all payments, at all events to escape from any but the most insignificant to keep open the prospect of regaining Danzig and Posen, to play the British and French against each other, to realize on Franco-Italian jealousies, to egg France on to action which Britain will oppose, to stretch out a hand toward Russia as an essential ally against Poland, against Western Europe, this will be German policy. In any event, Spa will prove a date in contemporary history, quite as important as that which saw the Congress of Aix-la-

Chapelle assemble almost a century ago.

### THE GREAT IMPERSONATION.

"The Great Impersonation" is perhaps the best novel that has yet come to us from the pen of Mr. E. Phillips Oppenheim. With praiseworthy genuineness Mr. Oppenheim has constructed a tale that is always interesting, full of unexpected turns and possessed of a denouement at the very end that carries with it, even to the most hurried reader a thrill and a surprise. The New York Herald.

**LOG SALE.**  
A public auction sale of no mark and mixed mark logs was held yesterday morning in the Board of Trade rooms in Prince William street, at which several thousand feet of unmerchantable logs were sold to various lumber firms. The spruce logs were sold to the Standard Douglas Lumber Company, Ltd., at an average of \$17 a thousand feet, while Murray & Gregory, Ltd., purchased the cedar at \$15 a thousand net scale; hemlock, at \$15, net scale, and spiked logs at \$12, net scale. F. L. Forts was the auctioneer.

**Skin Tortured Babies Sleep Mothers Rest After Cuticura**

THE GREAT IMPERSONATION. "The Great Impersonation" will be, and deserves to be, one of the best sellers of the year.—The Boston Post.



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