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"My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty."

## GERMANY HAS NOT PROGRESSED

Germany is a back-number politically, three centuries or more behind France and England in her development. She is consequently a misfit in twentieth century world society. We reached these conclusions as others have done, and at the same time observed some of the outstanding causes which brought about the retardation. We traced very broadly the steps by which a succession of forceful Prussian kings overcame local jealousies and built up a strong centralized state in Germany.

This was necessary work, this centralizing process, but it came too late. France and England had gone through a similar process in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and while Germany was laboriously trying to catch up, they were rapidly stepping forward into new stages in their development. They explored and exploited new continents and grew rich on the commerce; they built up great colonial empires; they applied steam-power to machinery thus increasing many times their productive power, and multiplying their population. England, especially, had grown great. She controlled a large portion of the earth, was mistress of the seas, and led all lands in riches and industry.

But this stage in political development brought into prominence a new class of citizens, the bourgeoisie, the commercial or middle class. They owed their prosperity very largely to the strong, stable government under which they lived. The state, by special legislation had fostered the commercial classes. They were in large part the product of political absolutism. It was not long, however, before they began to realize their importance and their power. If the country was rich and prosperous, they argued, it was they who made it so. They chafed under despotism and demanded a share in the government.

During the seventeenth century they united with the small land owners and crushed absolutism in England. A century and a half later the bourgeoisie in France in the violent outbreak of the French Revolution overthrew the very citadel of despotism, and Divine Right theory. Thus these states passed from one necessary stage in their development to another, from the rule of an absolute monarch to government by the ablest members of the state—the propertied classes.

But Germany, meanwhile was lagging far behind. The Thirty Years War, as we have seen, left her desolate. She had no internal trade, she did not share in the rich commerce of the new world. Her famous commercial towns declined. The consequence was she developed no strong, self-assertive middle class to stand as a bulwark against absolutism. The commercial class that has developed in recent years in Germany has rather joined forces with absolutism. The reason is clear. France and England were first welded into great national states and then took on commercial

## HEAVY WORK ON THE FIGHTING LINE



These powerful American artillermen, with huge crossbars, are working fast to get their heavy gun into position to hurl its shells at the retreating Hunns. It is a difficult job, for the earth is pitted with shell craters.

prosperity after absolutism had gone its work. In Germany the delayed political development made absolutism a real force during the period when German commerce was developing.

This striking difference in the history of German development and that of the more western states of Europe is of utmost importance in understanding present conditions in the Central Powers, and the conditions to be met in the world reorganization that is to follow the war. Germany has yet to pass through her French Revolution. She has not yet had a bourgeois government such as has existed in France, England and America for the past century or more. She is consequently without training for democracy that the other states have had. She may, at the conclusion of this war, set up a middle-class government, just as the more advanced states are ready to leave it for a fuller democracy of the workers of all classes, and thus be still one stage behind the procession, or it is barely possible that she will be able to skip one stage in her development and go over directly to a thoroughgoing democracy. This much is clear, that in dealing with Germany and the German people in the war and after it, we must bear in mind that they are one stage behind the rest of us in world progress. This will help us to make fairer and saner conclusions.

And now Japan has to blow up industrially. Strikes of the worst nature are on and the hand of the Mikado seems to have lost its sternness in rule. So, it would seem the world's pot of turmoil must boil until it boils itself out, and fatigued and worn out, the world will lay at the feet of a just and generous God, whose admonition has not been heeded.

A German going to the Salt Lake Internment camp, passed through La Grande and insisted that he had been a steady, faithful American citizen, located in the drug business in Alaska. The lads in Khaki who were his companions, and incidentally saw to it that he did not escape or do any damage, assured the German that he was going to a fine place where a German band played every evening; where the food was exquisite, and where the ladies attended and gave dances twice a week. Can you beat such wit as the American soldiering has?

Of all the years, let us unite in the hope that the sun may shine and give weather suitable for saving these crops that are now in the midst of harvest.

If you desire inspiration of the right kind, listen to a rehearsal of the Community Chorus. It is worth while any time.

**KEEPING YOUR PLEDGE.**  
 W. S. S.  
 Buy your stamps early. Those you purchase are evidence that you are keeping your pledge.  
 You also pledged yourself to economize during the war. The government is requesting that you do not buy articles not necessary for your health and efficiency. You will thereby release both labor and material for the manufacture of articles needed to support our brave boys "over there," who are just now so heroically driving the Hunns back. They make good their pledge. Are you keeping YOURS? Buy all you can afford.  
 F. L. MEYERS,  
 County Chairman.  
 8-19-18.

## FORUM

AS TO RUMORS AND CHARGES.

August 20.—Editor Observer: It is with great reluctance that I have at last decided to write to you about a certain phase of the all-embracing and all-pervading topic—our present world war. We have already had local illustrations of the mischief and injustice that may be done by the circulation of unfounded rumors and suspicions. Whoever has read the recent correspondence between Mr. Warburg and President Wilson is aware of the fact that no person of German birth or with a German name—however high his station or untarnished his name—is considered above suspicion and intended by at least some of his fellow citizens.

I understand that there are many persons who are under the impression that I am of German birth or descent. They must have jumped to this conclusion because of my name or because they know I can talk German. Even before the war I have got scores of people right on this point, but there seems to be scores of others who are still under this wrong impression.

For the benefit of those of the United States, and proud of the fact. I was born in Madison county, Illinois. My parents were Swiss but never met each other in Europe. They were married in the Madison county, Illinois, court house in 1857. On my mother's side the entire family, parents included, emigrated to the United States in the latter fifties and all but my mother crossed the plains on foot and in ox carts and helped to win the great west. Neither my parents nor grand parents ever saw Germany. They went through France from Switzerland on their way to the United States. They are all dead now and so are all my uncles and aunts. Each and every one of them is buried in American soil. Highland, Illinois, where I was born and raised, was settled almost exclusively by Swiss and Germans and one could not help learning their language. For at least two hundred years my ancestors have been natives of Switzerland. Every well-informed person knows that this is the little mountain republic in Central Europe that has been a stronghold of liberty and democracy for some six hundred years. They have had no autocrats, princes, or anything of that kind there for that length of time. Had adjoining countries followed the lead of the Swiss our present war would not have had to be fought now.

With an ancestry like that, and endowed with average intelligence, there is absolutely no danger that I will ever be on the side of autocracy against democracy. I am, have been and always will be with "my own United States." All my relatives of fighting age are either in our army or navy. My nephew, David Blumenfeld, was the leader of the first first bunch of recruits that passed through La Grande on their way to enlist. They were Eight boys that enlisted a week or two before war between the United States and Germany was declared. He is now a corporal in the regular army. Two other nephews are in France and one is in the navy.

Items like that are invariably overlooked, however, by your typical rumor monger and suspicion starter. It suits him better to "have his doubts about you," etc. He dearly loves to impute to others the low motives that

## MARCEL DELANEY

would guide him in the same circumstances. I wish to state for his benefit that my German-born wife's property in Germany is American property, and if confiscated by Germany, no less a person than Uncle Sam will see to it that after the war she is fully compensated for any loss she may have sustained. We have just lately been informed to that effect by the Department of State. This satisfies us and ought to satisfy all others, too.  
 J. H. BLUMENSTEIN.

## UNCLE SAM'S RAILROAD BOYS.

La Grande, Aug. 20.—Editor Observer: Do the folks at home realize what Uncle Sam's railroad boys are doing while our other soldiers are fighting in France?

Do they realize that they are doing work in record-breaking time, when they consider the security of men, and that they are backing Uncle Sam to the limit on all the Liberty Loans that have been floated?

Yet some people still say they are only "railroaders."

Yes, they are railroaders, but let them go down in the history of our country as some of the "true soldiers of our nation." The lumbermen have the badge of the L. L. L. Why not give the railroad boys a badge with something like U. S. A. R. R. on it? Meaning Uncle Sam's Army of Railroaders. It would not cost much and it would show that the public appreciated the work of the railroad men.

Let the badge not be given to a certain class, but to each and every man who is helping the President and his country in this time of strife. Yours truly,  
 OBSERVER READER AND A RAILROAD MAN.



Marcel Delaney, newly appointed ambassador from France to Japan.

**PREPARE FOR THE HOT WAVE**  
 The hot sun is doubly dangerous if there is a mass of undigested food in the stomach, causing distress and auto intoxication, causing congesting poisons throughout the system. Foley's Cathartic Tablets give prompt and sure relief. They act gently but do their work thoroughly. They cleanse the bowels, sweeten the stomach and benefit the liver. Recommended for indigestion, biliousness, bad breath, bloating, gas or constipation. Sold every where.

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## GO TO THE BEE, THOU SLUGGARD, CONSIDER HIS WAYS AND BE WISE.

The most important thing about a bee is not his stinger—but, that he is a "Saver," while the fact that he is also a stinger is the next most important thing about him, as you have probably had reasons to experience.

If you adopt his plan on saving, and make our bank your hive, you are less liable to "get stung" by some "get-rich-quick" scheme.

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## La Grande National Bank

LA GRANDE, OREGON

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