THE OREGON STATESMAN

all germany is going democratic

## the opposite direetion Germanyy is goin Not Demoeratic

It is reported by a correspondent of the New York Evening Po
Berlin that "the demand for demoeratic institutions and reforn in all ,
many, "
This is not at all surprising after the overdose of governmen
controt trom which the Ceran pepple have suffered, yet it is in
leresting to see hoiv far the reaction leresting to see how far the reaction has already gone:
"Everpbody is claiming the right of self-determination or co-
determination in something or other, till by now there is undoubtedily,
else."
To this nobody can object so long as Germany keeps clear
Bolshevism, and if demoeraey gets a good start it may prove a
antiseptic against Bolshevist infeetion.
There is more than a little likelihoo
this correspondent are symptoms of one of those ghereat ehanges i
the German eharacter whieh have had so momentous an effect upo Europe, and which are yet constantly being forgotten because Ger man history has been too little studied in foreign countries, the
tendency has been to set up a partly true and partly imaginary con tendeney has been to set up a partly true and partly imaginary con
cept of Germany and to cling to it long after it has ceased even re motely to represent the real Germany.
Freneh ignorance of the
disaster of France ine 1870. Tiil that revelation the French had elun to the coneeption of the German people which Mree de stacel had
made fashionable in Napoleon's day. Till she wrote "De L'Alle. magne" the French had been blankly ignorant of the other side o the Rhine, vaguely remembering that there had been a king a Berlin who wrote French verses and eultivated the aquaing ine travels in Germany, gave an aceount of the country which

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { enough at the time, but which was profoundly misleading. } \\
& \text { To her in preat part was du the coneeption, whieh ling } \\
& \text { till } 1870 \text {, of a peaeeful and idylie eation of idealistic thinkers, I }
\end{aligned}
$$ Imid the soporifie fuures of beer and tobaceo, content with plai

fiving and high tlinkking, and notable for good nature, simplicity fiving and high thinking, and notable for good nature, simplieity
and straightforward trathfulness. As compared with the Frenel she found the Germans laeking in taet and eiegance, but she praise
their freshness, naturalness, and individuality. Above all she a mired German idealismn with its insistenee upon the power of the
spirit to rise above the world of matter. In a word, stie standardize spirit to rise above the world of matter. In a word, shie standardize
he notion of Germany which prevailed in France and to some exten in other countries till Bismareck and Moltte reveeald a new Germany. Her mistake was natural enough, for she saw Germany in
depths of economice and political servitude, while the new spirit whie
vas to aceomplish the war of liberation was still contued was to aecomplish the war of liberation, was still confused and un
certain. Nor had she the sense of historical continuity renuired for interpreting Germany's, present by its past. The errors is obvions
now, but it is not sufficently realized that there is falling into a s similar theongh opposite error by taking for the re
Giermany the kaiser's Germany which flourished for by Germany the kaiser's Germany which flourished for but one get
eration before its overthrow.
 eipption of Germany to be stereoptyped in the same fashion. History
is a "movie" that never stops, and the developmets
 or the historical baekground neded for their comprehension.
The The poople of the United States have long been aequains Che Germans who represented Germany before Bismarek and Moltke with the immigrants of 1848 and their descendants; with the Gei
eral Sigels and those of the type of Care Sehurz.
Salem and Marion of that kind
Their sons fought and suffered and died in the great war
mitizens in world safe for for demoeracy. They are good and use There is a movement starting in Salem to have an eugenies e by a State-wide committee; which would be a good way matter handl Yair Board will give it every encouragement. But the good mothery
of Oregon are the of Oregon are the most competent to make it a suceess. "Better
Babies" is a nation-wide slopan and Oreathen Ba hies" is a antion-wide slogan, and Oregon should be in the rron
line. of eourse, wealereay have the best babies in the world-bu

we want to increase our lead. | Salem's Rotarians will |
| :---: |
| keep things moving. |
| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Salem } \\ \text { tember } \\ \text { stores will close } \\ \text { 1; Labor Day. }\end{array}$ | One thing certain, the home oit

the ultimate consumer ts safe from
the raids of Foderal officials look-
ing after large qua.titios of store
tood.

many ipeopie
what were fixed by the Whison
then, said
southern members of Cangress


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