

"He That Diggeth a Pit Shall Fall In It"

That he who diggeth a pit shall fall into it is true of nations as of individuals. Germany has fostered defeatist propaganda feverishly in neutral and Allied countries, and now the German papers themselves are so infected with it as to create a panic among the Pan-German jingoes. The color is bit, and these militarists are today loudly engaged in urging the people to beware of the dangers of defeatism, which, they allege, is rearing its head in the Fatherland. Here is the testimony of the fire-eating Pan-German, Count Ernst zu Reventlow, speaking in the Berlin Deutsche Tageszeitung, he confesses:

The beginning of the fifth year of

war is for the most part marked in the German press by reflections showing an attitude of deepest resignation and melancholy, and even of protest. The fearful defeatism, which in those days runs through German public life, has a perniciously limiting effect, and this more so because in those who are affected by it an underlying conviction may be perceived or even expressly stated. If we would, it is, after all, an easy thing to end the war. We need only join the Wilson-Grey League of Nations.

Another great Pan-German is worried. Prince Henry of Prussia—who has been engaged in the favorite Hohenzollern pursuit, that of watch-

ing others fight—in a recent speech is reported by the Hamburger Fremdenblatt as saying:

"It is inspiring to watch events at the front and see the strong man who knows what is at stake. The tide ebbs and flows. I have one anxiety. It lies in the homeland, and relates to the faint-hearted and defeatists. The German people, so great and so ready for sacrifice—was to him who dares poison its soul!"

The Prince went on to assure his hearers that there was no need for depression and that the apparent reverses on the western front were really "preludes to a German victory." This rouses the Socialist Munchner Post,

which remarks:

"It is scandalous to see a person like Prince Henry of Prussia giving the German people a picture of the situation which in no way corresponds to the realities.

"Germans will not let themselves be scolded like children. It is ridiculous to think that people are saying we shall support a fifth year of war like the four preceding ones. It would be doing a wrong to the German people. Personages like Prince Henry would do better not to speak about the sufferings and miseries of the war. We were told for a long time that America's entry into the war was mere bluff, and we see today that one part of the press and the greater part of the official speakers are continuing to deceive the German public. They would do better to say openly that Germany finds herself today in an extremely serious situation.

Another Socialist paper "wants to know." The Berlin Vorwarts has a neat but interrogative reply to Count zu Reventlow. It retorts:

"Count Reventlow says recognition in Germany of dangers threatening from the enemy is lacking to a degree which can only cause anxiety. That also is true. We often read now in reports from the west that our adversary is stronger in numbers than we. Who told us a year ago that France had been licked, white, that Italy was exhausted, that England was nearing the end, that our submarine war was a success? Who greeted America's entry into the war with 'relief'? Who told us this America would not be able to bring a man or a ship to Europe? Who, by dazzling promises, inoculated the nation with belief in boundless conquests?"

Poor Vorwarts is in a livery mood. It makes the astounding discovery that Germany today has no friends, and laments with a poignancy that is almost comic in its distress.

"Belgium is a little country which alone would have been powerless against Germany, but which has not agreed yet to conclude peace because in her need friends streamed to her side from all parts of the world. France was militarily inferior to us, but has stood against us for four years and has been able to protect her capital from hostile threats because she was supported by powerful allies. England is in herself a great power, but when danger threatened her she found support from the whole English world, and finally America sprang to her side.

"Why has Germany no such friends? The natural inclination to support the weak side, for she is the weaker side in this great war, has not made itself felt. Why?"

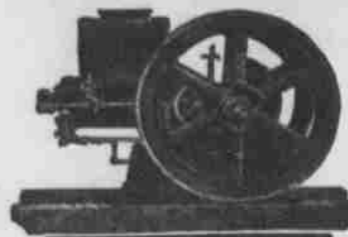
The Kolnische Zeitung admits that "defeatism is rearing its head in the Rhine cities" and urges a stiff upper

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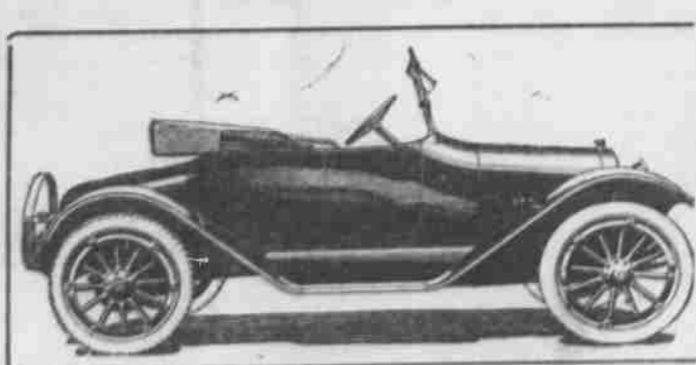
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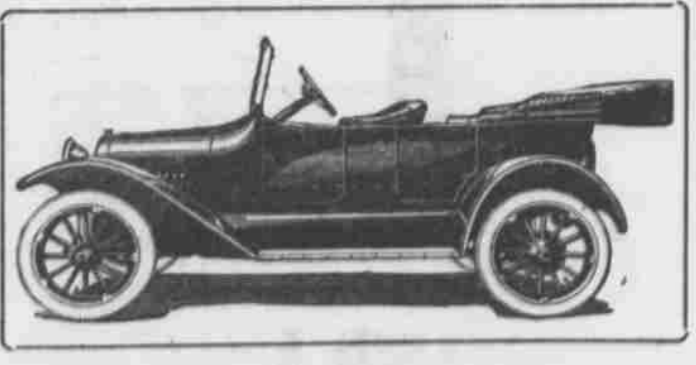
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