

# GERMANY HAD IT IN FOR US

## The Day the War in Europe Began She Was Planning to Start a War on this Hemisphere Over Monroe Doctrine.

A sensational rumor has reached one of the New York editors that Washington is in possession of the details of a German peace-proposal recently made to the Entente via Switzerland, says the Literary Digest. It is alleged that Germany offered the Allies peace upon their own terms and signified her willingness to evacuate Belgium, restore Alsace-Lorraine, join Polish Prussia to a new independent kingdom, pay an indemnity, and acquiesce in the partition of Austria-Hungary into separate states according to nationalities. In return for all these concessions in Europe, Germany, it is said, demanded only one thing—a free hand on the American continent.

This rumor appears to be inherently improbable on its face, but so far as the "free hand on the American continent" is concerned is clearly indicated by the following from the New York Herald:

The attempt by Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, German foreign secretary, to give the impression that the move to induce Mexico and Japan to make war upon the United States was undertaken only recently, and then simply as a matter of "self-defense," is not borne out by facts which the New York Herald claims long to have had in its possession and which now may be made public. Their publication also will throw a new light upon the much criticized prosecution of Venustiano Huerta by President Wilson, his efforts to depose the Mexican dictator, his anxiety to bring about the equalization of the Panama tolls, his interest in the purchase of the Danish West Indies, his activity in Haitian affairs, and his "watchful waiting" policy under strongest provocations from Mexico.

That Germany was plotting early in 1914, six months before the European war started, to bring on war between the United States and Mexico and make that war the beginning of a world conflict, is a statement coming from a war observer, an American, who is in a position to know much of what has been back of the diplomatic moves made in Washington during the last three years.

The New York Herald's informant makes this revelation now only because of the news of Germany's plot to induce Mexico and Japan to enter a war against the United States has removed whatever diplomatic reasons there were for secrecy.

**Panama Tolls Question.**  
This observer's information is that President Wilson knew as early as February 10, 1914, that Germany was meddling in Mexico and that he had this in mind when, in his address to congress on March 5, 1914, urging equal tolls for foreign and American ships using the Panama canal, he said:

"I ask this of you in support of the foreign policy of the administration. I shall not know how to deal with other matters of even greater delicacy and nearer consequence if you do not grant it to me in ungrudging measure."

"This was the beginning," says the Herald's informant, "of whisperings in Washington's official circles that Germany was trying to entangle the United States in war with Mexico. Before the president made this speech he and the members of the cabinet were about the only Americans who had the slightest knowledge of Germany's activities, and even they did not at that time realize their true significance."

"Later, as I will show further on, President Wilson was made fully cognizant of the extent of Germany's intrigues and knew that the German government had determined to seize the island of Haiti, to establish a naval base at Mole St. Nicholas, to begin war with the United States and destroy the Monroe Doctrine, so that South and Central America might be thrown open to German colonization. That was very clearly begun on the evening of July 28, 1914, and undoubtedly would have been started that night had not Austria declared war on Serbia on the same date, thus calling off Germany's activities from this side of the Atlantic for the time being. I shall speak of this a little later, but now will turn back to Mexico, and follow the sequence of events there."

**British Envoy's Trip.**  
Huerta had been the facto president of Mexico a little more than a year when on February 10, 1914, it was announced in Washington that Sir Lionel Carden, the retiring British minister to Mexico, was coming to Washington and that Sir Cecil Spring-

Rice, the British ambassador, had arranged for him to have a conference with President Wilson. This was significant because Mr. Wilson had at first objected to receiving Sir Lionel because of the latter's show of friendship for Huerta. President Wilson's feeling toward Sir Lionel had become such that Sir Edward Grey and the premier, Mr. Asquith, had tried to smooth out matters by making speeches to parliament in which the loyalty of Great Britain was pledged to the United States. They declared the British government had nothing but the most friendly feeling toward the United States and that every step was being taken morally to support the latter's handling of the Mexican problem.

"It was just a little more than a month later, April 10, that a United States paymaster and several marines who went ashore at Tampico were arrested by one of Huerta's generals. This incident caused Admiral Mayo's demand that Huerta's soldiers salute the United States flag and the rushing of the Atlantic fleet of 17 warships to Mexican waters. Think of it—17 warships to scare Huerta into saluting the United States! That was the reason given out. The real reason was that Huerta was just as much of an agent of Germany then as he was in June, 1915—after he had been deposed and had gone to Spain—when he returned to this country and went to Texas, where he was arrested and died a prisoner of the United States.

"The American ships had barely reached Tampico and Vera Cruz when the authorities in Washington learned that several German ships laden with arms and ammunition, 'bought' by Huerta, were on their way to Mexican ports. It was this news which caused President Wilson to order the seizure of Vera Cruz, which was effected April 21. The Ypiranga, the first of the German arms-laden ships to arrive in Mexican waters, turned back and put into a Cuban port until more than a month later, when she landed her cargo of 15,000,000 pounds of ammunition and 250 field guns at Puerto Mexico. Two other ships also landed munitions. But by this time affairs had so shaped themselves that the United States decided not to interfere with the landing of the munitions from Germany (more diplomatic reasons). Then the South American A B C powers began mediation, not on their initiative, but on the suggestion of diplomats of other powers. Britain was really the prime mover in this. So the A B C mediation prevented war when it seemed certain.

"Huerta quit Mexico shortly after this—without saluting the American flag—the American fleet gradually withdrew. The chance of the United States going to war with Mexico had passed. Germany's schemes had been balked, for the time being, at least.  
"Remember that the Austrian crown prince had not been assassinated in Serbia and Germany did not have that excuse for starting a world war, for which she had so long been preparing. Above all things she wanted to get a firm footing in the West Indies, in Central America and in South America, and she was willing and ready to fight the United States to achieve those purposes. Her schemes were perfected and it was decided to start the conflagration by seizing Haiti.  
A Hair Trigger Situation.  
"On July 28, 1914, several United States warships were at Port au Prince, Haiti, under command of Capt. John J. Knapp, who was on board the battleship Connecticut. The German cruisers Karlsruhe and Strassburg were also at Port au Prince. The German ships were there to enforce German claims against Haiti, and reports had spread that German seamen and marines were going to land and seize the customhouse. Captain Knapp had orders from Washington to oppose the seizure.  
"It was common talk in Port au Prince that President Oreste Zamor had been promised \$5,000,000 if he would break off negotiations with the American minister, Arthur Bailly-Blanchard, for a proposed new treaty with the United States, and he had done so.  
"When Sir Lionel saw President Wilson little was said about it, for diplomatic reasons. Exactly what he told the president is, of course, a secret, but that he did tell him of certain German activities in Mexico, is now generally known in official Washington.  
"Meantime, on Feb. 11, the first wireless telegraph system between Germany and the United States had been put in operation from Nansen, 25 miles northwest of Berlin, to Bayville,

L. I., the distance being 4,000 miles. This plant was owned by the Atlantic Communication company. Subsequent events are the best answer to the question whether this wireless was purely a commercial enterprise.  
"A few days later the United States sent several of the largest warships to Mexican waters to replace missing vessels, and a report came to Washington that the situation was growing worse in Mexico City and that the British warship off Vera Cruz had sent a detachment of marines with a quantity of arms and ammunition to the capital as part of the legation guard.

**Military Organization.**  
"It was about this time that Captain von Papez, military attaché of the German embassy in Washington, and of the German legation in Mexico as well, found it necessary to go to the latter capital for quite a long stay. Outside of diplomatic circles nothing was known of his coming or going, but every move he made was watched and known not only in Washington but in London. Captain von Papez remained in Mexico about three months, but it was not until his recall, more than a year later, at the request of the United States, and the publication of some of his papers, seized by the British authorities while he was on his way back to Germany, that the significance of his visit became generally known.

"Among the papers was a copy of a letter which the German naval commander in Mexican waters had written to the imperial chancellor in Berlin, giving high praise to Captain von Papez for the extraordinary service he had rendered to his country in forming the German 'residents of Mexico into a well-equipped and well-drilled army for defensive purposes.' So enthusiastic was the German naval commander over the achievements of Captain von Papez that he urged the imperial chancellor to bring them to the attention of the kaiser himself. Great indeed must have been the work of this military attaché that it was worthy of the notice of the kaiser. This was in the spring of 1914.  
"Now let's return to President Wilson's speech on March 5. Great Britain was the foreign country most interested in the Panama canal tolls and next to the United States the country most interested in Mexico. There has been no secret of Germany's efforts to get a footing in South America—ever since the affair of Agadir on the African coast she has had her eye on certain islands of South America.

**Eye to Monroe Doctrine.**  
"When President Wilson refused to recognize Huerta as president of Mexico, Germany saw what she thought was a chance to tear the Monroe doctrine to pieces. First she tried to pave the way through diplomacy in an effort to get Great Britain to agree to a hands-off policy should Germany acquire by purchase one of the Caribbean islands. Great Britain declined to enter into any such agreement—and then told United States something about Germany's aims that the United States had not suspected. So when the Panama tolls question came to the fore for settlement, President Wilson found it involved other matters of even greater delicacy and nearer consequence.  
"On the afternoon of July 28, while a Herald reporter was visiting Captain Knapp on board the Connecticut, boats were lowered from the Karlsruhe and Strassburg, machine guns were put in them and the boats pulled for the shore.  
"What are you going to do?" the reporter asked Captain Knapp.  
"Wait and you will see," said the captain.  
"He had hardly spoken before it was observed that the German warships were signaling to their boats. The seamen, who had just landed, hurriedly got into the boats again and were taken aboard. A few hours later the Karlsruhe and the Strassburg went out to sea at full speed. Their commanders had received word that the European war had begun, and hostilities with the United States were no longer desired.  
"Germany's far-reaching scheme to attain commercial supremacy in the Dutch and Danish West Indies, to acquire Haiti, to get a footing in Venezuela and Colombia and to establish bases along the coast of eastern Central and South America were ruined for the time being.  
Purchase of Islands.  
"Denmark, freed from the German menace, entered again into negotiations for the sale of her West Indian possessions to the United States, and President Wilson knowing so many things which the public at large did not know, eagerly advocated their purchase, having in mind their enormous strategical value when the European war should end and Germany again might renew her activities on this side of the ocean.  
"In November, 1914, Great Britain called on the United States to police the coasts of South America, because Colombia and Ecuador were possi-

ble the use of their harbors as German bases and wireless stations, and in December, 1914, Colombia forced Germany to close a wireless station at Cartagena.

"Before the war, Germany had built extensive port facilities at St. Thomas and had carried on a far-reaching propaganda all through the islands. She had powerful wireless stations in the Caribbean and along the South American coast. She had a supply station for German vessels in St. Ann's bay, on the south side of the Dutch island of Curacao, and the island of Little Curacao, six miles from Curacao, has even been the scene of German operations since the war."

**Look Out For The May Mummy.**  
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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Coos County, administratrix of the estate of E. D. Sperry, deceased, and all persons having claims against the said estate are required to present them, with the proper vouchers, to the undersigned at the law offices of J. J. Stanley in the city of Coquille, Coos County, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.  
Dated and first published this 23rd day of March, 1917.  
Helen Sperry,  
Administratrix of the Estate of E. D. Sperry, Deceased.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, by order of the County Court for Coos County, Oregon, have been duly appointed executor and executrix of the last will and testament and of the estate of Catherine Figg, deceased; and that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified that they are required to present the same, duly verified and with the proper vouchers therefor, to the undersigned at the office of A. J. Sherwood, in Coquille, Coos County, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.  
Dated this 19th day of March, 1917.  
Emily A. Hersey,  
Edward Johnson,  
Executrix and executor of the last will and testament and of the estate of Catherine Figg, deceased. 1015

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