

Where Germany Stands

GERMANY, according to a Hague dispatch, does not consider herself at war with America, because she has not received official information of any declaration of hostilities by America. This accords with previous dispatches discussed in these columns. The German Reichstag, nevertheless, discusses American participation in Armageddon. Dr. Johannes Kaempf, the chairman of that body, speaking of the entry of the United States into the war, said

a new and mighty opponent had joined the ranks of Germany's enemies. President Wilson in a message to Congress on April 2, he declared, said he was waging war against the Germans in the interests of mankind and on the ground of justice.

President Wilson, Dr. Kaempf continued, had lost his sight in making this assertion, since he had not stirred a finger to hinder England when England announced her war of starvation against Germany, a war in violation of all human and international rights; President Wilson had lost his sight when he rejected the German proposal to secure the lives of Americans on American vessels in certain routes, which carried no contraband, and by this rejection exposed his own compatriots to danger of death.

WILL BITE ON GRANITE

"President Wilson," said Dr. Kaempf, "represents the German people as without will of their own and as having been driven into the war by a group of ambitious people, but he tells nothing of the long years of encirclement and machinations against them; nothing of the enemies' recently strongly expressed will to destroy Germany."

"The German people rose August 4th, 1914, as one man and still fight to-day to defend their freedom, independence and life. President Wilson says he has no quarrel with the German people, for whom he entertains only sympathy and friendship.

"President Wilson desired by his message to sow discord in Germany. As president of the German Reichstag, which is elected on the freest franchise in the world, I declare that this effort will come to naught; that it will have no influence on the common sense of our people and that *President Wilson will bite granite.*"

This remark evoked thunderous applause.

HEART'S BLOOD FOR THE FATHERLAND

"With our truest heart's blood we established the German Kaiserdom, and with our truest heart's blood we shall fight for the Kaiser and the empire. What our forefathers fought for and longed for, what we have achieved on the battlefield, will not perish, even at President Wilson's word of command.

"We decline all interference by a foreign government in our internal affairs. If all signs are not misleading the decisive point of the world's war is approaching. We see our death-defying troops withstanding the enemy's assaults. Our U-boats will show England how Germans can avenge her nefarious starvation war. We proved recently our financial strength by a sixth war loan. We adhere to our firm belief in Germany's star and in a peace which will secure for all time the Fatherland's happy development."

For the above quotation we are indebted to the Associated Press. We cannot vouch for its accuracy nor for its completeness. The opinion of Dr. Kaempf is not shared by all, according to a special dispatch received by the *New York Times* from Amsterdam. Maximilian Harden, we are told, sets forth the "inestimable worth of freedom of speech in press and Parliament" in England, and even has a good word to say for the publication of the Dardanelles report; for "only by such light can a nation which governs itself live."

HARDEN INTERPRETS AMERICA

He proceeds to show how a little while ago the United States stood for peace and was a peace oasis in a world stiff with armor. "A professor, a Democrat, and a pacifist, was President. His first Secretary of State—Bryan—and his closest friend were pillars of peace. Nine-tenths of the States were against war. A long list of Democratic associations of all sorts and prominent men were for peace. When Roosevelt came forward as a war champion he suffered a severe defeat, rent his party, and involved Hughes in the same fate. Yet, despite all that, on the first day of the life of the new Congress Mr. Wilson announced his decision to throw the military and economic strength of the United States into the war against the German Empire."

"How was such a change possible?" Harden asks, and he supplies the answer by quoting in full Wilson's historic speech to emphasize the reply. He quotes from the declaration by great statesmen in Europe—Poincaré, Ribot, Deschanel, and

Lloyd George, referring to the latter as "a genial, ultra-strenuous man of action." Perhaps, says Harden, Wilson cannot reach to the heights of those four orators of the first rank, but nevertheless his speech will soon stand in the school-books with those of Demosthenes, Cicero, Pitt, Mirabeau, Robespierre, Bismarck, and Gambetta, and will outshine all previous and contemporary declarations, because it came from the lips of the head of a State who spoke as none had spoken before in the world's history; who was made bold by a creed of idealism which had not become flaccid, and who found courage for new things:

MR. WILSON'S PEACE OFFER

"On January 23rd the world heard Mr. Wilson's peace offer, and in it the first voice which indicated in clear, in profound, and considered words, not veiled with halting wishes, the way to lasting peace. On April 3rd we heard from the same mouth a declaration of war like none since the Crusades."

Harden proceeds to pour scorn on those of his countrymen who now have nothing but scorn for America, bitterly attacks the German policy, and argues at length that it was really her ideal of peace which drove America to act.

He then goes on to refer to the Entente reply to the January peace offer, saying:

"In this shrill and defiant answer I do not find a single trace of that derision and scorn so often attributed to it."

Then heavy blows are directed against Zimmermann and the offer to Mexico, and Harden goes on to say:

"Bismarck used to declare that the worst diplomatic error of his experience was that committed by the Duke of Grammont when he did not regard Leopold's renunciation of the Spanish throne as a French triumph and so avoid war and the downfall of the empire. This error of July, 1870, was exceeded by that of East Prussia in July, 1914, by the whole extent of the difference between that war, which at the end of eight weeks practically ended in victory, and that struggle which on the thousandth day is further from a military decision than it was on the thirtieth."

THE ZIMMERMANN BLUNDER

"If Carranza wished to conquer Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, he did not need the permission of Germany. He would first have had to deal with General Villa, who still holds the American-Mexican buffer territory—did Wilhelmstrasse know that?—and then throw himself into the adventure of a war against the earth's richest people—against 100,000,000 men in whose service are the best cannon, and the most modern technical science and industry, and who would rather bleed to death than allow the Mexicans to take the three States as booty."

Germany's policy toward Japan, too, is severely criticised. Harden points out how such muddling insulted America, especially as such "extraordinary tactics" were not condemned by the German people.

He goes on to ask why it is never emphasized that "America's purse has for years fed Belgium and given our own Red Cross nearly 100,000,000 marks."

We quote this extract, again without vouching for its authenticity. Harden represents a small but by no means negligible minority. He is temperamentally always "agin the Government." Harden is a prince of paradoxia, invariably taking the point of view of the opposition. He is both the master and the slave of words. The fact that he is permitted to write in such a vein in the midst of war, while Germany is surrounded by enemies, proves more than anything else the extraordinarily liberal policy of the German Government. Any man who would speak so boldly in any Allied country would find himself either in exile or in jail. Meanwhile the world looks forward with bated breath to Bethmann-Hollweg's forthcoming peace speech and to the constitutional reforms recommended by the Reichstag Committee.

THE LATEST SUBMARINE OUTRAGE

THE latest submarine joke comes from London. It was related to us by Mr. Aleister Crowley, the great Irish poet. "The Germans," said Mr. Crowley, blowing delicate gray rings from his favorite fifty-cent cigar, paid for, alas, by the editor of this publication, "have systemized their U-boat campaign so thoroughly that they know almost exactly the whereabouts of each merchantman belonging to the Allies. In longitude x, latitude x, a German submarine recently waited the arrival of the huge liner. . . . The ship finally hove in sight.

"Where have you been?" thundered the indignant Kapitänleutnant to the frightened commander of the Cunard vessel, "Don't you know that you are twenty minutes late?"