

fluence of both the Bolsheviki and the Allies by associating itself first with one of these parties and then with the other. I do not suppose there is a single German who doubts for a moment but that the best method his country possesses for realizing its designs upon Russia is through the control and supervision of emigration.

'Very well,' the reader will say. 'There is nothing surprising or novel in these German manœuvres. They harmonize perfectly with the famous plan that William II proclaimed on January 18, 1896, in his speech upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Empire: "Not to permit the nation to lose the loyalty and the economic support of those German emigrants which that country previously cast from it as a troublesome burden; to join to the patrimony of Germany every part of the globe, no matter how insignificant, where Ger-

man colonists have made their home." Frederick the Great said that the destiny of his people was not bounded by the horizon of the German Empire; that its history, its civilization, and its native worth assured it high influence in the world at large.'

My dear readers, the Scheidemanns and Noskes continue to follow the road to which Frederick the Great and his successors pointed. To-day, government officials and leaders of public opinion in Germany are exhorting their fellow citizens to follow the same proud road of destiny, to take up the same mission of universal domination that the Empire proposed to them before 1914.

Has not the German soul changed, then? Are we to believe that, crippled as it is with wounds, it still seeks to press forward, and will resume its march toward the Germanization of the world as soon as it recovers strength?

[*Hamburger Nachrichten* (Conservative Daily), December 24, 1919]

A GERMAN IN THE ARGENTINE

BY SENIOR LIEUTENANT BERG

BUENOS AIRES

NEITHER in Holland nor in Spain, so far as I saw the latter country during the brief stop of the *Frisia*, was I able to detect traces of that enmity to the Germans, of which I had been warned so impressively by our folks at home. This happy experience has been repeated in the Argentine. During the few weeks that I have been here, I have become acquainted with a number of the residents of the

Naturally during the war

the same division of sympathy existed here as in other neutral countries. Indeed, at one time the sentiment hostile to Germany almost forced the government to break off relations with us. That incident killed many an ancient friendship, brought discord into the bosom of families, and, as an Argentine friend recently said, left the country with no citizens of its own, but mere pro-Germans and pro-Allies. This controversy resulted in some peculiar situations. One of my Ger-

man friends is married to an Italian woman. His father-in-law comes from Piedmont and is, of course, a fanatical pro-German. His mother-in-law was born in Naples, and hates the Germans bitterly. Throughout the war these two have been unceasingly at swords' points with each other. The mother-in-law refused to enter the house of her German son-in-law and her pro-German daughter. However, the latter took that particular privation very philosophically.

But these passions are cooling off with a speed that is in proportion to their former intensity. The provisions of the treaty have shifted sentiment here as decidedly as in Holland. Everywhere I have been received with the utmost courtesy and kindness. The people are in every respect just as friendly and obliging as when I knew them before the war. This appears in private as well as official circles, from both of which I have received thoughtful attention and assistance. Some people have been so kind as to devote whole days to securing me an audience with men of high position and influence.

Of course the war sympathies of every man in public life are a matter of common knowledge. The governors of several of the principal provinces were consistently pro-German, and the press most widely read in these districts had the same sympathies. Since the provinces possess a high degree of autonomy under the constitution, elect their own legislators and governors, and are subject to the central government only in respect to a limited number of well-defined functions, the attitude of the provincial administrations was of decisive importance to German interests during the war. Some of the federal cabinet departments are also rated friendly to Germany. For instance, in one de-

partment nineteen out of twenty-five higher officials speak German, maintain direct relations with Germany, or are of German descent.

The black list created great hostility to the Allies. *Razón* recently published an article demanding a thorough investigation of the illegalities committed by the Entente representatives in its enforcement. That paper says: 'Certain consular and diplomatic agents of the Allies conducted themselves as if this were conquered territory, without any regard for the sovereign rights of our own government. They arbitrarily disposed at pleasure of the property and the good name of men who ventured to defy their anger or revenge. Not one of these consular representatives should be permitted to retain his post a moment, unless he can prove that his actions were not inspired by desire for personal profit or by bribery or malice, instead of by reasonable considerations for the interests of his government. Such an investigation will teach the foreign offices of the countries those people represented, how dishonorably the powers placed in their hands were exercised by officials as devoid of conscience as they were of true patriotism. To sum up the matter in a word, whether a name was entered or removed from the black list depended simply on the size of the bribe a man was willing to pay.' This is very outspoken language, and we watch to see whether the British Government, which the article exculpates from such actions, will undertake such an investigation. I doubt it.

A quite unanticipated phase of this subject was disclosed at the last general meeting of the Anglo-Argentine Tramways Company in London. The annual report showed a very large increase in operating charges without a corresponding increase in

This was explained by the fact that the Tramways bought their current from the German Electric Power Company, and that as a result of the black list the latter company had encountered unexampled difficulties in securing fuel, and ultimately had been obliged to burn wood, Indian corn, barley, and petroleum under its boilers. Consequently, the cost of current for the English company was correspondingly increased and a heavy deficit incurred. Dividends have stopped and the stockholders in London are cursing the black list.

A German visiting this country for the first time will be impressed by the fact that the Argentine people seldom have a regular profession or a settled career, such as we think necessary in our country. Rarely does a young man during his university course prepare to become a lawyer, physician, or engineer. The consequence is that the few who are really qualified to follow these professions stand in very high esteem. The title 'Doctor' is used here with extreme respect. People take up any vocation that offers without previous preparation, and are quite ready to shift to one that presents greater immediate advantages.

If I enter a business house to purchase some trifle, I must present myself to the salesman as ingratiatingly as if I were asking a great favor. The attitude of the latter is: 'It is not really my affair to interest myself in your trifling needs, but I'll take pity on you and as a mark of special consideration see that you obtain the toothbrush you want.'

But there is one business at which everybody is an expert, whether he does anything else or not. That is politics. You will find men who yesterday were running some small business, perhaps selling coal or oil or

wool, who have acquired a tremendous influence in public affairs. They can do more for you than a cabinet minister. It is by no means easy to get an audience with such a man. I did finally secure an interview with the most powerful of these political bosses, but I had to use three intermediaries, each a more important man than his predecessor, and to devote a large amount of time to the matter. Finally, after waiting in his ante-room for three hours one evening, I had the privilege of speaking to him face to face. Although a young man, only thirty-three years old, he was already in Congress and was mentioned as a future president of the republic. He actually is a recognized power in the state at the present time.

Complaints that I have heard made against our German bureaucracy might be repeated of the Argentine. I have spent untold hours sitting in the easy chairs of ante-chambers, until I felt more familiar with them than with my own home, and I have learned what patience is. On only one occasion did I get an immediate interview with a cabinet officer. I was then presented by a member of the German Embassy, and my object was to secure official assistance for my mission. During the course of the interview the minister personally handed me a document I desired, with a few pleasant remarks. He added the wish that my reports might prevent Germans blindly emigrating to Argentina *en masse*, but that only those suitable for the country might come. Argentina could accommodate only people of special qualifications, who were industrious and thrifty and had some money, and who were inspired above all with love for law and order and a civic conscience.

In transmitting this message of the Argentine Minister of Public Works, I

might add that anarchists, Spartacans, and their like will find most unfavorable soil for their agitation here. The Argentine Government handles such gentlemen without gloves, and as soon as it discovers that an immigrant is an agitator and a revolutionist, it promptly sends him back to his native country. If the man has become a citizen, he is promptly in-

carcerated, and care is taken to keep him under confinement indefinitely. The other South American governments are equally alert. At the time I write this, a conference of representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Chile, is being held at Montevideo to devise a common programme for preventing the immigration of Bolsheviki.

[*The Anglo-French Review*]

FRENCH PEASANT AND FOREIGN SOLDIER

BY PERCY ALLEN

NOT many months ago, being on temporary duty with the Third Australian Division, then quartered between the valleys of the Bresle and the Somme, in Picardy, I had opportunities, in the officers' mess, during walks with the padres, and in conversation with the men, to obtain a summary of Colonial opinion concerning the community among whom they were spending their last weeks in France. I was thus enabled also to compare the spirit of the stranger bound for home with that of the permanent inhabitants left behind.

The contrast was very striking, and not, on the whole, favorable to the French peasant. At the officers' mess, and among the Australian privates, I found myself the guest of a young nation, cheery, enthusiastic, eager, full of hope for the future both of themselves and of the great island home of which they were so proud, and to which they were longing to return.

Looking about me for some reflection, in the faces of the *indigènes*,

of that heartening and beautiful optimism, I could detect little of it. I saw, rather, despondency, or, at best, a patient resignation. Only at intervals—and more often in the women, I thought, than in the men—did a sunny smile or a merry laugh reveal the bright, sane joy in life, that has been, and still is, the birthright of the Gaul.

This temporary depression may, of course, easily be accounted for: it is, indeed, natural. Though the dwellers in this valley of the Bresle, and the fair uplands to the east of it, have never suffered invasion, they have lived long within sound of the guns, and little more than a year ago had heard the tide of battle rolling up to their very gates. Only some thirty miles away, to the eastward, as the crow flies, begins the desolate region, more lonely than ruin, that 'devastated area' wherein you may travel, as I have traveled, for mile after mile, and see no living thing.

Such a fate having been so nearly