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GERMAN STUDENTS AND ANTI-SEMITISM

EVER since the Revolution, German student societies have been involved in internal controversies over broad political policies, and incidentally the Jew question. Altogether, six general congresses have been held, to say nothing of several dissenter meetings, at which student societies from all universities where the German language is used, whether in Austria or Germany, are entitled to representation.

When the members first assembled after the war, to take stock of student interests in the German-speaking countries, they were faced by alarming reports that Eastern Jews were likely to flood the institutions of higher education in Germany. In 1920, at the Göttingen Congress, the societies voted in favor of the so-called 'Aryan principle' for Austria and the 'citizen principle' for the German Republic. This compromise by no means settled the question, which led to an outright split in which liberal students broke off from the more conservative *Hochschulring*. However, an overwhelming majority joined this more conservative — and in many respects reactionary — association. How far it represents the sentiment of the average student is

doubtful. According to a recent article in the *Kölnische Zeitung*: —

A majority of our German students are not infected with exaggerated nationalism, as preached by the extreme wing of the *Hochschulring*. Most of our students are finding it most difficult to get an education during the present distressful times. They have no leisure to busy themselves with university politics. Their chief desire is to complete their courses as soon as possible, and to devote themselves thereafter in peace and tranquillity to such service to their country as they can render.

This opinion seems to be confirmed by the results of the recent Würzburg Congress, held since the article quoted was written. At this meeting sixty of the seventy-two student organizations were represented, so it may fairly be assumed to speak for German students as a body. Its sessions resulted in a complete victory for the moderates over the reactionaries. The former advocate limiting university membership in the German Republic to students who are taking full courses, who are citizens of the country, and who are of German descent and speech. In the universities outside of the Republic, however, the student societies have already divided themselves into two groups, a 'German Aryan,' and a

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'National Liberal,' Union. These will be permitted to retain their autonomy and their peculiar constitution, and at the same time to send representatives to the general congress.

The Hochschulring is using in its campaign for membership a reprint of an article that appeared last spring in the *Deutsche Akademische Rundschau*. In this article the first object of the society is defined as *Volksbürgerliche Erziehung*. This apparently is understood to mean a revival and strengthening of German race-consciousness, somewhat parallel to the cultivation of class-consciousness advocated by the working people. In a paragraph upon the Jews, the author says:—

This ideal discloses to us, as something justified by imperative social laws revealed in recent events, the exclusion from our social community of all alien elements, including the Jews, even though such a policy may seem to many unwise and inhumane. The efforts of the Hochschulring in this direction, however, are by no means expressed in a purely negative attitude toward the Jews. Our society has no sympathy with rowdy anti-Semitism, but it does seek to cultivate a positive racial consciousness, with the sentiment of duty toward one's own race that is associated with it.

Our readers will recall a reference to this organization in an article entitled 'The Young Men of Germany,' published in the *Living Age* of April 29. We should not forget, however, that there is also a Republican students' association, which recently held a congress at Jena. This association condemns the reactionary spirit prevailing in the universities, and demands that these institutions be 'animated with the new spirit and the new life of Republican Germany.' The presiding officer at Jena was a certain Freiherr von Brandenstein. In the old days a strict line was drawn between 'Incorporated'

and 'Unincorporated' students, that is, students who were and who were not members of the various corps. This distinction was broader than that between 'Greeks' and 'Barbs' in American Universities. But it is now disappearing, and is being replaced by a more definitely political division.

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BRITISH POLITICAL WEATHER SIGNS

SHOULD a general election occur in Great Britain in the immediate future and the Labor Party come into power, a startling change of attitude on the part of the Government toward post-war problems is predicted. The Chairman of the Labor Party, F. W. Jowett, was most explicit upon this point in his address before the recent Edinburgh Congress of that organization. Speaking of the Treaty of Versailles, he said

It is founded on a lie, — the most deadly destructive lie in the history of the world, — the lie that Germany alone was responsible for the war. The whole policy of punishment embodied and elaborated in the Versailles Treaty — a policy which has compelled millions of workers to toil like slaves for a beggar's supply of food and clothing and shelter, and reduced millions of others to unemployment and poverty — is the spawn of that lie. There is no excuse now for denying that falsehood.

He drew a scathing parallel between two statements by Lloyd George: the first issued in 1917, when he called upon Englishmen to abandon their homes and give their lives 'to defeat the most dangerous conspiracy ever plotted against the liberty of nations — carefully, skillfully, insidiously, clandestinely planned in every detail with ruthless, cynical determination,' and the second his speech on December 23, 1920, when he acknowledged that 'the more one reads of the memoirs and books written in the various countries of what happened before August 11

1914, the more one realizes that no one at the head of affairs had quite meant war at that stage. It was something into which they glided, or rather staggered and stumbled, perhaps through folly; and a discussion, I have no doubt, would have averted it.'

Meanwhile Conservative England is crowing over a rather notable triumph in the way of raising campaign funds. As most of our readers know, the war chests of the party in power are usually replenished — munificently replenished — by happy recipients of titles. The Labor Party has had to depend upon funds raised through trade-unions and, as mentioned in a recent issue of the *Living Age*, the anti-Labor parties are trying to enact a new law to cut off these sinews of war by prohibiting the use of money subscribed by trade-unions for campaign purposes.

Not long ago the *Tory Morning Post*, a journal that does not enjoy exceptionally plutocratic connections, started to raise a fund for the ultra-Conservatives, or 'Die Hard' Party. This project was mildly ridiculed by most people. Pessimists predicted a total failure. Optimists fancied that five thousand pounds or thereabouts might result from these efforts. Quite unexpectedly contributions have poured in until at late reports they already amounted to well over twenty thousand pounds. This is not a large sum, compared with what we sometimes raise in this country, but is a rather imposing figure for Great Britain. The significance of the incident, however, is the apparent readiness of Conservative Englishmen to back up the Tory programme with their purses.

Among the domestic problems that are occupying the minds of legislators and party men, unemployment and emigration hold a prominent place. The unemployment dole has been sadly abused, if we are to believe an article

in the *New Statesmen*. In a single Scotch parish — and that not a large one — sixty-three recipients of this bounty were illegally enrolled. In one extreme case a man actually petitioned his employer to dismiss him in order that he might qualify for a government allowance of a pound a week.

While unemployment benefits and public charity do their part to cut down production in Great Britain, the country is preparing to spend large sums to relieve itself of excess population. Under a bill which has just become a law, the Government proposes to spend a million and a half pounds sterling during the current year, and three million pounds annually for each of fourteen subsequent years, to pay half the cost of emigration of British subjects to the Dominions. This proposed migration is dubbed 'The Great Trek.' Australia has already arranged to coöperate in this movement, and negotiations with Canada and New Zealand are under way.

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RUSSIAN CONCESSIONS

A PRELIMINARY list of the concessions that Soviet Russia is prepared to grant foreign capitalists was submitted by Litvinoff, the Bolshevik delegate to the Hague Conference, on the seventh of July. The schedule, which is drafted in great detail, provides for fifteen definite petroleum-concessions in active fields, two in surveyed but not yet exploited fields, and ten in regions where there are petroleum prospects but where no systematic survey has been made. The mineral concessions include ten iron mines and iron works, eleven copper mines, three lead and zinc mines, extensive gold and platinum workings, and three coal areas covering approximately a thousand miles of partially developed territory.

The timber concessions include

thirty-three tracts of forest, many of them of vast extent, in European Russia, five in Siberia, and one in the Caucasus. Four groups of paper and pulp mills are specified, together with their timber licenses. In addition, five undeveloped sites for paper and pulp manufacture are tendered. The sugar concessions include forty-four factories with an aggregate appraised valuation of over 24 million dollars and an output before the war of something like 300 thousand metric tons per year.

Four additional sugar centrals are also projected. A great number of miscellaneous enterprises are likewise tendered to foreigners with capital. These include cement works, fertilizer works, chemical works, lighting plants, and seven large hydroelectric projects. Last of all, several extensive agricultural grants are mentioned, but they are not described with the same detail as the mineral and manufacturing concessions.

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BUSINESS CONDITIONS IN GERMANY

PROFESSOR SAROLEA, head of the department of French language and literature in the University of Edinburgh, relates in the *Scotsman* his observations during his twentieth visit to Berlin. This occurred the present summer, and he seems to have interested himself particularly in the industrial ferment that everywhere thrust itself on his attention.

There is a French proverb telling us that when the building trade is prosperous everything is prosperous. *Quand le bâtiment va, tout va!* If that proverb be true, then Berlin is indeed prosperous. Everywhere huge buildings are being erected. Berlin resembles a city which is being rebuilt after an earthquake or a devastating war. But the comparison is misleading. For the reconstruction which is going on in Berlin is not such a reconstruction as is going on in

the ravaged provinces of Northern France; it is the reconstruction attending a phenomenal expansion.

He contrasts Paris and Berlin, perhaps not without 'parti pris,' the former as a city of 'soul and personality,' the latter as 'a gigantic machine.' Like many other observers, he notices that every German is working at high pressure, and that production and exports are increasing. However, whatever profits are being made from this excessive activity are slipping out of the country.

We are witnessing in Germany, on a larger scale, a disconcerting paradox that may also be seen in other countries. We may observe the contrast between a people that is becoming rich and a Government that is becoming increasingly poor.

Naturally, as has been reiterated until it has become a commonplace, this activity is stimulated by the depression of the mark. What the effect is upon the common people is illustrated by a table of average wages and prices compiled by Dr. Kuczynsky, one of the leading statisticians of Germany. According to this table, the relative purchasing power of one hour's wages in that country in 1912 and 1922 is respectively as follows: —

1912 — average wages per hour 60 pfennige, which would buy 12 eggs, or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sausage, or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of butter, or $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of bacon, or one litre of milk, or 20 lbs. of potatoes, or 6 lbs. of bread.

1922 — average wages per hour 29 marks, which will purchase, at current prices, 3 eggs, or $\frac{1}{5}$ lb. of sausage, or $\frac{1}{5}$ lb. of butter, of $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of bacon, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ litres of milk, or 4 lbs. of potatoes, or $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of bread on a bread card, or $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of bread in the open market.

In other words, according to this computation, wages measured by purchasing power are now only one third or one fourth what they were ten years ago.

SOUTH AFRICAN ITEMS

NEGOTIATIONS for the entrance of Southern Rhodesia into the South African Union have been practically concluded. The new district will be the fifth member of the Federation. English and Dutch will enjoy equal rights as official languages. The province will have the usual delegation in the Federal Parliament and will be governed by a local legislature similar to that of its neighbors. Provision is made for temporarily exempting its residents from the Union income-tax, and for a special Federal subsidy for development.

A financial controversy has arisen in the Union over the resumption of specie payments, which would normally occur June 30, 1923, under the act establishing the South African Reserve Bank now in operation. Already the embargo on the export of gold coin and bullion has been removed, and the delicate operation of transferring the existing note-issue to the Reserve Bank is proceeding smoothly. Gold producers want the gold standard restored as soon as possible throughout the world and gold used to the maximum extent in currency, reserves, and actual circulation.

South African mining interests — both owners and workers — are naturally interested in any measure that will bring the value of gold back to the old level. On the other hand, a group of South African bankers is decidedly opposed to the movement in this direction. They argue that it is not practicable to fix a definite time-limit for the resumption of specie payments, which were suspended two years ago when the outside drain upon South African gold reserves became insupportable. At last reports, the Currency Conference, appointed by the Government to consider the problem, has

recommended suspending the inconvertibility — that is, the resumption of specie payments — until June 1925.

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IMPERIAL RACE EQUALITY

Young India, Mr. Gandhi's organ, reports that much dissatisfaction has been caused in his country by the speeches of a Mr. Sastri who has been presenting the case of India to Australian audiences. In these addresses this gentleman has admitted the correctness of Australia's policy of excluding future Indian immigration. In this connection the journal says: —

When the time comes for India to choose, she will certainly choose to remain in the Empire. But three conditions are essential: full freedom of action in internal affairs, such as the White dominions enjoy; security against enforced participation in aggressive action against those foreign nations with whom important communities in India have deep and abiding sympathy and religious ties (for example, Turkey — Editor); equal rights and status, in substance as in form, with the other dominions of the Empire.

In settling the South African controversy just before the war, Mr. Gandhi accepted, as a settled policy, the Immigrants Regulation Act, which practically stopped further Indian immigration to the South African Union. However, such temporary concessions do not commit the leaders of the Indian race to permanent acquiescence in such a policy. The Gandhists seek a solution not in legislation but in a state of mind that acknowledges the brotherhood of all peoples of the Empire. 'Formulae can be found to cover both equality and domination, but truth and not words are the bread of nations.' But native leaders of the conventional nationalist type, and coolies seeking better wages abroad, want more immediate results.

A 'DEATH EXPOSITION'

ACCORDING to the *Nakanune*, an 'Exposition of the Russian Famine' recently took place on the Unter den Linden in Berlin. There was a black flag over the entrance, and the exposition itself consisted mainly of tables and diagrams, most of which unfortunately were in the Russian language, which prevented the German public from understanding their meaning. However, some of the exhibits spoke clearly to everyone: a stand with samples of the substitutes which were eagerly devoured by famished people — straw, clay, acorns, everything imaginable, but not a single grain of corn; a photograph of two children-cannibals, one of them insane, the other with a fine, intelligent face.

Other photographs bore equally harrowing explanatory inscriptions. These included pictures of groups of children, dozens of them, with swollen abdomens and crooked, twisted limbs; and dead children, tiny ones and older ones, lying unburied. There was a picture of the soil that caused the disaster — a soil that looks like barren rock, hot and dry. A folk poem, born of the great misery, reads: —

Mother earth! Thou devourest
Our own flesh and blood,
And thou hast not pity enough
To grant us a dry crust of bread. . . .

The only consoling feature of this exposition was the map of Russia showing the distributing agencies of the various relief organizations. The American Relief Administration leads them all in the number of distributing points, but the American ration is less than half the normal ration; and it becomes apparent from the diagrams that a perplexing alternative presents itself to those who are at the head of this work: whether to save as many as possible from death by starvation, or to

feed a smaller number of people enough to preserve their working capacity and not their lives only?

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NEWLY DISCOVERED MIGRANTS
OF THE SEAS

UNTIL a quarter of a century ago, the early life of European and American eels was a mystery. They appeared, fully matured if not fully grown, upon their respective coasts, coming from the unknown reaches of the sea. For twenty years or more, however, it has been known that eels pass the earlier stages of life in the depths of tropical waters, in the form of minute larvæ shaped like a willow leaf and transparent as glass. Recently the long and patient investigations of a Danish scientist, Dr. Joseph Schmidt, have disclosed their breeding-place in the neighborhood of Bermuda and the West Indian Islands. The breeding-grounds of the American and the European eels, which are two distinct species, are contiguous, and indeed overlap, though the American eel ranges somewhat farther north in its deep-sea home than its European cousin.

The American eel completes the larval stage in about one year, when it must migrate to fresh water. The European eel requires three full years to finish its larval development, and during this period makes its way slowly across the whole breadth of the Atlantic to the coastal waters of the farther continent. No other fish or animal in the larval stage makes such an enormous journey. Like the salmon, the eel passes successive stages of its life in salt and fresh water, spending its maturity in lakes and rivers accessible from the sea or in brackish water along the shore. This sojourn ranges from five to twenty years, after which the eel returns to the deep-sea regions of its birth to produce its young.

VISCOUNT NORTHCLIFFE

BY E. T. RAYMOND

From the *Outlook*, August 5
(LONDON CONSERVATIVE LITERARY WEEKLY)

THE death of Lord Northcliffe naturally invites that quiet appraisement of his career which was wanting while his amazing energy continued to direct the great machine which owed its being to his genius.

Curiously enough, the first result of thinking in the past tense of this most remarkable man is that he abruptly shoots up whole cubits in stature. That is, of course, no uncommon effect of the passage from making to being history. Probably few of us who grew up under Queen Victoria thought of her as more than the great and good Queen of the Little Arthur convention. We saw her in the flat — and, to tell the truth, it was very flat. It is only after Mr. Lytton Strachey has shown both queen and woman in their three dimensions that we realize that, despite her middle-class foibles, she was a very remarkable and a wholly regal figure.

It is the same with Lord Northcliffe. Some time will still have to pass before people shake off an overpowering impression of those little oddities and inconsistencies by which he was known to those who knew nothing else about him. Such oddities are seldom seriously indicative of character, and insistence on them and them alone produces sheer illusion — which accounts for the fact that, while every paper reeks with gossip about public characters, and twenty volumes of tittle-tattle appear annually, the average view of a particular statesman is either utterly vague or nearly all wrong. Lord Northcliffe's papers have made their full contribu-

tion to such confusion, but Lord Northcliffe himself was in no small degree a victim of newspaper Boswellism. There has been so much talk about his temporary fancies and enthusiasms that people have begun to forget the very great permanent mark he has left on the history of his time. So much attention has been paid to his little ways, that the public realizes, with something of a shock, that it had almost overlooked the fact that he was, after all, a very big man.

Journalistically, of course, he was much more than big. He can only be called great and very great. One need not be a mere success-worshiper to say that. Personally I am not greatly concerned whether Lord Northcliffe was the richest newspaper proprietor on earth, or the largest, or the most successful, or the most advanced technically. It is enough that he made much more money than he knew what to do with, and that he owned or controlled many more papers than he could possibly attend to all the time.

It is enough that in not much more than a quarter of a century he built up out of nothing but his own brains a gigantic organization which stretches to every corner of the globe; which is served by all kinds of men, from the daintiest of mincing 'society editors' in London to the roughest working-hand in Canada; which provides reading-matter for every class from the mill girl to the millionaire connoisseur, and for every age from the baby to the old-age pensioner; and which draws tribute in-