

THE KU KLUX KLAN IN GERMANY

GERMAN and Austrian papers made a three days' sensation of the discovery of a budding Ku Klux Klan organization in Berlin. The promoters, as already reported in our daily press, were three 'Americans,' of whom two, a father and son by the name of Strohschein, were evidently of German birth or extraction, and bore the title of Reverend. The third had the one-hundred-percent American name of Gray. The Berlin lodge of the order was said to have between three hundred and fifty and four hundred members, mostly merchants, mechanics, clerks, and laborers. They wore the typical Klan costume at their ceremonials and were presumably organized along the lines of the American body. Naturally the names of the various degrees or classes of the order and of its officials were German, and when discovered control was in the hands of a German Fascist *Wotan*. Since its organization last January the three Americans had been ejected — or at least had lost their authority in the German body — on account of their efforts to make it part of the American society; but it was financed, at least originally, with American money. Apparently the promoters used Henry Ford's name, presumably thinking that the prospect of being associated with a wealthy patron would lure many into the organization. Most German papers ridiculed the enterprise as silly rather than dangerous; and it was illegal under the law prohibiting secret political societies. *Vienna Neue Freie Presse* said: 'Germany is full of such groups of ill-balanced and romantic youths. All these "werewolf" and other unions, with their nocturnal drills, their little secret hoards of arms, their aping of military methods, inevitably exhibit phases of more or less criminal folly

from time to time. The "German Order of the Fiery Cross" is the most recent symptom of this disease. But Germany's convalescence has proceeded too far. This reactionary Ku Klux Klan came three years too late.'

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THE BRITISH COAL COMMISSION

THE British Government has at length appointed the Royal Commission to investigate the coal industry provided for in the last agreement between the Cabinet and the miners. Its chairman is Sir Herbert Samuel, recently High Commissioner for Palestine. The other members are Mr. Kenneth Lee, a large textile-manufacturer with some experience on government trade-bodies; Sir Herbert Alexander Lawrence, a banker; and Sir William Beveridge, a well-known economist who has been Director of the London School of Economics for several years. Among the technical advisers are several geologists and scientific men and a former president of the South Wales Miners Federation. Radicals have found some fault with the personnel of the Commission on the ground that it is composed entirely of men of capitalist affiliations. But British capitalists hold strangely heterodox opinions nowadays. Lord Milner, a Nationalist, a strong Imperialist, and a staunch upholder of the old régime, has left among his papers the suggestion that the country might well experiment with the nationalization of coal-mining 'in a single coal-field, sufficiently large to give it a chance of success.' There is no predicting, therefore, what recommendations may come out of even a committee composed of bankers, manufacturers, and conservative economists. Surely this is a changing world — if not in complacent America, at least in care-ridden Transatlantica.

The proceedings of the British

Trade-Union Congress, to which we referred two weeks ago, have not been taken very tragically in Great Britain, despite the trend to the Left they manifested; indeed, they have been welcomed in some quarters as clearing the air to an appreciable extent. Nor have the Communists made headway in the political wing of the movement, as the recent action of the Labor Party shows. The London *Oullook*, which is far from Labor-Radical in its sympathies, observes: 'Open-air missionaries of the Independent-Labor Party are now frankly admitting that there is no fundamental difference between Socialism and Communism; the only distinction, they say, is a discrepancy in tactics. The Communist wants to use force immediately to abolish private property; while the Socialist defers the application of force until he fails to attain this object by argument. In fine, the Communist is a Socialist in a hurry; the Socialist is a Communist in a saunter.'

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PAX PAN-AMERICANA

SEÑOR MARIANO H. CORNEJO, Minister of Peru at Paris, has published an interesting article in *Revue de Paris* commending the influence of the Washington Government in preserving peace among its South American neighbors. He mentions several cases where that influence has prevented armed conflicts, as in 1910 between Peru and Ecuador. The result is that Latin America finds herself in a paradoxical situation. Civil wars are possible, as the revolution in Mexico and the recent disturbances in Brazil and Paraguay show, but international conflicts in the Western Hemisphere are apparently a thing of the past. Arbitration has been enforced, either on the independent initiative of the parties to the dispute or through Washington's

pressure, between Brazil and Argentina, between Colombia and Venezuela, and between Peru and Bolivia. The most aggravated of these war-threatening issues, the long-standing controversy between Peru and Chile over Tacna-Arica, is now in way of peaceful, if not perfectly amicable, settlement.

This peace era 'has not been brought about by the utopian ideology of humanitarian apostles, nor imposed by the physical force of the United States. Peace throughout the American Continent is entirely the result of the growth of a sentiment of international and moral solidarity fostered by Uncle Sam. Our American republics have gradually become accustomed to resort to conciliation and arbitration.' The author attributes no small part of this good work to the Pan-American congresses and to the labors of the Bureau of American Republics at Washington. But this progress toward international sanity means a larger promise of peace, which is not confined to the Western Hemisphere. 'The community of interest that exists among all the nations of the world makes it impossible for international peace to be limited to America alone. When the European war failed to cross the Atlantic it meant that eventually American peace would come to Europe.'

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MINOR NOTES

Frankfurter Zeitung recently published an interesting comparison of the dividend payments of 186 prominent German corporations, including banks, railways, mining, shipping, and insurance companies, public-utility corporations, and manufacturers of textiles, paper, motor-cars, leather, and other staple articles, before and since the war. The totals reveal the fact that the amount paid out in dividends in