

(March 29th.)

Germany and England.

BY PROFESSOR L. E. HORNING, M.A., PH.D.

ADDRESSING the Canadian Club on the subject, "Germany and England," Professor L. E. Horning said:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—Permit me to thank the Canadian Club for this opportunity to speak to them on this all-important subject. Up to a few years ago England was considered by all nations, and especially by the English themselves, as the undisputed mistress of the seas, the financial centre of the world—a "nation of shop-keepers," far in advance of other continental peoples in the development of the constitutional political rights of its citizens generally. A nation slow, dogged and determined in character, of a very practical common-sense turn of mind, disinclined to take up with new ideas, served in its world-wide Empire by a well-trained body of diplomats, second to none in the world—diplomats actuated by the highest ideals, and characterized by honest dealing and by devotion to England's cause.

And all these things we believe to be as true to-day as they have been in the past, with a service loyally rendered, from the King upon his throne to the humblest "Tommy" in the ranks. Every one of us, who knows English history, has full right to be proud of the Empire to which we belong, and to exult in the pride with which we salute our Union Jack.

But, gentlemen, while this is our rightful boast, it is also our bounden duty to open our eyes and to keep them "front." "Time moves on," and in its march men and things grow old, and what is good to-day may, and probably will, not suit to-morrow. Great movements and great epochs are succeeded by

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times of lassitude and quiet, in which we settle down to a daily round of unprogressive life.

In some matters England is far in advance, but in others—especially in matters educational—she has lagged most lamentably. The moss-grown and venerable Universities of Oxford and Cambridge have had a glorious past, but they have gradually been left far in the rear in many departments. Because of their unwillingness to adapt themselves to the needs and the development of the present, the merchants and mechanics of Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, London and Wales, not to mention other centres, have been forced to establish new schools and new colleges where the students may keep pace with world-development, and be trained to meet the citizens of other nations on an equal footing. Educationally England is still in the rear, although lately she has been making great strides towards a better state of affairs.

The "tight little island" has always stood more or less apart from the other European nations in her development, and not even her colonies have always shared in her plans, her ambitions, her ideals. To-day that is all changed, and who can say what the twentieth century has in store for us of British connection?

Much as many of us deplored the South African war from the standpoint of justice and square-dealing, it has brought about a new condition of affairs within our Empire, for, as Kipling says to the Colonials in "The Parting of the Columns:"

"But 'twasn't merely this an' that (which all the world may know),

'Twas how you talked an' looked at things which made us like you so,

All independent, queer and odd, but most amazin' new,
My word! You shook us up to rights. Good-bye, good luck to you."

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"We'll never read the papers now without inquiren' first
For word from all those friendly dorps where you was born
and nursed."

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"Good-bye, you bloomin' atlases! You've taught us something
new;
The world's no bigger than a krall. Good-bye, good luck to
you!"

or, as one of our own students very cleverly put it: "From now on and henceforth it is not John Bull, but John Bull & Sons, Unlimited, that face the world, of friends, and foes."

Across the north sea we see a sister nation who has, within a generation, come into her own. One thousand years ago the sandy plains of Brandenburg did not seem a probable nursery for future greatness, but little by little there grew up in and around that little district, a duchy whose throne, in 1415, was given to the Hohenzollerns. Small wonder that, after 500 years, the 20th in succession, Emperor William II, should frequently refer with a pardonable, if sometimes somewhat injudicious, pride, to "my Brandenburgers and their glorious deeds." Few reigning houses, if any, in Europe have such an honorable history behind them. And what fires these people have passed through in the refining process!

Backward and forward, over those plains, have surged the hostile armies of Europe, Slav and Teuton in the earlier centuries; Catholic and Protestant in the thirty years war; French and Austrian and Prussian in the eighteenth century, and French and Russian and German in the great Napoleonic struggles. These all brought death and destruction in their train as they thundered over the land. But the Brandenburgers and Prussians, prince and people, became inured to hardship, accustomed to frugality, resourceful and patient, until as a result of all that long training and of the great Franco-Prussian war, a new Empire, a mighty world-power suddenly deployed before Europe's astonished gaze. Naturally the politicians of other lands have continued to be disturbed, for these Germans are ready and equal to defending what they won, and fear has fallen upon many that they will want more. The German has every right to be proud of his history and his success, so long worked for and so creditably used when attained.

This is a very important point, and not to be lost sight of when considering the present situation. In spite of the fact that the German army is the best fighting machine in the world, there has been no war for forty years. As Dr. Holland Rose rightly says: "If Kaiser Wilhelm had always aimed at our destruction, why did he not seize the opportunity afforded by the early disasters of the Boer war?" England was then isolated; now it is Germany.

The army is an absolute necessity to Germany. She has no natural boundaries, as has England, which take the place of men. Russia on the east, and France on the west are watchful and armed, and agreed for defence and offence.

She would be foolish to sleep on her laurels. But of course there is no hiding the fact that such a standing army of non-producers is a terrible drain on the financial resources of the country, and to my mind there is a greater menace in the presence of such a large body of men whose trade it is to think out means to destroy their fellows and to scheme for national aggrandisement. Probably the thought of this menace got on the nerves of some neurotic English politician with the result that the absurd story of the toast to "The Day" took form in his disordered imagination.

But far greater in peace than in war have been the conquests of Germany. As a result of the war of 1870-71, there was poured into the lap of Germany riches unheard of before, and immediately there began, first of all, an era of speculation, but after that a period of solid development, slow at first, but from 1880 increasingly rapid, which has had one tremendous result: that of removing Germany from the ranks of the agricultural nations and of placing her in the list of the industrial states. Some 60 per cent. of her population now depend upon industry for their livelihood. Naturally enough Germany produces more than her own 60,000,000 of people require, and she is forced to seek other markets. She came upon the scene only to find the best parts of the earth already in the hands of the English, and, therefore, not having colonies of her own, she must seek foreign markets.

And that she has done with such success, sending out her scientifically produced wares in her own ships, and splendid ships they are, into every part of the world, that "made in Germany" has rightly become a "brand," a trademark, to imitate. And all this would have been impossible but for the encouragement given to scientific progress in all departments of study, whether technical or industrial, medical or theological, and but for the honor and deference paid, willingly and ungrudgingly, to the investigator in every walk of life.

Education, free, full, encouraged and honored, is at the bottom of all this wonderful development of modern Germany, and it is this which makes her 22 universities, her numerous technical institutes, her trade schools, all her higher institutions the Mecca of every enquiring mind from every part of the world, whose look is forward rather than backward, whose eyes are "front."

Now all this trouble between England and Germany has its origin in "commercial rivalry," at which no one can wonder. The slow unimaginative Englishman found suddenly at his elbow everywhere, a hitherto unknown scientifically-trained

competitor, underselling and outgeneralling him. Pained surprise gave place to vexation, naturally increased because his old-fashioned methods were handicapping him, and further increased by the self-confidence of the youthful rival. Of course there is friction, and friction gives rise to Dreadnoughts, and Dreadnoughts give rise to a Canadian navy, and a Canadian navy gives rise to warships on the great lakes, and so on, *ad infinitum* and *ad absurdum* and *ad nauseam*. But what it is important here for us to note is that education is the foundation of Germany's commercial greatness, therefore the base of all the trouble between these two great and kindred nations is education, the superior scientific training which the German possessed.

You remember that a few years ago Lord Roseberry discovered this fact when one of the earliest "German scares" found believers in English homes. And in 1907 Mr. Balfour, addressing a great convention of educationists in London, dwelt upon this same truth. So fruitful has that idea become that now English technical schools are helping to regain lost ground for the English artisan, and "made in England" has become a slogan which has caused a great revival of English trade, and all signs point to a new epoch in English industrial development.

And why all this pother about the German navy? Has not the German as much right to build Dreadnoughts as has the Englishman? Both are doing it with the one purpose in view, viz., of protection to commerce. Both have great interests at stake, both are adding to the present danger by their methods of providing this protection. It stands to reason, that when two lusty opponents stand over against one another, both armed *cap-à-pie*, there is very grave danger that some comparatively irresponsible person may drop a spark into some tinder, and then the "fun" will begin.

Now it is very probable that some of those listening to me believe that this will take place, that it is unavoidable, that it must come, and that the sooner it is over the better. I beg to differ, and for reasons—for good reasons—I beg to differ.

Look to the East! Over the hills has broken the rosy morn of the twentieth century. And what can we see? Plenty of men who, looking backward, talk of war and bloodshed and hate between nation and nation. But there are other signs, plenty of other signs. And, first of all, look at the miraculous development of the means of bringing the nations of the earth together. England's little railroad between Stockton and Darlington, opened in 1825, only a life-time ago, had given place in

1904 to over 560,000 miles upon the earth, representing an expenditure of English and German and French and American and of the world capital surpassing our imagination to conceive. And so with shipping. Six steamboats in 1820; in 1900 a total of 12,289, and England building more in 1909 than all the rest of the world put together. In 1819 the first steamboat took 26 days to cross the ocean; now we have just enough time to settle accounts with Neptune and we are across. Next our postal arrangements. In 1837, a year that many Canadians remember, the first idea of common postage for all letters in England; in 1874 the postal union, imagined and worked out by a German. The first telegraph between Baltimore and Washington in 1844, and now the whole earth covered by a net-work of wires, and wireless telegraphy, the newest development. The world is verily "no bigger than a kraal." These are some of the bonds which are exercising an ever increasing influence upon the nations of the earth, bringing them into close touch, and making them profoundly interested in each other's welfare.

Then note carefully the mighty revolution wrought in industrial life by the introduction of machines. In 1840 a cotton weaver could prepare in a whole year, working 13 to 14 hours a day, some 9,500 yards of standard sheeting. In 1886 in one day of 10 hours he produced 3,000 yards. With the increase of products is combined an increase of use, and a lowering of prices. Furthermore the raw material comes from various fields the world over and represents the employment of world capital on a large scale. Anything that affects the cotton trade of England, affects the consumers of cotton the world over. Just as we are now having a very striking example of the far-reaching influence of tariff questions, so the question of trade and commerce generally are more than national—they are world-wide in importance, far transcending in magnitude, for the great mass of people, such questions as Dreadnoughts and torpedo-destroyers.

This unthinkable quantity of capital, daily increasing by huge figures, which is invested in trade and commerce, in railways and shipping, and telegraphs, is not confined to English capital alone, but the German is also becoming very largely interested. Now does it not really stand to reason that the man or the statesman who loses sight of all these tremendous world-interests and can see nothing but Dreadnoughts and bayonets, must be suffering from an optical illusion and is sadly in need of a new pair of glasses? To wantonly set to work to destroy his opponent's credit by a world war, such as

that between England and Germany would largely be, in the vain imagining that his own would not also be as utterly destroyed—such an outrage passes my feeble comprehension; and I fully believe that there are enough keen business and financial men in England and in Germany who will speak out so clearly and convincingly, in case of the necessity, that the "fire-eaters" must listen.

But this is not my sole hope. I do not consider it my strongest hope. These wonderful means of intercourse between nation and nation, between hemisphere and hemisphere, to which the airship will soon be added—and here let me refer you to Kipling's "With the night-mail"—these are all bringing the best spirits of the nations together, the men of knowledge; and out of the interchange of ideas and out of the inspiration of progressive thought, can come nothing but the highest common good. I can remember when few Canadians went abroad to finish their education. To-day they all look forward to a trip abroad "to top off." A few years ago the modern languages were not mentioned on the curricula of a great many universities, our own Toronto being a pioneer in this respect. To-day it is coming to be generally recognized that the literatures of sturdy England and clever France and progressive Germany, with their 1,000 to 1,500 years of development, are just as worthy of study as literatures of Greece and Rome with their meteor-like appearance; that they have just as much of the culture element, if that is rightly understood, and provide in their history and grammar a mental discipline no less effective than that of these dead tongues. And to-day the wide-awake German is insisting on his engineers and his students making a "student-trip" not only to England and France—these have been in vogue for a number of years—but even to America, and you may be sure that those who come will not pass by Canada.

Now here is where the Englishman has once more been woefully behind. He could not, or at any rate did not, learn German. He did learn French. Now don't for a moment imagine that what I am about to say reflects on any other nation, but I want to emphasize, and to so emphasize it that we in Canada shall take note and wake up, that is, I want to say that no man can be up-to-date to-day in any line of work whatever, he will not be acquainted with the latest advance of any science, unless he knows German, reads German and visits Germany. The historical grammar of the English language is a hobby of mine, a subject to which I should like to devote the rest of my life, but to know it I cannot depend on English

alone. I must go to Germany, buy German books, follow German thinkers and collectors and investigators. Germany can give us valuable hints on how to equalize taxation and on government ownership, or "state Socialism," as one writer puts it. German scientific thought is a mighty factor in the world, and I, as a true Canadian and a loyal Englishman, am glad to pay Germany my tribute of gratitude. And I and all other German-trained students, at home and abroad, are against such insanity as a war between these great kindred nations.

But I have not yet stated my strongest reason. Lecturing at Niagara Falls a few days ago upon "Canadian Citizenship," I referred to the question of temperance and stated what my hopes were in that regard and upon whom my hopes rested. After the lecture a Swede came up and told me how matters had gone a few years before in his home-land, and his experience confirmed mine. What I said there was that my hopes were built upon the attitude of the lower or laboring classes, as they are called over there. A little more than 1900 years ago there appeared upon the earth a Man who spoke "as never man spake," but the society built up by his followers fell heir in a few years to Roman organization and Roman methods. Organization was everything and man as man really disappeared. It was not until the close of the middle ages in the wonderful Renaissance that Man seemed destined to appear anew. The privilege was granted only to a few, and they of the highest rank. Slowly the new idea percolated down and bore fruit in various forms, bright red in the French Revolution. The 19th century, however, saw the seed taking root and succeeding decades were marked by a gradual growth of political consciousness and power among the working classes, England was far in advance by her Reform bills, a country envied by the whole-hearted patriots in Germany. Was that the reason for the animus too frequently displayed against her by the ruling members of society? To-day there is once more great unrest, religious, social and political, as was shown in England in January where nearly 90 per cent. of the voters went to the polls. That unrest is also in France, in Austria, in Turkey, in Russia, in Persia, in India, and what a stirring there has been in Japan, and now beginning in China! Germany is a hotbed of this unrest, and the manoeuvres of Bethmann-Hollweg and the landed aristocracy of Prussia has but added fuel to the flame. As I have already said I was through the last general election in Germany. I should love to be present at the coming one, because the battle will be very important, not only for Germany, but I fully believe for the

peace and progress of the world. Here is where I am inclined to see grave danger. To stave off the evil day of surrender of some of their most cherished privileges, which must come in the natural course of development, the ruling classes of Germany may seek to unite the people at home by making war against a foreign foe. That has been done; it might be done again. But yet I trust that somehow good will come. I find that the working classes are no longer isolated as they once were, but that they are nearer to realizing that "Parliament of Man" of which the poet sings, than are some of the higher classes. The British workman is intensely interested in the work of his fellow laborer in Germany; the reverse is just as true, and both are vitally interested in America.

Maurice Hewlett, in an address to workingmen in the late election in England, suggested a counterstroke to a declaration of war which these classes, hourly growing in importance and power, have at hand—an international strike. Gentlemen, the brotherhood of man is the goal of the twentieth century, and the uplift is coming from below, as well as from above. We see it in the federation of labor, in the layman's missionary movement, in the temperance wave which is world-wide, in the peace congress and in the 223 organizations for the development of international life and friendship, 43 of these in Germany, only 12 in England.

Therefore I am of good cheer. I can see a silver lining in the cloud which seems so black, and for the works and words of Blatchford *et al* I can have nothing but contempt.