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THE CAUSES OF WAR.

BY A GERMAN AUTHORITY.

(Translated from the Nordd. Allgemeine Zeitung.)

The well-known Munich Professor of International Law, Freiherr von Stengel, who took part in the first Hague Peace Conference of 1899 as one of the representatives of Germany, has been busying himself with the problem of eternal peace. Herr von Stengel, whose very significant work, published by Reich & Co., is called *Weltstaat und Friedensproblem*, speaks among other things of the significance of war in the development of humanity, and dwells on the powerful influence which it has had upon the progress of civilisation. Apropos of these conclusions, the author remarks:

"The preceding conclusions do not absolutely mean that States should make war as often as possible in order to realise some of its advantages. War is and always will remain an evil, and no patriot would wish that his countrymen should engage in the dangers and horrors of war without the most urgent reasons. What I wish to do is to combat the one-sided view of the 'Peace at any price' party, and to point out that war, like all other human affairs, has two sides. War must not be judged merely as robbery and murder undertaken from a greed for Empire. Nor must it be placed on the same footing as the crimes of robber bands. It must be regarded as a form of strife in which the deepest feelings of a people find expression. A worldwide historical significance lies in this—that war has from early times been a real factor in the development of humanity, and will so remain even though, in the future, wars will be waged less often, and will last a shorter time than in earlier ages.

"The 'Peace at any price' party are fond of insisting that the people themselves are everywhere disposed to be peaceful, and that the desire for war is only to be found among princes and governments, who, from the beginning, have waged war from a desire to increase their commerce, to extend their territories, to gratify their ambitions, or for other ignoble reasons. It is certainly the case that many wars not merely in the East and in former ages, but also in Europe, and in the last century, have been caused by the ambition and lust for land of a single ruler. It is only necessary to mention most of the wars of Louis XIV. and of Napoleon; but, generally, the people were and are just as anxious for war as the rulers, as can be clearly demonstrated by citing examples from quite modern times, such as the frame of mind of the French during the war of 1870-71, the conduct of the English during the South African campaign, and the enthusiasm of the Japanese during the Russo-Japanese war. This also is quite intelligible. The real reasons for war lie, as a rule, not in the more or less arbitrary designs of the Government, but in the conflict of important interests between the States concerned. When a people considers its honour and its material interests gravely endangered by another people, it flies to arms in spite of all the peace conferences and congresses. But the most important interests of a people are its domestic interests, which ultimately build up the foundations of its being, and mould its development, and for this reason, as has already been shown, opposing domestic interests have often caused wars in the past, and will also cause them in the future. If it is true that wars are not, at any rate as a rule, caused in the interests of or by the caprice of governments or princes, neither can wars be obviated by the increase of Republican Government, as Schücking, for example, imagines. The fallacy of this assertion is shown, not merely by the example of Rome, which under the Republic had continual wars, but by many examples in later and even in the latest times. Even supposing that social democracy triumphed in all States war would not disappear, for the Social Democratic party hates and opposes the present social system; hence the international point of view from which it regards the peace movement. If the States were formed into united 'production spheres,' according to social democratic ideas, then the economic competitive struggle would soon break out among them, and this must necessarily lead to war. Besides, it may be remarked, the Social Democratic party can scarcely gain the victory in any State without a revolution; and this revolution, as the Communist rising in 1871 has shown, will cause little less bloodshed than a war."

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Towards the close of his book Herr von Stengel deals with the question of the modern peace movement, more particularly in its relation to Germany, and says: "The peace party have frequently deplored the fact that the peace movement has made more progress in other countries than in Germany, but the German people ought rather to be congratulated that they have not been more affected by this movement than is actually the case. Prussia discovered, in the wars of 1806-07, the straits to which a mania for peace and cosmopolitan theories can reduce a State, for, in sober truth, the ruin of Prussia at that period can be ascribed to a great extent to an unwelcome and unmanly sentiment, and to an indifference to all national feeling, brought about by the cosmopolitan, ultra-human, and transcendental ideas of the time which had found their way into every circle.

"Among peoples axedly and decidedly national like the English and the French, it is indeed possible that peace propaganda may do no particular harm, but in Germany we have to watch every appearance of it, not merely with suspicion, but in order earnestly to fight against it, for in the peace movement lies a cosmopolitanism inimical to the national sentiment, and its plausible teaching is at this time finding more adherents in Germany itself than elsewhere. Our heroes in South West Africa have shown, indeed, that the danger is not yet great that Germans should soon lose their joy in arms and their indifference to death. But in these matters it is well said *Principis obsta*. For instance, the 'Peace at any price' party desire that the idea of peace should take root in our growing youths, that the courageous and warlike spirit in our young men should be stamped out, that hatred for military service should become common, and self-sacrifice for the Fatherland be regarded as a folly and a crime. This must be prevented. Should the peace movement make further progress in Germany, and the martial spirit be taken away from the German people, and should consequently a limitation of armaments commence, then most assuredly the respect which is felt for Germany, not in Europe alone, will disappear. Such a course would give rise to the belief among the numerous enemies of Germany that German rights and German interests may be injured with impunity. This must eventually lead to war-like developments, and will bring about the very thing which the peace movement wishes to prevent—for it is clear that it is only because the German Empire is supported by its powerful armaments, and the martial and self-sacrificing spirit of the German people, that it has been able to follow for a whole generation a policy of peace."

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

LONDON.—An extremely sad affair marred the shooting party arranged by King Edward for his guests in honour of his Majesty's birthday. While shooting was in progress at Sandringham Mr. Montague Guest, D.L., J.P., one of the King's oldest friends, was seen to fall suddenly to the ground, and it was discovered that he had sustained a stroke.

He died before medical assistance was forthcoming. Mr. Guest was not himself taking part in the sport, but was watching the guns at work in the vicinity of his Majesty and taking photographs of the King and the royal guests, at the same time rendering assistance to a cinematographer who was taking a film of the scene for the Vienna Sport Exhibition, by special permission of King Edward. The stroke came without the least warning, and the unfortunate gentleman collapsed at the feet of his alarmed friends. King Edward ordered the body to be conveyed to Sandringham in one of the royal automobiles, and at once stopped the shooting. The sad incident has greatly agitated court circles and society generally.

(From our correspondent.) LONDON, Wednesday. Certain inspired statements appearing in the Unionist papers leave no doubt as to the definite rejection of the Finance Bill when it comes up for a second reading in the House of Lords on the 22nd inst. According to the *Times*, when the Finance Bill is considered by the Peers on second reading an official Opposition amendment will be moved adverse to the measure. The rejection of the Bill may, therefore, be deemed to be assured. A simple and concise amendment to the effect that the House of Lords consider it inconsistent with their duty to pass the Bill before the country has been consulted upon it is the form of amendment which, in all probability, will commend itself to the Opposition. Meanwhile, all the Unionist journals are giving covert advice to the Peers. That the approaching crisis is of great magnitude cannot be questioned by any one acquainted with the real issues. There is, no doubt, a vast amount of sheer nonsense written for and against the Bill. Its principles—or many of them—are not inconsistent with good finance, while they certainly follow the modern trend of democratic taxation. The most crushing indictment against the Bill, and one that is not refuted by its supporters, is that it has been framed solely for the purpose of excluding Tariff Reform at any price. There was no choice before the Government but a drastic system of fresh taxation or Tariff Reform. Thus the Bill represents a bold effort to avert Protection, and it is chiefly on that account that the Opposition is so unanimously against its adoption. The right of any Government to inflict its economic beliefs on the country under cover of indirect legislation is doubtful. Many people ask why the Liberals are so hostile to an experiment in Tariff Reform when, on numerous occasions, they have themselves proposed measures which verge closely on the same thing. The Patents Act in itself was a piece of unvarnished Protection, and was brought forward by a Liberal Minister,—by Mr. Lloyd George, in fact. But the spirit of Cobden still influences the Government, and they would admittedly rather see a further depression in trade than revoke their allegiance to doctrines which are admitted by most sensible men to be hopelessly antiquated. All the Liberal press fulminations against the Lords may be taken as bluff. The Lords have little to do with the crisis; and there is nothing to show that as a majority they are against the Budget. But their hand is being forced by the Opposition, who are clamouring for a dissolution, in which case the return of the Unionists to power is a foregone conclusion. It is freely predicted that within eighteen months England will have erected a tariff wall no less lofty than those which enclose the home markets of Germany and the United States.

KINGSTON (Jamaica), Thursday.—A violent hurricane which swept over the island yesterday has caused disastrous floods and interrupted all communication between Jamaica and the neighbouring isles.

ST. PETERSBURG, Thursday.—During a dress rehearsal of the opera "Tristan and Isolde" at the Imperial Marie Theatre here, the heroic tenor M. Andrejff accidentally inflicted with his sword a severe wound on M. Smirnoff, a baritone singer.

VANCOUVER (B.C.), Thursday.—A terrible collision occurred on the local electric railroad yesterday, in which no fewer than 14 passengers were killed and seven seriously injured.

The New York *Times* announces that Mr. Taft will introduce into Congress a Bill which sets forth a plan for the supervision and control of corporation issues. Mr. Taft's scheme is of a drastic nature, and goes a step beyond the policy of Mr. Roosevelt. There will be most strenuous opposition to the Bill.