

BERLIN

THANKSGIVING DAY.

(FROM OUR BERLIN CORRESPONDENT.)

Thursday last saw the annual Thanksgiving Day *Stimmung* prevailing once more in the large hall of the Landes-Ausstellungs-Park, Berlin, where three hundred and fifty Americans had assembled to celebrate the national holiday.

Long tables, each seating some twenty guests, were according to usual custom ranged across the large banquet-hall from end to end. Facing the body of the diners was the *table d'honneur*, at which the following guests were seated:—

Hon. R. S. Reynolds Hitt, American Chargé d'affaires, and Mrs. Hitt;

Hon. A. M. Thackara, American Consul-General, and Mrs. Thackara;

Professor Benjamin Ide Wheeler, and Mrs. Wheeler;

Rev. Dr. Lemuel H. Murlin and Mrs. Murlin;

Mr. Heaton W. Harris, American Consul-General at Large for Europe;

Mr. Joseph C. Grew, 2nd Secretary of the American Embassy;

Mr. Gustave Scholle, 3rd Secretary of the Embassy, and Mrs. Scholle;

Mrs. Samuel G. Shurtle, wife of the Military Attaché;

Rev. J. H. Fry;

Mr. F. Hessenberg;

Mr. Robert Thompson, American Consul at Hannover, and R. P. Thompson (son);

Mr. Wm. C. Teichman, American Consul at Stettin, and Mrs. Teichman;

Consul-General Thackara, presiding, offered toasts to the President of the United States, and to the German Emperor, which were responded to with the usual warmth. From behind the Stars and Stripes which draped the balcony overhead, well known American patriotic airs were struck up by the orchestra, which, considering that it was made in Germany, acquitted itself well in regard to "Marching through Georgia," "John Brown's Body," American negro melodies, etc. To this accompaniment the usual Thanksgiving Day menu was partaken of, with roast turkey and cranberry sauce as *pièce de résistance*. Following this important part of the proceedings, Professor Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California and Roosevelt Professor at the University of Berlin, was introduced by Consul-General Thackara as the orator of the evening.

Professor Wheeler delivered a fine oration, patriotic and inspiring, although considered by some as rather extended for an after-dinner address, even at a Thanksgiving Day Banquet.

The meaning and significance of America to the world, from the nation's earliest beginnings until now, constituted the substance of Professor Wheeler's address and he gave a graphic presentation of his subject. What it has meant to the world that such a nation as America found its way into existence; a nation which from the opening of its career has been a land of refuge; of liberty from artificial restrictions and from arbitrary limitations—this Professor Wheeler tried to show. America is engaged, the speaker said, in the weird and unexampled task of blending all the bloods and creeds and habits of the dissevered races of Europe into a new, united people; into a new, free life; giving a new meaning to the word "humanity."

"Yet America," he went on, "is more than a place of refuge; more than a place of blending; this country of ours is a nation; and a nation with a character, with a meaning, with a mission. We were not always a nation, even when we thought we were. We were simply a lot of factors, of facts and possibilities. The first settlers of America occupied the hem of the Atlantic, looking across towards Europe. The next generation pushed slowly inward; but still they backed in, keeping their faces towards Europe—upon which they depended, by whom they were judged. It was only from the day when the people made up their minds to turn their faces towards the West, and to quit facing Europe as their only hope, that America's life as a nation began. From the day when they crossed the Missouri and found the West—the breezy, warm-hearted West; found the West, and then the other coast, the Pacific,—then it was that our country found its mission, recognised its national destiny.

"The old world-halves were Europe and the Far East, and history has been marked at all times by efforts to bring the two together. Europe in the early days looked inward on to the Mediterranean, as onto a court. Later, for the past 150 years, it has looked out upon the Atlantic. In the back-yard of Europe, 'way across the Atlantic, lay America. But now the world has strangely been turned wrong side out. The Pacific has become the great arena in which the destinies of the world must be fought—or played—out. Europe now looks outward toward the new arena, and America,—America is no longer in the back-yard. It is the front-yard itself, facing not upon the Atlantic, but upon the Pacific. We are the forefront of Occidentalism.

"Four or five years hence the barrier that faced Columbus will be broken by the opening of the Panama Canal. Then we shall lie midway on the path which joins the East with Europe. Yes, we're *mitten d'rin*, *wir können nichts dafür*; whether we like it or not we must take our place, and play our part,

along with the others for the maintenance of peace and order. And one thing it become us to remember, if we would abide by the maxims of Thanksgiving Day. If America is true to itself the foreign policy that we adopt must never be Imperialistic, such as has characterised England. It must be one in character and spirit with our internal democracy. Helping the feebler nation to realise itself; encouraging it to govern itself. I think our government of the Philippines represents the finest example of democracy in foreign policy. And democracy, like Christianity—both based upon the law that is written within the heart—represents the loftiest idealism and the boldest optimism thus far conceived regarding human nature.

"Fellow-countrymen and fellow-countrywomen, we are met together to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, the day which our Puritan fathers established. Let us here, by the sacred altar of our national faith and religion, plight our troth. We will be true. It is worth while."

After the applause following Professor Wheeler's address had died down, Consul-General Thackara, in a happily worded toast, proposed the health of the absent Ambassador, Dr. David Jayne Hill. The American national hymn, "My Country 'tis of Thee," was sung in unison, after which the guests adjourned while the floor of the banquet-hall was cleared for dancing.

A feature of Professor Wheeler's oration which awakened some little attention was the brief but energetic fulmination against England in which he indulged. While admitting that he himself, although so much identified with the West, was really an Easterner, of New England parentage, Dr. Wheeler said: "But I am not one of your hard, stolid Englishmen. The English, it is true, were our first forefathers in America, but it is not from the English that we have the qualities that make us worth while before the world. We speak a tongue which bears a strong resemblance to English (laughter), but there the connection seems to end. As for that blessed characteristic, the saving grace of humour, did we get that from the English? If that came from Great Britain at all, we must have got it from the Irish."

The Girls' Friendly Society, Magdeburger Str. 13, holds an admission service of members, newly-elected associates and recently commended members this (Sunday) afternoon at 4.45. Rev. J. H. Fry will conduct the service.

Tea will be served as usual at 4 p.m.

Fräulein Anna Franck, a pianist who has won approbation particularly in the Rhenish district and in Belgium, established her studio four weeks ago in Berlin, at Pension Ludwig, Markgrafen Str. 39-40. She has come to Berlin after repeated requests, since very few local students have an opportunity of studying after the Leschetizky method. Fräulein Franck purposes giving several concerts in the second half of the season. She has had the advantage of a very thorough musical education, having studied six years at the Cologne Conservatory under Prof. Franz Wüllner, receiving there a diploma as concert pianist and teacher. Thence she went to Vienna to receive personal tuition for two years under Prof. Leschetizky, who, by the way, has given her a written testimonial of ability, couched in terms of the warmest praise. Another document Fräulein Franck treasures is a testimonial from Prof. Felix Mottl, calling her "eine vorzügliche, virtuose Pianistin."

All social and other items intended for publication in this column should be sent to the Berlin representative of *The Daily Record*:—Miss C. M. Hook, Kalkreuth Strasse 11, W. (Tel. VI. 18,235.) All business communications, relating to advertisements, etc., should be sent direct to the Dresden office:—Struve Str. 5.

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NEWS OF THE WORLD. (Continued.)

Count Zeppelin has arrived in Berlin on a visit to his wife whose condition, under the care of her daughter, has improved.

ATHENS, Saturday.—The situation of the Greek Cabinet is again insecure, as the Military League is urgently demanding a purification of the civil service.

LONDON, Saturday.—A compromise has been arrived at between Lords and Commons regarding the Irish Land Bill which was introduced by the Government on November 5. The Government has made certain concessions in view of which the House of Lords has ceded several points on which no agreement was previously possible.

MADRID, Saturday.—Official advices from Tenerife state that the activity of the volcano is now subsiding, and that the lava streams are advancing only very slowly.

CHURCH SERVICES: BERLIN.

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3.30 p.m. Office hour for the Pastor.
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Royal Theatre	Der deutsche König	7.30
New Royal Opera Theatre	Cav. rusticana.—Bajazzo	7.30
Deutsches Theatre	Don Carlos	7.30
	(Kammerspiele) Major Barbara	7.30
Lessing Theatre	Tantris, der Narr	8
Berliner Theatre	Hohe Politik	8
New Theatre	Herbst.—Der Unbekannte	8
New Schauspielhaus	Judith	8
Comic Opera	Auferstehung	8
New Operetta Theatre	Miss Duddelsack	8
Schiller Theatre O.	Miss Hobbs	8
	Charlottenburg	
Frdr. Wilhelmst. Theatre	Wilhelm Tell	8
	Liselott	8
Kleines Theatre	Moral	8
Urania Theatre	In den Do'miten	8

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