

GERMANY TO GRAB CANADA IF SHE WINS WAR, SAID BARON

Monroe Doctrine Would be Trampled on by Kaiser, as Dominating Factor of World's Politics, Asserted Berlin Official Who in May Predicted War.

W. G. Lukens, Toronto, writes to the New York Sun, under date of October 13th:

Apropos of the present European conflict, I am impelled to refer to an incident that may at least furnish food for reflection. Early in May of the present year a Pennsylvania steel man and myself were entertained in Berlin by a gentleman of large affairs, in the councils, of his government, whose name for obvious reasons I shall not divulge. Suffice to say he is a man whose ideas may be said to be representative of at least the German ruling class.

After a discussion of business and political conditions, in America the baron (for a baron he is) gave expression to the opinion that competition between Germany and the United States would become more and more keen, and said that in order to compete successfully with America Germany would be obliged to go closer to the raw material supply.

"In your country, with its enormous territory and immense natural resources," he said, "you have a very decided advantage, but I believe that the time will come when we will be possessed of colonies whose resources in raw material are as great as your own."

When asked by my friend to specify the particular country he had in mind, the baron smiled and hesitated, but finally continued:

"At no distant date this country will be at war with Great Britain. Indeed, I am firmly convinced that war will come within two years, and in that belief I am joined by every man in Germany who has given thought to the European situation. Evidence that England herself fears German aggression is plainly seen in her connection with the triple entente, which, of course, was conceived with the idea of offsetting the power of the triple alliance.

Shows How Germany Would Win.

"But will Great Britain's efforts in that direction prove effective? Let us see. France is retrograding. Her birth rate is declining enormously; she is having difficulty in maintaining her army at anything like normal strength, and her political troubles are omnipresent.

"Russia has not recovered from her defeat by Japan, and it will take years to restore her to a position where she can command any serious consideration, while England herself is in a worse plight than her two allies. At this moment Ireland is divided into two opposing elements with drawn swords, India and the Boers are ready to take quick advantage of any preoccupation that may beset England, and we have very good reason for the belief that under favorable conditions Canada and Australasia would quickly strike for their independence.

"On the other hand, the triple alliance is in a better position for aggressive action than ever before, indeed possibly in a better position to-day than it ever will be again, and it is this fact that leans to the conviction that war is not far distant that the triple alliance must strike while the iron is hot.

"Germany is prepared. Our army is a marvel of perfection; our equipment is the finest in the world, and our financial resources are virtually unlimited. This being true, can there be any doubt as to the outcome of the conflict?

"We will win and our emperor will dictate the terms of peace in London. Part of that price will involve a sufficient number of British colonies and overseas dominions to make Germany the dominating factor in world politics and furnish her with a foothold on the American continent, for Canada must figure as part of the price of peace."

Polltely but none the less insistently my friend contended that such a condition of affairs as the baron outlined would compel the United States to invoke the Monroe doctrine and bring our country into conflict with Germany, but the baron smiled.

Would Ignore Monroe Doctrine.

"Think you," he said, "that with Great Britain climaxed as a world factor and the command of the seas in Germany's hands the Monroe doctrine or any other doctrine would restrain us from collecting the reward of victory and doing with it what we pleased? Ah, my friends, you must consider that an outlet must be found for our rapidly increasing population and that our people must be kept under the German flag to insure German domination.

"You have too many of our people within your borders now. Canada, with her enormous territory

and vast resources, would solve many problems that are at present sorely perplexing. We would, of course, not expect the United States to regard the populating of Canada with German subjects as an act of aggression, but should she so regard it——" and the baron with a shrug of the shoulders left the sentence unfinished.

I have set forth the baron's remarks virtually verbatim. At the time I regarded his ideas as somewhat fantastic, but in the light of recent events they seem to partake of sufficient significance to warrant the belief that Germany's official and business eyes have been gazing at a prize that lies far beyond the borders of Europe, and that she not only contemplated the subjugation of Great Britain but control of the world's politics and trade.

And the road to that ambition lies through a little country whose neutrality she herself guaranteed by "a mere scrap of paper," through Liege, through Louvain, through Rheims, to leave in her wake a trail of blood and ruin, the bodies of raped and murdered women and children, and the dangling corpses of old men, as Senator Clarke tells of it; as Mary Boyle O'Reilly so graphically describes it in her despatches from the Hague.

We have read the diplomatic correspondent leading up to the opening of hostilities; we have authenticated records of Sir Edward Grey's futile efforts in behalf of peace, and we have seen Germany respond by sending her hosts in a dash toward the gates of Paris. And in her defence we witness the feeble efforts of eminent professors and soldiers, whose words and pens in a just cause would be mighty and potent.

We look toward Berlin for some pronouncement that would suggest at least an iota of excuse for the plunging of Europe into the most horrible war in history, and an echo comes back from the Lokal Anzeiger that proof of England's culpability is to be found in the fact that five days before the commencement of hostilities the British ambassador to Berlin discharged his female German cook.

Reverting for just a moment to Canada, toward which covetous German eyes seem to have turned, I wonder whether the people of the United States realize what their relations with the dominion really are, and what a change in her government would mean to the American people. From my Pennsylvania home I come twice each year to travel through Canada from ocean to ocean, and this is what I find:

A liberty loving, peaceful, whole hearted population of 8,000,000 people, living under a system of government that comes as close as any government can to the acme of perfection: loyal to and having faith in the empire that gives them full measure of freedom, permits them to make and administer their own laws, collect and spend their own revenues, and taxes them not a single penny for any imperial purpose whatsoever.

Loyalty Of The Canadians.

As testimony to their loyalty, I saw sail away on Thursday of last week from the port of Quebec 33,000 soldiers, every man a willing volunteer, to fight for the preservation of the British empire. Only 22,000 men were needed to make up the first contingent, but 11,000 in addition refused to be left behind, and eagerness to join the colors. Yet, in spite of their affection for their flag and empire, people of Canada last year purchased from us more than \$441,000,000 in manufactured goods, while they took from Great Britain only \$131,000,000.

To-day, next to Great Britain herself, Canada is our most important customer, much more important, indeed, than all South and Central American countries combined. As a neighbor, under British rule, perhaps the best evidence of the desirability of our seeing to it that existing conditions are maintained lies in the fact that for one hundred years the two neighboring countries have remained at peace, and that not a fort worthy of the name marks the imaginary line that separates them; nor has either country deemed it necessary to maintain a standing army of any proportions.

With the repopulating of Canada with millions of Germans, whose conscription service has imbued them with the military spirit, how long would it be before the people of the United States would be burdened with a tax for army purposes that would be staggering in its proportions?

In closing permit me to remark

that while the baron's prophecy relative to the near approach of war has been justified, in one respect at least he sadly missed the mark, for as if in answer to his expressed belief in the frailty of the British structure there is a preponderance of evidence to show that the British Empire was never so united and powerful as it is at present.

— Instead of revolting, as was suggested, India has rushed her trained soldiers to the front to fight the empire's battles; the Boers, who fought her so bitterly only twelve years ago (now citizens of the self-governing Union of South Africa) have placed General Botha of Boer war fame in absolute control of the British fighting forces, while Canada, Australasia and every other component part of the empire have placed their resources and their men at the command of the British government — the strongest possible evidence of the efficiency and wisdom of free institutions.