

## The American Germans

The American Germans have been holding conventions and listening to speeches such as only Germans could make, so devoid are they of any reasonable comprehension of any point of view but their own. The typical American German argues that the people of the Fatherland are a fine people, a good home-loving people, they don't want war, they only want what is right, they wouldn't do atrocious deeds unless forced by necessity, so they are not to blame—the blame rests on those who drive them to do such things by making it impossible for the Germans to win the war without doing these things. The kindly Germans would rather win the war without using poisons and flames, without murdering non-combatants on land and sea, without dropping bombs at random on sleeping country villages—but the allies, and especially the hated British, will not let them win the war, overrun and keep Belgium and Northern France and Poland, and so, to win the war, the gentle Germans are forced to resort to every terrible crime they can think of. That is the way these Germans reason. The men of other races who, by resisting invasion and conquest, compel the good Germans to resort to frightfulness, are black with guilt. And the stout German almost chokes with indignation when he finds that American-Americans do not see it as he does.

These Germans in the United States profess to desire nothing but peace. They insist that the United States should not sell arms to belligerents. But everybody knows that they only advance this argument because Germany cannot buy arms from the United States and the allies can do so. It is not the United States they are thinking about, but Germany—and Germany is the country that sells arms to all warring nations that can buy them. Austria has formally complained to the United States against the sale of munitions to the allies, yet the Austrian Government sold arms to the South during the American Civil War. Germany sold arms to Ulster to be used in a rebellion a little over a year ago, and sold arms to the Boers to make war on Britain in South Africa. The selling of munitions to belligerents is one of Germany's big lines of business, and it is not so long since the German States used to even sell and rent soldiers to any belligerent that could pay for them.

At the time of the Franco-Prussian War export of munitions from the United States was discussed, and Goldwin Smith then expressed the view that if the principle were adopted that such sales could not take place it would mean that every nation would be forced to stock up with every imaginable kind of war supply or leave herself exposed to destruction at the hands of any warlike nation that made ready for a career of aggression. That would not do. The American Republic, in asserting the right of her people to sell munitions, is guarding her own right to buy, should ever the need arise.