

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1914.

GERMANY'S AIMS AND AMBITIONS.

LORD ROSEBERY, on March 1, 1893, speaking at the Royal Colonial Institute, said: "We have to remember that it is part of our responsibility and heritage to take care that the world, so far as it can be moulded by us, should receive the Anglo-Saxon, and not another character." If we inquire what is conspicuous in the Anglo-Saxon character, most people will agree, I think, that it is based on regard for our neighbours' rights, a regard which has been the object of our laws and struggles for centuries. The Anglo-Saxon spirit is essentially one which makes for fair-dealing; the race has never been a race of oppressors. Equity, truth, and justice have been our watch-words; and on the whole the nation has acted up to its convictions. It is this national feeling which has led to our taking part in the present war; rather than see a treaty broken, rather than allow a small nation to be coerced into an immoral act by a large and powerful one, we have lent our aid to the French and the Russians, and we are all prepared to support to the death what we all believe to be a righteous cause.

The German view of a nation's duties is very different, and wholly irreconcilable with that of the British and Americans. In the first place, we regard the State as ourselves; we are the State. Representative government leads to this conclusion; if we do not like the policy of our representatives we can change them. But for the German race the State is an external, self-elected body, possessing absolute power over the lives of its subjects. It is for the State to determine what is best; with an army at its back it is useless to attempt to oppose its decisions. The essence of the Teutonic character is to compel everyone to obey what it conceives to be for the good of the community. While the Anglo-Saxon motto may be conceived as "live and let live," the Teutonic command is "live as the State would have you live."

The Anglo-Saxon ideal is the freedom of the individual; the Teutonic ideal the compulsion of the individual by an omnipotent oligarchy.

The effect of the applications of science to practical ends has, during the past century, been the great prosperity of the civilised world. The standard of living has been immensely improved; disease has been diminished, and the average

duration of life has been much prolonged. Moreover, the use of machinery has greatly economised energy; the effective production of the race has enormously increased. As a concomitant, the density of the population in European, and indeed in all countries, has also increased, and ever in increasing ratio. It is obvious that such increase cannot go on indefinitely; up to now the accumulation of population has to some extent been modified by emigration; but here, again, there must be a limit. That limit, however, is still a distant one for England; her colonies are still capable of absorbing an enormous population. This is doubtless the reason why British statesmen have practically left unconsidered the economic problem of the increase of population beyond the possibility of feeding it. Moreover, it is not the Anglo-Saxon spirit to prepare to face future difficulties; each difficulty is grappled with when it arises. Not merely is this the character of our race, but our democratic government renders any other course of action practically impossible.

German, or, to be more accurate, Prussian statesmen, have foreseen that difficulties will arise, owing to the natural increase of the German people. Her colonies are relatively unimportant; moreover, they are badly administered, and do not attract settlers. It is true that enormous numbers of Germans have emigrated; it is said that there are no fewer than a million Germans in Brazil; and a very much larger number has found a home in the United States. But these are no longer under German rule; they regard themselves as emancipated, and soon lose connection with, and affection for, their native land. This is naturally repugnant to the Prussian ruling class; and their remedy is war.

The doctrines of humanity are deeply rooted in the Anglo-Saxon spirit; lives are preserved which do not represent a high standard of health and strength; and what may be termed the "virility" of the population decreases. Again, our legislators, though aware of this fact, have taken few steps to face it, if indeed any practical steps are possible. German statesmen, on the other hand, have attempted, by the physical training inseparable from universal military service, to improve the condition of the partially unfit. They imagine that they have secured an advantage over other nations by doing so; and their ideal, with which they have infected practically all Germans, is to secure world supremacy for their race, in the conviction that the condition of humanity will thus be ameliorated. This is the aim which has permeated all classes

of German society during the past generation; this is the cause of the present war. No means are to be neglected to secure this end; righteousness, truth, and justice are to be sacrificed in order that the German race may persist. The German nation has been educated to believe in this ideal by the Prussian ruling caste: "Deutschland über Alles in der Welt." Therefore the war.

Now it may be pointed out that the youth and early manhood of the race are the fighting class; and that by war the most able-bodied of the population are, at least partially, eliminated, with the inevitable result of the deterioration of the race as a whole. Probably it would be argued by Prussian statesmen that the relative number of deaths in war is small; and a successful war will leave abundant healthy men to perpetuate the race. Deterioration by the effects of war, they may contend, is not so wide-spreading as deterioration by the saving of lives of little value.

I have tried to state the case for the German nation; it represents an attempt to aid the elimination of the unfit, the unfit being all who do not hold with German ideals.

Now a race with such an ideal becomes impossible. It cannot be denied that Germany has contributed much in the past to literature, to science, and to the art of music. Individual Germans have attained the highest eminence, and have gained universal admiration. But the originality of the German race has never, in spite of certain brilliant exceptions, been their characteristic; their *métier* has been rather the exploitation of the inventions and discoveries of others; and in this they are conspicuous. The same obedience to command and the same attention to detail may be noticed in their industrial and scientific work as in their army. And of recent years, according to common report, commercial morality among the Germans has been at a low ebb. They are disliked as business men; their methods are not regarded as fair, or their word as trustworthy. Even in the world of science this spirit is by no means unknown. In spite of their boasted progress in what they imagine to be civilisation, they have been relapsing into barbarism. And the execrable deeds of their army—murder of defenceless non-combatants, destruction of priceless buildings, heartless cruelty to women and children—all these are merely the outward and visible sign of their spiritual beliefs. The aim of science is the acquisition of knowledge of the unknown; the aim of applied science, the bettering of the lot of the human race. German ideals are infinitely far removed from the concep-

tion of the true man of science; and the methods by which they propose to secure what they regard as the good of humanity are, to all right-thinking men, repugnant. These views are not confined to the Prussian ruling caste, although in it they find active expression: they are the soul of the people.

The conclusion is that this war is a war of humanity against inhumanity; of principle against expediency; of right against wrong. Fortunately, the present aspect of the war is favourable to the Allies; and justice and mercy will undoubtedly triumph.

What is to be justice and mercy? First and foremost, reparation must be made to the Belgians for the outrages which they have suffered; next, France must claim not only damages for the present invasion, but for the indignities of 1871; Russia and Great Britain will no doubt demand compensation. The motto of the Allies must be "Never again." Not merely must the dangerous and insufferable despotism which has eaten like a cancer into the morals of the German nation be annihilated, but all possibility of its resuscitation must be made hopeless. The nation, in the elegant words of one of its distinguished representatives, must be "bled white."

Will the progress of science be thereby retarded? I think not. The greatest advances in scientific thought have not been made by members of the German race; nor have the earlier applications of science had Germany for their origin. So far as we can see at present, the restriction of the Teutons will relieve the world from a deluge of mediocrity. Much of their previous reputation has been due to Hebrews resident among them; and we may safely trust that race to persist in vitality and intellectual activity.

It would be unworthy of the dignity of scientific men to imitate the example of some of the German professors in "abandoning the distinctions conferred on them by English learned societies." It must be remembered that the award of distinctions to Englishmen has been the act of the older race of German men of science, who form the councils of the various academies. Doubtless these men deplore the degradation of their race, as manifested in the outburst of barbarism which has shocked the feelings of the whole world, and it would be a graceful act if English men of science were to retain the marks of their appreciation.

In conclusion, it cannot be contended that the present war has in any sense been promoted by

the imagined spread of education and science in Germany. It affords to all men a lesson, however, that the moral sense of a nation requires educating, as well as the intellect; that a regard for truth, and for the sanctity of a promise are more important possessions than a knowledge of recent discoveries and inventions; and that the intellectual progress of a country is to be measured by the intelligent participation of every citizen in problems of government and of advance in the moral and mental conditions of the race. The splendid response to Lord Kitchener's call to arms shows that, in spite of many small and annoying eddies in the stream of British life and thought, it still flows steadily in the good old channel of probity and honesty.

WILLIAM RAMSAY.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The Oxford Survey of the British Empire. Edited by Prof. A. J. Herbertson and O. J. R. Howarth.

The British Isles, and Mediterranean Possessions (Gibraltar, Malta, Cyprus). Pp. xii + 596 + 7 maps.

Asia, including the Indian Empire and Dependencies, Ceylon, British Malaya, and Far Eastern Possessions. Pp. x + 505 + 5 maps.

Africa. Pp. xvi + 547 + 5 maps.

America. Pp. x + 511 + 6 maps.

Australasia. Pp. xii + 584.

General Survey. Pp. viii + 386 + 1 map. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1914.) Price 14s. net each.

THOUGH arranged as a series, these volumes can, it would appear, be bought separately. Each volume has the same preface, and the order in the series is distinguished on the back by stars instead of numbers, so as to conceal the oddness of an odd volume. Each volume is by several authors, who have obviously, each as an expert in his own branch, been left a good deal to themselves as to the manner in which their own subjects are to be treated. Each volume is provided with an index, with coloured folding maps showing the physical features, geology, or political divisions of the regions dealt with, with text-maps and diagrams, largely climatological, in black and white, to illustrate the same or other things, and with plates giving illustrations of typical scenery. Each volume, too, has at the end another useful feature, a set of statistical tables, or tables and diagrams relating to the dominions dealt with in the volume, those in the last volume being of a more general and com-

prehensive character. All the volumes except the last, moreover, have a short gazetteer or alphabetical list of the more important places mentioned in the corresponding volume, with a statement of the situation, and notes as to points of interest. This arrangement will obviously facilitate the bringing up to date of later editions.

The editors are to be congratulated on the success with which the whole work has been carried out. They have obtained the services of a large number of highly competent men, and all those interested in the Empire will feel that they owe them a debt of thanks for the mass of trustworthy information that has here been accumulated, and the instructive statement and discussion of problems connected with the Empire as a whole or its different parts.

In the treatment of each of the larger Dominions there is the same general arrangement of topics, but there is no pedantic adherence to the same grouping of these under chapters. It would have been worse than pedantic to have exactly corresponding chapters in dealing with units so diverse as the British Isles, India, and the Dominion of Canada. In the treatment of the British Isles common sense required that there should be much more detail than could be spared for any other part of the Empire. There are thus five or six chapters under different headings in the section on the British Isles, which occupies, if we include the islands in the British seas, more than five-sixths of the first volume, devoted to the topics which in the section on Canada are treated by Prof. Mavor, of Toronto, in three chapters of remarkable excellence under the general heading "Economic Survey."

We have said that the different authors have evidently been left much to themselves in the treatment of the subjects allotted to them. Inevitably this leads to a certain amount of repetition and overlapping, occasionally to the expression of divergent views. Thus it is natural to find Mr. R. D. Oldham, who deals with the physical geography of India, and Mr. J. S. Cotton, editor of the "Imperial Gazetteer of India," who handles Indian agriculture, both take up the subject of Indian soils, and it is distinctly instructive to find that the man of letters is quite confident as to the origin of those soils, while the geologist is not. On matters of more importance such discrepancies are not at all to be regretted. They keep the student in mind of the fact that there are multitudes of questions on which competent authorities trained to inquire into truth for its own sake hold different opinions. Even where there is no actual conflict of opinion it is useful to have different shades of view expressed. Those,