

Germany and the Jews

THE word from Germany to leading American Jews has been: say as little as possible against France and England, but direct your fire against Russia. The evident object is to reach not only the large number of Russian Jews who have settled in this country (nearly two millions), but also all the other Jews who naturally feel a concern for their brethren in Poland and Russia. How about Germany's present treatment of the Jews at home?

The chief anti-Semitic papers in Germany—the *Staatsbürger-Zeitung*, the *Auf Vorposten* (the official publication of the *Verein gegen Ueberhebung des Judentums*), the *Deutsch-Soziale Blätter*, *Die Wahrheit*, *Der Hammer*, all continue to be published and—with the exception perhaps of the first-named—to pour out their vitriol. Many daily papers of prominence and of large circulation indulge freely in this pastime. In the *Zalzbürger Chronik* there appeared recently an article headed "The Real Masters in France," which contained the following:—"In Cracow there appeared a book entitled *France for Us* written by the Jew Isaac Blümchen, in which is to be found the following interesting passage relating to the real masters in France: 'France today is nothing more than a geographic idea. It is true that the masters of this land are called Frenchmen; but the real masters are we, the Jews, for we rule in France and reign there. The people of the country are in our service; they work only to enrich us—which shows that we are the real Frenchmen. One people relieves the other. In us—a new set of inhabitants—France lives on.'" This article was copied in at least ninety-four newspapers belonging to the Centre and Anti-Semitic groups, with the comment that similar circumstances existed in Germany. No book with such a title appeared in Cracow and no writer of the name of Blümchen is known there.

In *Der Hammer*, October the first, appeared the following: "The Commissariat Department is run almost entirely by Hebrews; and since the corn and cattle dealers in this neighborhood are almost all Semites they will no doubt do a good business. In the list of those killed, we have up to this moment not found a Jewish name." In the same number the editor, Theodore Fritsch, says over his own name: "Peace within (*Burgfriede*) is impossible, so long as we have amongst us a group of people bound to each other by especial laws, who place their own inter-

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ests above those of the State and who are continually on the look-out for their own especial advantage."

Adolf Bartels published a pamphlet in Weimer, on August the sixth, entitled *The Price of Victory*. After demanding for Germany all the land up to the Düna, the Dnieper and the Black Sea and the repelling of Russia into Asia, he comes to the Jewish question, on which he is thus delivered: "In the calamity of war we act now as if we were one heart and one soul with the Jews. However—and I am pained to say it—I must declare that the Jewish question remains and will perhaps, just because of the war, become still more acute. The Jews are a foreign people and are our opponents in France, Russia and England, together with the enormous means at their disposal."

Since the war began, the Anti-Semitic Bookshop in the Komödien-Strasse in Cologne has sold its usual literature and displayed *The Song of Little Levi*, which was sung in the streets at the height of the Anti-Semitic propaganda.

That even the Social Democrats in Germany are not free from this hatred may be seen from a letter that appeared on September the first in the *Volksstimme* of Magdeburg: "The whole of the present war is the handiwork of the Jewish trading rabble (Krämergesindel) of English-Jewish origin. This rabble has plundered France and Russia, and in order to recover their capital, the English-Jewish sharpers engineered the murder at Sarajevo."

Nor does the Christian-Social Party in Germany lag behind its Social Democratic brothers. A writer, Herrmann Essig by name, had written a harmless play dealing with cattle breeding and entitled "The Pig-Priest" (Schweinenpriester). The Christian Social weekly, *Die Arbeit*, insisted that the author was a Jew in spite of his Germanic forename, adding "Thank God, we are not yet so deteriorated in Germany that we are bound to stand all manner of insolence." Essig is the son of a Protestant clergyman in Treuchtlingen!

Indeed it is not a new story. Modern Anti-Semitism was born in Prussia. When the present German mood was being formed, Nietzsche said: "History is actually written on Imperial German and Anti-Semitic lines—and Herr von Treitschke is not ashamed of himself."