

EUROPE AS WE SAW IT

(Continued from Page 6.)

was the shell room, an immense room, the walls and ceilings of which were faced with shells and beautiful stones brought from all parts of the world. The doors and parts of the ceilings and walls were covered with stacellites which were like diamonds. Immense cut glass chandeliers hung from the ceilings. The effect must have been magnificent, and we were told that the Kaiser used this room for the Christmas season. Each member of the family of fifteen had their own Christmas tree, and the room was flooded with small electric lights. The effect must have been indeed, and beyond one's imagination almost to conceive. The furnishings of the Palace were very fine in many of the rooms, and also the paintings, most of them executed in Frederick's time by order in Germany or purchased by his agents in Italy and France. Frederick was a great patron of art and literature and endeavored to bring to his court the finest minds in Europe. Himself an educated man with poetical ideas, he endeavored to make the Germans think, and he succeeded. It will be remembered that he spent two years of his life as a virtual prisoner at Sans Souci, although he was well paid for it. Frederick also had his agents in all countries of Europe, investing in the newest in science, art and architecture, and bringing it back to Germany. His influence on the German people has been incalculable. We did not see the furniture of the late Kaiser as it had been removed to Dorn. One thing we must not forget in mentioning this Palace is the underground passage between it and the kitchen, situated one hundred yards away. Frederick had this constructed so that there would be no smell of cooked food in the Palace. It probably cost a mere trifle—say, two hundred thousand dollars to indulge this fancy.

A Witty Guide

Every evening in Berlin we dined at a different restaurant to get an idea of prices, conditions of living, etc. These restaurants are very good and the prices are very low with London. We experienced the greatest courtesy and had no difficulty making our wants known, as almost everywhere there were waiters who spoke English.

A tour of Berlin by motor coach occupied some hours and gave us a good idea of this wonderful city. The Brandenburg gate, Wilhelmstrasse (where all the government offices are), Reichstag or German Parliament, Kaiser's Palaces, Crown Prince's Palaces, Museum of the Kaiser, and the Kaiser's own stables; also the wonderful departmental stores, one of which is among the world's greatest. Our guide was a Republican, and always referred to the Kaiser as the "Kaiser." He showed us with interest Berlin's skyscraper, a modest edifice of some ten stories.

Our guide said he had a great time with one of our American cousins, as he could always better understand the German. Passing the Reichstag or German Parliament, a really grand edifice, he remarked that he had got a good one off him. On the tour of the city this chap could not see anything wonderful and would continually ask how long it took to build some palace, church or other edifice, and on being informed he would remark "that's nothing; we get things done here in a matter of time in New York." The guide was getting mad, so passing the Reichstag he assumed ignorance of the name of the building and stared at it wonderingly.

"What building is that, and how long did it take to build?" asked the boastful Yankee. "I don't know," said the guide, "I wasn't here when I passed yesterday."

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the present drag with the golden glitter of the long ago; and in the chanting of the glories of Frederick the Great and other Hohenzollerns they will forget the mistakes of Kaiser Bill, and Hock, Hock, for a new try at the old steed. Among the amusements witnessed in Berlin was an afternoon spent at the race horse grounds, situated a few miles from the great city. These were beautifully laid off with wonderful club-houses, stables and grand-stands. The flowers in bloom decorated the infield and made a pretty picture. The afternoon was devoted to harness horse racing, which is conducted somewhat differently from our method. All the races are handicaps, the horses' capacities being pretty closely judged by an expert and placed in the various classes. All the races are one heat affairs, but the distance is usually from one and one-half to two miles. Nearly all the horses starting that afternoon were German bred, and they were very beautiful types and seemed perfectly conditioned and mannered. All the drivers raced to carts, which they claim are just as fast as saddle races, but the amounts were several American horses, but none of them made a win that day; they did not seem to like the distance as well as the German horses, or it may be that we saw the poorer ones competing. At the entrance to the grand-stand, where we sat, we were greeted by two of the officials of the Club, wearing morning coats and top hats. They greeted us very pleasantly. There was considerable speculation on the races, but the amounts were small as the people have not a great deal of money to speculate with. A reliable publication was issued giving the performances and form of each starter in each race, and it proved to be pretty correct on that afternoon.

Dusseldorf Exhibition.

From Berlin we took the night train for Dusseldorf and had our first experience of the German Pullman. It was quite comfortable and we arrived at our destination well refreshed. Our object in going to Dusseldorf was to see the great Exhibition, or Ge-Se-Loi. The cost of staging this Exhibition was largely destroyed by the city of Dusseldorf, situated on the right bank of the Rhine and within an easy distance of Cologne. Along the banks of the Rhine are the great industrial establishments which Dusseldorf has 450,000 inhabitants, and they must be wonderfully enterprising people, as the staging of this Exhibition must have cost an enormous sum of money, which had to be largely guaranteed by the city. If one had any doubts as to the ability of the Germans to do things of a big kind in a short time, they would be all set aside by a visit to the city of Dusseldorf Exhibition. One year ago last May, the first sod was turned and exactly one year later the Exhibition was open to the public, every particle of it complete and every exhibit in its place. The buildings cover a front of two miles, with a depth, including the gardens, of about a quarter of a mile. The total number of buildings constructed is one hundred and twenty, and many of them are permanent edifices which will be utilized for future Exhibition purposes. We first visited the Planetarium where one of the great scientists of Germany gave an illustrated lecture on the heavenly bodies. The building seats ten thousand, and the dome (an immense affair) is so constructed as to revolve and dip to give the effect of movement of the earth during the lecture. The machine for projecting the stars, moon, etc., on the dome was made by the celebrated Zeiss firm at Jena, and is a scientific marvel. We could not understand the lecture, but we were greatly interested in the screening of the dome of stars and other planets of the heavens. The Exhibition is meant to house the finest display of medical and surgical instruments ever seen in Germany, also the newer medical remedies.

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town, and several feet in depth, which is filled with water. Machines at the rear send vibrations through the water which cause great waves to traverse from one end to the other, giving it the same effect as ocean bathing. Arrangements are made whereby the water is changed every thirty minutes, going through a purifying apparatus where it is filtered and treated with a light solution of chloride of lime. It was well patronized during our stay there. Outdoors could be seen athletes play various exhibitions of the various forms of athletic games. The fountain of Fiery Waters was one of the great evening attractions. This puzzled us for a long time until we had an interview with the engineer who designed it, and he explained the workings. It started to play every evening at nine o'clock and continued playing for two hours; sometimes fifteen to twenty separate jets, sometimes all the jets merged into one. Every year the water was shown, and at intervals the jet would reach a height of 150 ft. It is difficult for us to describe it, and you will have to imagine the effect of these jets of various colors—blue, white, gold, red, yellow, etc.—in playing into the air and dropping back into the fountain. It is said to be the finest thing of its kind ever shown. Our stay at Dusseldorf was made pleasant by the courtesy of the advertising officials, Madame Witt and P. A. Rouen, who took us around and showed us everything of interest in connection with their marvelous Exhibition.

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preserved. The Belgians, like the French, are all hard at work, there being no unemployment, but the wages are low and living conditions difficult. Their King Albert is very greatly admired by the people. He has been a real leader to them. They are making desperate efforts to get their finances into condition, and with their industry and desire to work, will no doubt shortly do so. Back to London and its very charming atmosphere after a rough crossing of the channel. A few days in London were spent in seeing the sights of the historic Capital. We also spent an evening at the Horse Show at Olympia. The International Jumping competition were on that evening, and there were spectators from nearly all parts of Europe and America; Canada was not represented. The event was won by an English lady, with a perfect score. The Olympia is a wonderful sight and the interior attracted our immediate attention. It was decorated in beautiful colors and with thousands of flowers of worth of flowers all very charmingly arranged. Horses, riders and drivers turned out magnificently, and the fashionable ladies were there in profusion to see the opening night. As our week was also on during our stay, and the fashionable public were vying with each other in getting ready for it. We understand that the display of former years at the famous race course.

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Again there are the Cycling Clubs, thousands and thousands of them. These and the walkers are not bothered as in America, by countless motor cars passing along rapidly over the roads and covering them with dust. So far the distribution of motor cars is not great and it will be many years before the average individual will be in a position to own one. This has its compensations, as we have seen, in a healthy people who depend on their own vitality for locomotion. Their clubs are everywhere, and they enter into games with the same avidity as men. Great strides have been made in athletics and English Rugby is growing in popularity at a tremendous rate. There is a new fact about getting taned, and as much of the body as can be decently, is exposed. Everywhere one sees girls and boys as brown as Indians. The theory is that the sun is a health-giver and that it's rays have a vitalizing effect on the body. Clothing is worn very light by these physical culture enthusiasts. Taking it all in all, we will back the Germans for physical fitness if they keep up their present program for a couple of generations. The Germans are getting quite sincere and studious in their search for health and efficiency, and there is quite a movement on for prohibition, and a campaign of education is going on at present with the idea of holding a referendum in the near future. Placards are posted all over the effect of alcohol, and urging prohibition. We do not look to see the plebiscite successful, as the habit of beer drinking is too strong in Germany at present to be easily eradicated.

The Depreciated Mark

You will wonder at our reference to want of money in Germany, but that is constantly stressed everywhere. The cost of living is high and the amount of money in circulation does not appear to be very great. It is expected that the currency was constantly diluted by the circulation of new marks until it would take one hundred million marks, pre-war value, two hundred and fifty million to buy a loaf of bread. We never knew from day to day the value of the mark. Employers had to print their own money, and the present stabilization and the issuing of the Renten Mark, the value of which is approximately twenty-five cents. Unless one had gold or silver in their possession or had money of a foreign sign country, one was as nearly penniless as regards money and making a new start so far as money was concerned. The fact that you had a great lot of property did not help; unless your property was productive of wealth you were worse off. The change in the currency, however, had the effect of clearing off all external and internal loans, as these were paid off with the depreciated marks. In a few years' time Germany will have recovered and will have a great advantage because she will not have a foreign debt, except her reparations. These are payable under the Dawes plan, which requires five hundred million dollars annually from the German people to pay the Allies. Germans claim their taxes are high; they are not high in England, but with this difference—that in England there is plenty of money coming in from trade and outside investments, which are enormous, while in Germany outside investments have been largely sequestered and her foreign trade is not at all flourishing. From what we saw and heard we cannot see that at present, at least, Germany is a manufacturing menace to England or America. Articles priced in Germany seem as high, if not higher, than in America or England, and some of the things we saw were not finished or as desirable. There is, however, to be considered the wonderful patience and industry of the average German, his freedom from strikes, his capacity to work long hours, and to exist on small pay cards away. Frederick had this constructed so that there would be no smell of cooked food in the Palace. It probably cost a mere trifle—say, two hundred thousand dollars to indulge this fancy.

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