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THE GREAT WAR

PROFESSOR HENDERSON'S LECTURES

SECOND OF EXTENSION SERIES

AID FOR THE BELGIAN FUND.

There was a crowded audience in the Adelaide Town Hall last night to hear the second lecture of the University extension series, delivered by Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A. (Oxon.), on the "Great European War," now in operation. The proceeds of the lectures, which are being given in three series, are to be devoted to the Belgian Relief Fund.

Lady Galway was present, and Sir Samuel Way and Mr. Frederic Chapple, C.M.G., occupied seats on either side of her ladyship.

Germany's Place in the Sun.

Professor Henderson opened his subject by saying that at one time he thought that Germany deserved her place in the sun; he was not so sure of it now. The people of Great Britain and France had been united as nations for over 700 years. Germany was only a newcomer in the ranks of nations, and she had only been united for 50 years. It should be clearly understood that Bismarck, the great Chancellor and builder of German unity, did not desire oceanic expansion for his people, nor did he desire a navy. Germany had paid great attention to hygienic and educational matters, but, taking the greater things she had not succeeded. In Togoland, for instance, she had as many schools as there were white people. Every fifth man in a German colony was either a soldier or a policeman. Either they civilised the natives out of existence or they annihilated them. The greatest reason for considering that Germany was not successful in founding colonies was because Germans would sooner settle in the United States or in British colonies than go to the German settlements overseas. In recent years she had become the dominant influence in Turkey, and maybe, too, she had been working towards Egypt and India. When Turkey was beaten so badly in the Balkan war Germans saw that there was very little hope of expansion in that direction, and she then turned her attention elsewhere. What was left to her? Nothing but conquest. To win by the sword what she could not gain by diplomacy or bluff. In 1909 the Liberal Government of Great Britain found that by 1914 Germany would be stronger in capital ships than would the British Empire. It opened the eyes of the Government of England. What was all this for? Was it that Germany feared invasion? What chance would Britain have of invading Germany with 250,000 soldiers against the German army of 5,250,000 men? The German fleet was undoubtedly intended for aggression, and aggression, too, against England, as well as to strip France of her colonies, as proved by the correspondence of Sir Edward Grey and the British Ambassador in Berlin. The fleet was ultimately intended to be turned against the British navy.

German Teachings.

Trautschke taught that Germany was a progressive power and that Britain was a decadent power. German scholars were teaching their people to get ready to seize the colonies of the decaying Britons. The struggles of the twentieth century were undoubtedly for supremacy of either the British Empire and her ideals or the German militarism. By now the Kaiser and deluded people must have realised that the Briton is not so decadent after all. (Applause.) Bernhardt's mind had been actuated by the Imperial prepossessions of the Middle Ages. He had looked with contempt

on the British colonies because for instance, there was not a regiment of soldiers at Port Adelaide to dominate the colonists. Bernhardt taught that with war Britain would be hard put to it to keep the natives in India in check. What was the fact? When the war broke out the 700 Indian native rulers and princes offered their services and the whole resources of their States to fight the German. How deluded the enemy had been all through. He did not need to recapitulate all that Australia was doing to back up the mother country. In the British Empire spontaneous help was coming from all its constituent parts. They could have their roses, their chrysanthemums, or their carnations, but they would all prosper because of the freedom open to all.

No Room for Germans.

As a late comer among the nations, Germany had found considerable difficulty in acquiring territory, as nearly all of the available habitable parts of the earth are already occupied by the other nations, namely, France, Holland, Italy, Portugal, and especially Great Britain. Although there was plenty of unsettled country in South America it was all occupied in some way by independent nations, and the Monroe Doctrine had barred the way since 1823 to any attempt "on the part of any European Power to control the form of government or the political destinies of the republics of the American continent." There were two Imperial schools in Germany, the one advocating the traditional eastern and south-eastern expansion, and the other a new policy of expansion beyond the seas. The German Empire beyond the seas was in Africa and the Pacific. It was now fast being retaken by the forces of the British Empire. These oversea German settlements were the result of Bismarck's diplomatic acquisitions, and the Kaiser's diplomacy of the "mailed fist." On the whole, the German settlements were a failure except at Kaio-chau, which was now in the hands of the Japanese.

German Imperialism.

The German expansion in conformity with eastern traditional policy was along the Baltic and in Poland and Silesia. The Kaiser's "mailed fist" policy was given expression in Constantinople, Asia Minor, and Bagdad, but the difficulty of expansion in that direction was chiefly because of the strength of Russia and the Pan-Slavish movement. The only way then left for the Germans to establish world dominion was by conquest. German public opinion was prepared for wars of conquest by the teachings in the schools and universities, and by the books of influential authors. The policy of conquest involved the necessity of creating a great navy, and the year 1898 was marked as that of the foundation of the German high seas navy. Its development had been truly remarkable, as in 15 years the enormous sum of £300,000,000 had been expended in order to reach its strength in 1915. That navy was intended for aggressive purposes, as was proved by the British White Paper, and there were sound reasons for believing that it was intended ultimately as a challenge to Great Britain. This policy of aggression was proved, too, by the teaching in Germany concerning the alleged decadence of the British people, by Germany's naval activity in 1900 during the Boer war, by Germany's reply to British overtures and suggestion for relaxation in naval armaments, and for naval holidays, and, further, by Germany's rivalry with Great Britain—which was the great bar to the realisation of German Imperial ambitions. A struggle between Germany and Great Britain was assumed in the teaching of the notorious pair, Treitschke and Bernhardt. They reckoned without the wonderful single-mindedness of the Britishers the whole world over.

Solidarity of the British Empire.

Germany made extraordinary miscalculations in this war; her failure to appreciate the point of view of other nations, and her utter failure to appreciate the true temper of the peoples belonging to the British Empire, had been remarkable. General Bernhardt's forecasts were concerning probable eventualities in case of Britain being involved in war. In India

his forecast was for a revolution and a holy war, and now it was completely falsified by the splendid and universal loyalty of the Indian peoples; the early dispatch of expeditionary forces, the generous enthusiasm of the native princes, help from Beluchistan, Chitral, Kashmir, Tibet, and even the Waziris. Bernhardt's forecasts in regard to the self-governing dominions, and German anticipations and forecasts were answered by a remarkable display of loyalty to Great Britain by assistance rendered by Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. And South Africa, despite the difficulty that had arisen, afforded the best evidence of the strength, solidarity, and wisdom of British Imperialism. No Empire in history had ever been so united as the British Empire in this war. The falsifica-

tion of Treitschke's and Bernhardt's forecasts could hardly have been more complete.

Studies in Contrasts.

British and German Imperialism differed widely in quality and aim. One was based upon freedom, the other upon force; the one included nationality (as in the self-governing dominions); the other suppressed it (as in Poland and Lorraine); the one sought to Germanise the world; the other encouraged the expansion of distinctive national or racial characteristics. In the one public opinion made the Government in the respective countries, in the other the government made public opinion; the one was essentially democratic in character, the other military and autocratic; the one wins its way by the superiority of its political institutions, the other must conquer by the sword and maintain its authority by armed force; the one encouraged the growth of enterprise and initiative, the other weakened them and substituted machine-like activity. German Imperialism as compared with British was crude, reactionary, and domineering. It might succeed with primitive races (though Togoland was the only German colony that had paid its way), but to civilised races it was highly objectionable, and to people who had been accustomed to responsible as well as representative government it was utterly abhorrent. The only chance for the success of German Imperialism in the self-governing dominions was for Germany to get complete command of the sea, send out her soldiers to conquer and disarm the people, and rule them by means of strong garrisons of Imperial troops. The lecturer was sure that Britishers preferred a system under which they could call their souls their own. The watchword of the British Empire was not dominion—but liberty.

Bonds Strong as Iron Bands.

Concluding, the lecturer said that German authorities described the British as a decadent people, only because Germans did not realise that in times of peace "the bonds of Empire are light as air, but in times of crisis the bonds are strong as iron bands."

This ended the second lecture. The learned professor was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, carried by acclamation.

The third lecture will be delivered on Tuesday, April 27, in the Town Hall.