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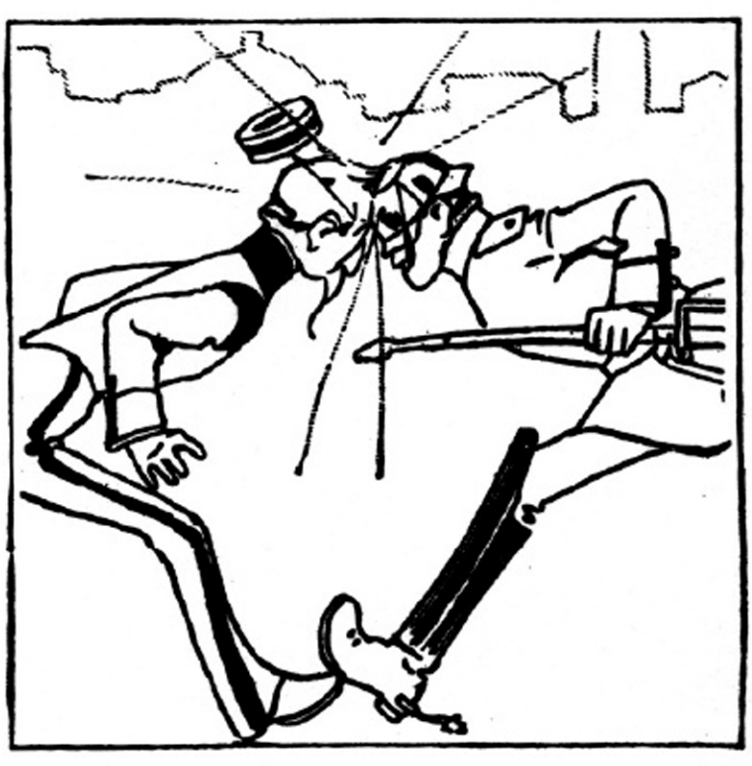
THE GERMAN VIEW OF "THE NEXT WAR"

A VERY INFLUENTIAL military writer of Germany declares that Germany must win her place as a world power through warfare. This is General Bernhardi, who in his new volume on "*Deutschland und der Naechste Krieg*" ("Germany and the Next War") practically throws down the gauntlet to Europe, and to England in particular. Never has the policy of Berlin been proclaimed so clearly and so fearlessly. The General's book gives a candid expression of the view that his country must fight its way to predominance regardless of the rights and interests of other people. This accepted authority on current strategical and tactical problems describes the peace movement as simply "poisonous." In one chapter he discusses

THE PROGRESS OF PEACE.
—*Pasquino* (Turin).

"The Right to Make War." A chapter follows on "The Duty to Make War." The peace propaganda of foreign Powers he denounces as sheer hypocrisy. He even advocates aggression no means exhausted by the mere repelling of hostile attacks. It includes the need of securing to the whole people which the State represents the possibility of existence and development," which he interprets as meaning "the right of conquest." "Might is right," he thinks, and this can be decided only by war. "Wars which were deliberately undertaken with statesmanlike intent were always productive of the happiest results," he believes. A country may initiate a war for its own "highest purposes," in which case it may employ means which are unjustifiable in an individual. On this point we read:



ENGLAND AND GERMANY ARE GETTING TOGETHER.
—*Fischietto* (Turin).

"It has, however, to be considered that the relations between two States must often be regarded as a suppressed state of war which for the moment is being carried on only in peaceful competition. Such a state of things justifies the use of peaceful means—cunning and deception—just as war itself does, because in such a case both parties are prepared for the use of such means. On the whole I believe that a conflict between personal and political morality can be avoided by clever and prudent diplomatic behavior, if one is perfectly clear about the goal which one desires to reach and always remembers that the means which one employs must ultimately correspond with the moral character of this goal."

Coming down to the specific enemies that Germany must be prepared to attack, the General remarks:

"We must always keep in view the possibility of war with England, and take our political and military measures accordingly without regard for any peace manifestations of politicians, publicists, and Utopians. . . . . .

"In one way or another we have got to settle with France, if we desire to obtain elbow-room for our world policy. That is the first and most unconditional requirement of a healthy German policy, and, as French hostility can not be disposed of once and for all by peaceful means, it must be done by force of arms. France must be so completely overthrown that she can never again get in our way."

This writer proceeds to discuss in the clearest and most matter-of-fact way "the coming naval war with England." He states his position as follows:

"The conception of our naval duty points directly to the fact that it is the English Navy which must give the measure of the extent of our armaments for naval war. War with England is probably the war which we shall first have to fight out. The possibility of victoriously repelling an English attack must therefore guide our war preparations, and, if the English continue to increase their Navy, we can not avoid following them even beyond the limits of our existing Navy Law."

Lord Esher, who is considered in England one of the highest authorities on military matters, speaks in the London *Times* with something like horror of the German general's gospel of blood and iron, saying:

"It is hardly conceivable that after 2,000 years of Christian teaching, and in the midst of a people from whom have sprung some of the loftiest thinkers and some of the greatest scientific benefactors of the human race, such opinions should find expression. They emanate, too, from a soldier hitherto held in the highest respect by all who have studied war as an odious possibility, and not as an end desirable in itself. No one could have supposed that such ideas so crude and juvenile could have survived the awakening processes of recent times."