

GERMAN PATERNALISM

With Efficient Local Administration as a Substitute.

Hildesheim, June 18. One of the overstrained phrases used by foreigners in Germany is "paternal government." The consular officers are in the habit of repeating it whenever they are questioned about the high degree of administrative efficiency prevailing in densely populated centres or the economical results of social reforms. When I asked one of these philosophers how it happened that cities like Essen and Dortmund in the Westphalian coal belt, were spotlessly clean and free from smudge, the answer was short and decisive: "They have to be so when there is paternal government." There were, he added, ceaseless processes of inspection and enforced regulation; walks had to be swept and gutters flushed every morning; house fronts were constantly washed and gardens improved; and the owners or occupants of property were required to keep their premises presentable for the benefit of the town. Essen, with its scores of tall chimneys with coal breath, and Dortmund as the centre of the coal mining might naturally be expected to rival Leeds, Preston or Newcastle in sooty dinginess and grime; but they are bright and attractive towns, with fine promenades and spacious parks and with an aspect of cleanliness, comfort and good taste in the poorest sections. If the foreigners are to be believed these are the necessary results of paternalism. Evidently this is not an old-fashioned virtue dependent upon the historical sense. Hildesheim lies outside the coal and iron belt, and has few factories, yet quaint and picturesque as it was with its Romanesque churches, its medieval squares and its Gothic guild halls with antique carving, it is mainly conspicuous for its ill-kept streets and neglected houses. The glamour of antiquity is a fatal heritage for the town. When houses are rebuilt the old styles are imitated as at Nuremberg, and persistent resistance is offered to modern progress, as in the old days, when sculptors and woodcarvers were contemptuous of new ideas in architecture and decoration. Hildesheim has not remained stationary either in population or in enterprise since the German states were united under the leadership of Prussia; but its progress has been retarded by the conservatism of its merchants and householders, who have clung tenaciously to the timber architecture and the artistic traditions of a bygone age. Hildesheim has revealed in oriel and sash window panes, in cobwebs and dirt, while Hannover has doubled or tripled its population since Bielefeld has become a progressive industrial town, with social reforms ingeniously devised and carried out in a noble spirit of altruism. Government in so historic a show place as Hildesheim is not paternal so much as grandfatherly. In place of a single ancient church carefully restored, as at Essen or Dortmund or Bielefeld, the town is filled with medieval relics more or less patched up and regarded so as to preserve the semblance of antiquity. The town is in its dotage and is kept alive on its memories. Since smudge and grime are supposed to deepen the coloring of Romanesque architecture and late Gothic dwellings with antique carving and quaint inscriptions, the alleys and streets are not swept nor their pavements repaired. Hildesheim offers a striking contrast to the cities surrounding it in Westphalia and Hanover, which have been transformed in the course of a single generation and are pulsating with mercantile energies. There is no bustling traffic in the streets; the town is not encircled with factories and populous suburbs; there are neither handsome residences nor model homes for working people, and except electric tram lines, a single shaded promenade and one or two new monuments, there are few signs of the spirit of modernism among the picturesque treasure trove for sentimental sightseers. If one fails to find evidences of paternalism in a town that trades on its antiquity, he may be equally uncertain whether it is the life current of the brisker and more modern industrial towns in Northern Germany. If paternalism implies official indulgence toward idlers and thriftless workers, abject dependence of the lower classes upon the state and systematic encouragement of the idea that something can be had for nothing, there is little of it in these flourishing towns. What is to be found ordinarily in a Prussian city is local administration so efficient and so orderly that everybody is forced to work and to keep his house in order. Beggars are not allowed to infest the streets; chronic vagrants are arrested and sent to workhouses as a detail of criminal administration, and workmen are left to work out their own salvation under an enlightened system of social reforms grounded upon self-help and the wage earner's efficiency and thrift. What is substituted for paternalism in Germany is system. The workman is not treated as a child, but as a cog or wire in the mechanism of state, and the employer, as to corresponding wheel fitting in with him, and together they work out economic results and social reforms, under incessant and watchful supervision of state officials. What impresses the stranger from England most deeply in a German town is the absence of poverty. The working sections are as densely packed as the finest residential districts, the streets are as clean and as well paved, and the tenement houses are in good repair and as wholesome as any sanitary science can make them. The housing question is perhaps the most difficult social reform in the empire, owing to the rapid increase of population in industrial towns and the prevalence of large families. It is hardly possible for building associations and municipal authorities to provide new houses as rapidly as they are required, but it is practicable to compel owners of old properties to improve them and to render them sanitary. House inspections are constant, and the poorest tenement houses are not allowed to degenerate into squalid slums. This is one of the effects of efficient local administration. Another is the clearance of beggars and tramps from the public highways. In English cities, and especially in London, poverty hangs on to the fringe of wealth, and mumbles for bread or a night's lodging. I have been in four German cities since I left London and have not seen either a beggar or a vagrant. This is not a particularly prosperous time in the fatherland, since trade is not so good as it was, and there are many complaints of lack of employment; yet there are no signs of poverty and distress. The obligation to work is enforced in the German states. It is a punishable offence to refuse employment when one is receiving public relief. Workhouses are not comfortable places for idlers and paupers, but places of correction, where the inmates are forced to earn their living. Naturally, the lower classes find it pleasanter to work outside than inside institutions conducted in so drastic a way. The workhouses in Germany are not more than half filled, and the costs of pauperism, instead of increasing as in England, are steadily declining. All these results indicate a rational method of dealing with men and women as moral agents under obligation to support themselves and not deserving assistance if they neglect opportunities for employment. Paternalism seems an inadequate explanation of the effects of an improved and efficient system of local administration for the general welfare of the towns with their swarms of industrious workers. Efficiency and organization should have their full due. Paternalism certainly is not fostering a spirit of dependence of the masses upon the state. The German workman does not labor under the delusion that the government, national or local,

owes him a living. As a wage earner he accepts the moral responsibility and dignity of labor. He does not claim food and shelter, employment or higher wages as a natural, human right when he does not make an honest effort to earn a living. He does not clamor for a home as a free gift, or for sick pay, or a pension without contributing regularly to the insurance funds and earning relief by thrift and prudence with the co-operation of his employers. Self-help is his source of inspiration and System is the social god whom he worships and obeys. I. N. F.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

THE NOISE OF STREET CARS. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: "L. N. H." is right, and the noise which our railroad lines make in the cities is intolerable. I can speak from an understanding of both sides. I have been president of a city railroad and know that street railways are the butt of every fault-finder. I am also a semi-invalid, and live on a car line, and have been compelled to move to the rear of the car on account of insomnia, induced by the terrible clatter, constant and repeated, in increasing violence, each time worse than the last. It so happens that I could move back eighty feet on my floor, but there are apartment houses in Central Park West where those who want the park view must get it with the noise or take a rear apartment with no view. If the nuisance is unbearable with no houses to throw the sound back from the other side, what must it be in narrow streets built up on both sides? A remedy must be found, or we shall long for the discarded and long abused horse car. I do not know that "L. N. H." can remedy the trouble with oil, but something must be found or the suburbs will get all the rest of our population who can get away. New York is destined to be deserted by its very rich or very poor, but even they have rights, and this is one of them. Let some inventor find the remedy before we all go mad. New York, June 28, 1908. R. H. G.

OLDEST ENGLISH SURNAME.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: What is the oldest English surname? It is generally understood that few English surnames can be traced beyond the time of William the Conqueror, who, with his associates, brought many French names into England. A very few Anglo-Saxon names can be traced beyond the fifth century. But there is one name that can be traced much further, and that name is Morgan. In the fifth century a Welshman by the name of Morgan gained an unenviable notoriety as a robber and highwayman, and was known as Pelagianus. His name of Morgan, which means Seaborn, he translated in the Latin form Pelagius. Morgans have been plentiful in Wales ever since. And one Welsh county is named from them, Glamorganshire. The name is, so to speak, embalmed in the Thirty-nine Articles of the Episcopal Church. The ninth of those articles reads thus: "The eighth sixth standeth not in the following of Adam, as the Pelagians (that is, the Morgans) do vainly talk." Morgan is therefore the oldest English surname. CHARLES E. PHELPS. New Brunswick, N. J., June 26, 1908.

BLUE ANCHOR SOCIETY.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The Blue Anchor Society, having a branch office at Fourth avenue and 12th street, New York City, has been managed for over twenty-five years by a body of women, has no salary list, depends entirely upon voluntary gifts, and gives all its receipts to aid persons, passengers or sailors of every nation who may be shipwrecked on the United States coast. Our government maintains life-saving stations and pays the men employed, but gives no further aid to the shipwrecked person. People are often brought ashore to these stations from stranded vessels in storms without clothing or personal effects, and the life-saving stations actually have no money or supplies to aid them except when this society collects clothing, blankets and restoratives and forwards them to the stations. The most transatlantic steamers it is the custom to have volunteer entertainments with the aid and contributions of the passengers, and the rule is always to give one-half of the proceeds to the Seaman's Orphanage, at Liverpool, the other half being given to the various charities chosen by the directors of the steamship companies. I claim this other half should be given over to the Blue Anchor Society for this all important reason, viz: that all other charities at New York connected with the sea are limited in their range of benefit, and as a rule reach the sailors only; but this society is entirely of an international character, and gives its aid to passengers, sailors and everybody shipwrecked on our coast. As the passengers are chiefly Americans who contribute liberally to the entertainments, it is suggested that they have this society in mind, and that they will, if so disposed, pass resolutions appealing to the directors of the companies, who alone control the disposition of the large sums of money collected, to place the American one-half portion generally, if not entirely, with the Blue Anchor Society. ALBERT CRANE. New York, June 24, 1908.

AN ENGAGEMENT.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.) Richmond, Va., June 28. Major William Woods Forsythe, of the 6th Cavalry, U. S. A., and Mrs. Forsythe, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary, to Lieutenant Edward R. W. McCabe. The marriage will take place on December 1, at Jolo, Island of Jolo, Philippine Islands, where the 6th Cavalry is now stationed. Lieutenant McCabe is a son of Captain and Mrs. W. Gordon McCabe of this city. The news of his engagement reached Richmond this morning in a letter from the young officer to his mother.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS AT THE HOTELS.

ST. REGIS—Charles H. Hamlin, Minneapolis. HOTEL ASTOR—N. E. Erwin, U. S. N. BREKIDG—R. Scott McCormack, Philadelphia. HOTEL MONTELEONE—W. D. Duke, Richmond.

THE WEATHER REPORT.

Official Record and Forecast.—Washington, June 28.—From reports received daily by telegraph from various places throughout the Northern Hemisphere, it appears that there are no indications of a prolonged period of excessive heat in any part of the continent. The seasonal average in the eastern districts and below normal from the Mississippi Valley to the Rocky Mountains. The western cooler area will advance to the Atlantic coast by the middle of the week, attended by local rains in the middle and northern states from the Mississippi Valley to the Atlantic seaboard. During the latter half of the week moderate temperature will be experienced in the central valleys, lake region and Atlantic states. The weather over the districts where rain has fallen and much warmer over the northern districts west of the Rocky Mountains. There will be showers on Monday and Tuesday, and a heavy shower on Wednesday. The lower lake region, extending by night into the middle of the week, attended by local rains in the plains states, East Colorado, the Missouri and upper Mississippi valley. The weather over the middle Atlantic states was generally clear. It is somewhat warmer from the interior of the Gulf states northward. The weather over the northern districts west of the Rocky Mountains. There will be showers on Monday and Tuesday, and a heavy shower on Wednesday. The lower lake region, extending by night into the middle of the week, attended by local rains in the plains states, East Colorado, the Missouri and upper Mississippi valley. The weather over the middle Atlantic states was generally clear. It is somewhat warmer from the interior of the Gulf states northward. The weather over the northern districts west of the Rocky Mountains. There will be showers on Monday and Tuesday, and a heavy shower on Wednesday. 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