

EUROPEAN EYES INTENT ON AMERICA

In more serious vein, a Frenchman, who has seen much of the United States, Stephane Lauzanne, editor of the *Paris Matin*, writes in *La Revue Mondiale* of Americans with a sense of humor and of admiration. The Americans, he tells us, have their national vanity, and yet they are the first to laugh at it.

On the other hand, Mr. Lauzanne continues, America is ignorant and especially ignorant of Europe. But she knows she is ignorant of Europe. In fact she knows it too well, he claims, and this knowledge almost cost Europe very dear, because in the hesitation and the neutrality at the beginning of the war the American idea always was: "Let us not get mixed up in matters of which we know nothing." Young America looked upon the remote and complicated machinery of old Europe in veritable terror, he tells us, fearing to touch it even with its little finger, because that "would be to risk the hand being caught in the machine, and with the hand the arm, and with the arm the shoulder, and with the shoulder the whole body." Yet if America has all her faults, and more still, she has also her admirable qualities, and Mr. Lauzanne adds:

"It is these very qualities that we should like to see implanted and developed in our country. First of all, America sees far ahead and sees on a grand scale. When the city of New York decided to have a subway, it did not say to itself: 'Let us excavate for one tube, later we can add to it and enlarge the stations.' No, New York immediately built a four-track subway—two tracks for expresses and two for locals—with stations having four or six exits, with trains of never less than eight cars.

"Again when America entered the war, it did not say: 'Let us get a few regiments together, give some money to our allies, and send some bushels of wheat to various ports.' No, America visioned the matter on a big scale. Men were recruited by millions, and the money to be sent to the Allies was calculated in billions. The wheat for Europe was grouped in hundreds of millions of bushels. The material necessary for the construction of sixteen great camps of military instruction was gathered in millions of cubic yards. If America had not seen the problem on this grand scale, would the war have been ended so quickly?"

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