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THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE WAR CLOUD  
IN EUROPE

**A** CALM, temperate, and illuminating review of Anglo-German relations since the Franco-Prussian war, with some significant references to the possible influence of the United States in bringing into better relationship the two European nations of Teutonic blood, is contributed to *McClure's Magazine* for June, by Dr. Theodor Schiemann, Professor of History at the University of Berlin, confidential friend of the German Kaiser, and beyond a doubt the most farseeing and well-informed representative of modern German imperialism. Repeating the common German impression that England has "put down every strong naval power that has arisen," Professor Schiemann enumerates what he characterizes as the unjustified British animosity toward his own country. The life history of the German Empire, he tells us, demonstrates the necessity for Germany's military and naval expansion. This, however, should not in any way incur the enmity of England. Nor should competition in commerce be regarded as sufficient justification for the anti-German feeling in England. The Germans are England's best customers on the Continent, and England's merchant fleet far exceeds Germany's. The Professor proceeds:

This pre-eminence England maintains; although, as the population of Great Britain amounts to 41,000,000, while Germany's is 62,000,000, the share that falls to each individual Englishman is of greater value than the corresponding share to each German. Germany, which has 21,000,000 more persons to support, and must produce correspondingly more, bears, in addition, the burden of a policy of social insurance that no state in the world can match. England, on the other hand, lives on the interest of the vast wealth that she has inherited, and possesses the richest gold-fields on earth; in fact, she participates in every profit that the opening up of the world offers to civilized nations. It is difficult to understand how, under such conditions, she can desecry an injury in the growing prosperity of other nations.

The only other reason worth considering for the enmity, says the Professor, is the fact that Germany has strengthened her navy. This navy, he reminds us, was originally designed to oppose the possible combination of the Russian and French fleets. Then he repeats the well-known utterances of the anti-German English press—the *Saturday Review*, the *Spectator*, the *National Review*, the *Times*, the *Army and Navy Gazette*, and the famous utterance of

Mr. Arthur Hamilton Lee of a few years ago. The Professor admits that it is only human that in "repulsing this menace" many a word should have been uttered and printed on the part of Germany that might better have been unsaid. But Germany has pursued her own course, and strengthened her navy without any great excitement. Even the recent constitutional crisis in England has not stirred her.

The Liberal victory in England, however, brought out a good deal of anti-German feeling.

It evoked on the part of the Unionists the emphasised repetition of all the arguments that have served for the last thirteen years to provoke the public opinion of England against us. But this time it was the English themselves who undertook Germany's defence. Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Lloyd-George, have presented, with the greatest emphasis, proof that the "German Peril" is nothing more than a phantom. Now that the Liberal coalition has carried off the victory with this proof, the great moment has, perhaps, arrived, not only for concluding an honorable peace, but for realizing the ideal thought that looks toward a close understanding between the three great Germanic nations, England, America, and Germany.

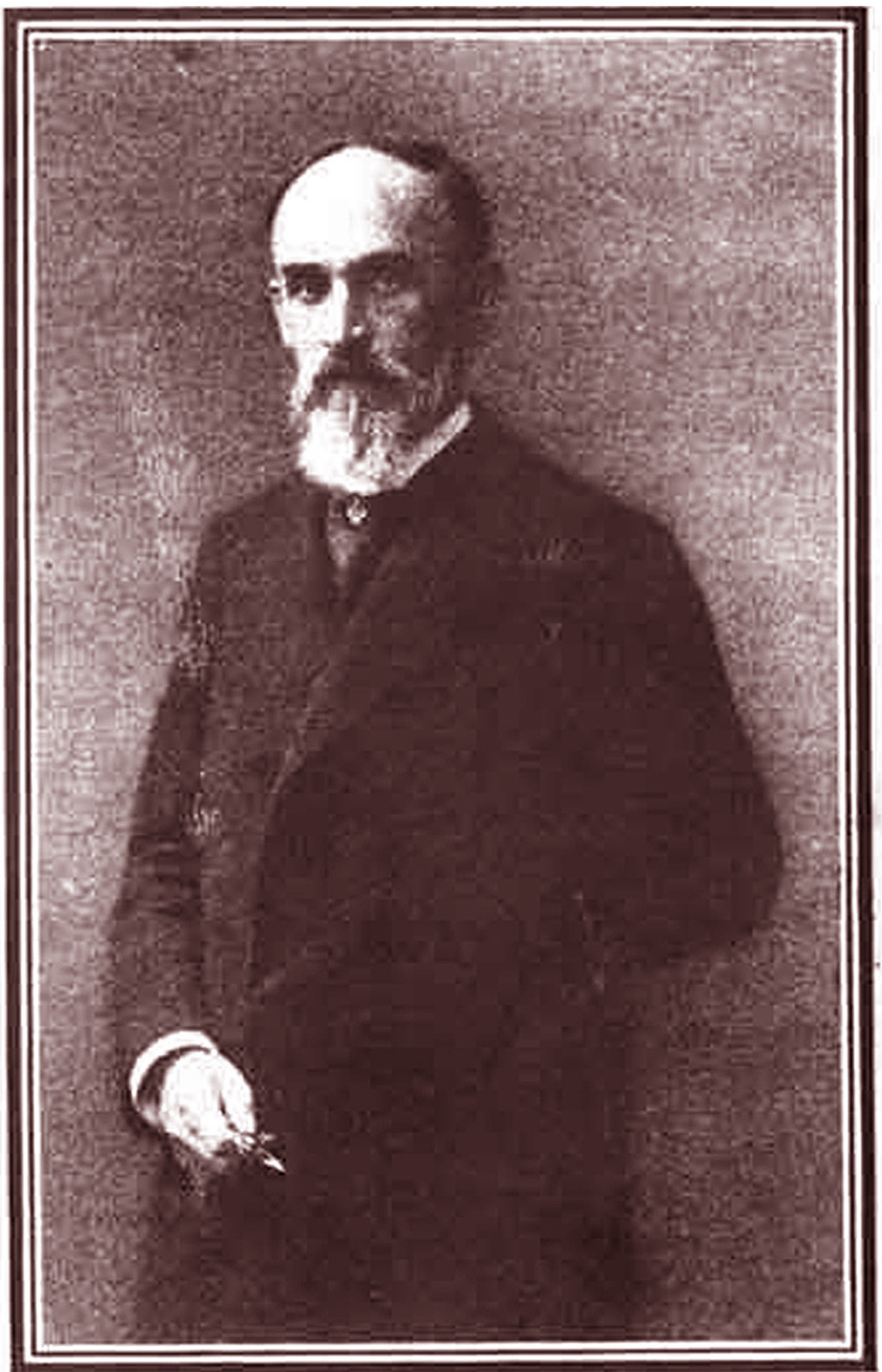
The terrible possibilities of an Anglo-German war the Professor sets forth in these sentences:

A German-English war would be a calamity for the whole world, England included; for it may be regarded as a foregone conclusion that simultaneously with such an event every element in Asia and Africa that is hostile to the English would rise up as unbidden allies of Germany. The great connections of the world commerce would be rent asunder, incalculable values would be destroyed, and every nation in the world would share in these losses. And all this for the sake of a phantom! The claim that one nation must be the sovereign Mistress of the Seas can no longer be defended. The motto of the future runs: "The sea is free, free as the air, whose highways are equally not to be harred." Equally indefensible is the pretension of one nation to forbid another to decide for itself how strongly it must be armed in order to assure its peace. The control exercised by our Parliament offers a guaranty against foolish excesses.

And finally, in concluding his article, this German writer makes an interesting reference to the influence of the United States of America for world peace. He says:

We are far more vividly conscious of what binds us to England than of what separates us from her, and we are at all times ready to grasp the hand that is stretched out to us. It will be a happy day when this understanding takes place, but it is possible only on the ground of friendship with equal rights. I venture no suggestions as to the *how*. Perhaps the United States of North America, where German and English blood have been united in so happy a combination, will feel inclined to play a prominent and perhaps a decisive part in this matter. If America, Germany, and England were to stand in unenvious friendship toward one another, the most difficult problem of the future would be solved in the most advantageous manner.

The editor adds that Professor Schiemann's suggestion that the three great Teutonic nations combine for the world's peace may be accepted as the dream of imperial Germany.



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