The Literary Digest
November 1, 1919
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THE WATCHFUL WAITING OF YOUNG MR HOHENZOLLERN

Friederich Wilhelm Hohenzollern, whose present address is Niew Oosterland, Isle of Wieringen, Holland, is no longer Crown Prince and heir apparent to the imperial throne of Germany,but he is still fine newspaper "copy." Sometimes a correspondent wanders out to the place where he lives and talks things over with him. Not infrequently, however, if one may judge by the conflicting stories that appear from time to time, the writer doesn't take that much trouble to verify his statements, but works "inspirationally," to borrow a favorite term of certain seers. Thus within recent months, we have been regaled with tales of Friederich W.'s going into the pottery business; of his pulling certain stunts at Wieringen, entirely unbecoming a gentleman and an ex-Crown Prince, thereby greatly shocking the good people of that placid island; of his escape from exile to lead a monarchist movement in Germany. But none of these things are so, according to T. Walter Williams, who informs us in an article in the New York "Times" Magazine that he has recently visited Wieringen and had a talk with young Hohenzollern. We learn that the latter still lives in the little house assigned him by the Dutch government and whiles away the time smoking cigarettes, riding a motorcycle, sketching on the beach and wondering when the signing of the Peace Treaty will be finished, at which time, so he confided to Mr. Williams, he will return to Germany to look after his estates. According to the correspondent:

"When I met him the ex-crown Prince was standing with his motor cycle at the tiny pier of the valley of Houkes, where the motor post boat lands passengers, mails and freight three times daily from Ewijcksluis, on the mainland of North Holland, a place which is reached by train and steam tram from Amsterdam, via Zaandam. He was waiting to meet a friend who he said was a Major in the army and had been on his father's staff during the war. The Dutch Government permits the exile of Wieringen to have some of his men friends stop a few days with him occasionally. If I had not known him by sight I should easily have identified him, as the Dutch fisherman who were leaning against the wooden railings of the pier waved their long pipes toward him lazily and ejaculated, with a grin on their expansive features, 'de Prince. The islanders address him as 'Zijne Hoogheid,' (Your Highness,) and not as Mynheer Hohenzollern, as has been reported.

"At the moment he was surrounded by forty or more happy, ruddy-cheeked, sturdy Dutch boys and girls, wearing their quaint flat cloth or lace caps and big white painted wooden shoes. All were much interested in his motor cycle and his big brown leather jacket and military cap with huge goggles. 'I am fond of children, the ex-Crown Prince said to me, as he patted a blue-eyed, fair-haired little girl on the head, 'and I think they like me, too. The people on this island are all very kind, he continued,'and I have my liberty to ride anywhere I please, which is much preferable to being shut up in a castle like my father is at Amerongen. I have only left the island once since my arrival last November, and that was to meet my mother at Amersfort. That meeting was, of course, arranged for by the Dutch officials at The Hague, and an automobile was sent to meet me at Ewijcksluis when I landed from the post boat in the morning. Apparently the newspaper correspondents were not aware of the arrangement, because they sent out frantic reports that I had escaped from the Island of Wieringen and was on my way to head the military party in Germany with the object of seizing the the throne.

"' It was a good joke and caused quite a lot of fun at The Hague among the diplomats at the various Embassies and Legations until they discovered that I was back again in my house at Oosterland.'"

The contrast between the former mode of life of the ex-Crown Prince and the way he lives now, is emphasized in the description of his house at Wieringen. Mr. Williams says it is very small, containing only four rooms. It is further described:

"There is a dining room and a parlor on the ground floor and two bedrooms above. One bedroom, when I was there, was occupied by the ex-Crown Prince and the other one by the two German officers who are keeping him company on the little island in the Zuyder Zee. The rooms are plainly furnished in Dutch Oak and the walls have been decorated with sketches drawn by the ex-royal tenant. There is no bathroom in the house, and the kitchen where the German chef presides, assisted by Dutch servants, is situated in a small wooden house built in the front garden.

"The house itself was rented from the pastor of the village church for the use of the exile, and some plate and linen and glassware was added to the slender stock which was sufficient for the needs of the dominie. The German valets and the major domo, a tall resolute man who was a Sergeant Major in the Prussian Guards and speaks as if he was in the regiment still, also have a room in the little square, brown painted outhouse."

Mr. Williams describes Wieringen as a place where the farmers "are so prosperous that they go to their fields in automobiles and their hired men travel comfortably on bicycles." He says further than when he went there it was a "mass of roses, poppies, lilies and tulips, with fields of waving, wheat, rye, barley and oats. Thrushes, linnets, blackbirds and skylarks were singing in the woods and fields." This pleasing picture is in violent contrast with the ex-Crown Prince's account of the winter. He said:

"The Winter months from November to May are simply too awful for words. The cold nearly killed me and I have still to keep fires in my rooms on account of the north wind,which blows cold at night. Then the fogs, the rain, and the snow, with the ice jammed up on the strip of the Zuyder Zee, which cuts off Wieringen from the mainland, make conditions so wretched that I thought I should die. It was literally impossible to keep warm. The nights, too, were long and I missed the society of cultured people. I am fond, too, of the opera and good music and scientific lectures on interesting subjects -- all lacking in Wieringen."

The former Crown Prince did not seem reluctant to discuss not only his plans for the future but also the matter of the proposed trial of some of the members of the Hohenzollern family for being responsible for the war. For himself he apparently had no fear that he would not be permitted to return to Germany, and in regard to his father he stated that the latter would remain in Holland for some years. Further, according to the interviewer:

"It is absurd," the former junior German war lord continued, "for the Allies to accuse my father of being responsible for starting the war and of bringing him to trial for the things that have happened during the period it lasted, from August, 1914. He would never submit to such an indignity, I am certain, and would sooner kill himself first. One has always one's honor, you know."

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