

years' law, was proposing to increase her army by 50 per cent. at a stroke; Russia was turning the flank, pushing on through the Balkans subtly and surely.

And the Kaiser answered, "I am the servant of God; I stand for peace. The Crown Prince is for war; I banish him from the Court. When I am dead let him be master; but while I live I am for peace. And let him that draws the sword perish by the sword!"

And the Triple Entente gathered closer and chuckled: Aha! he dare not fight. Let us frighten the garotte!

So Serbia plots and executes the crime of Sarajevo. Austria, its aged Emperor smitten yet again and most foully, demands imperatively the disclosure of the accomplices of the assassins. Serbia replies in terms of evasion, evasion impudently cynical. Austria stirs. Russia—and there is no pretence possible, the murder of the Archduke was either instigated by Pan-Slavism or was a threat equally to the Tsar as to any other ruler—replies by mobilizing. Before Austria has moved a man or a gun, Russia mobilizes.

And what was the position of the German Emperor? His bankers had told him that Germany could no longer endure the weight of her armor; the incident of Zabern had shown the Junkers that they could still control the Social Democrats, but that another year or two would see the end of their power. He must strike now or never.

He looked about him. The weakness of the British Government and its supposed preoccupation with the Ulster folly and the suffragettes encouraged him to hope.

He saw France, mere rottenness, its bandages torn off by the pistol-shot of Mme. Caillaux.

All things conspired; he would make one final effort for peace by threatening Russia.

And then he suddenly knew that it was no good. Nothing was

any good; nothing would ever be any good again. Sir Edward Grey spoke for peace, spoke of neutrality, in the House of Commons at a moment when thousands of British troops were already in Belgian waters, and the fleet, concentrated and ready for action, already held the North Sea.

France withdrew her troops from the frontier "so as to avoid any possibility of incidents which might be mistaken for aggression," while her Algerian and Senegambian troops were on the water, half-way to Marseilles.

He knew that this time there was no hope of peace. Abdication itself would hardly have saved Germany from a long-prepared, carefully-planned war, a war whose avowed object, an object in the mouth of every man in the street, was the destruction of Austria, the dismemberment of Germany. They had got him. Even a worm will turn; even a Quaker will fight if he is cornered.

Wilhelm struck.

I write in English for those English who count, and this is the proper way to view the matter. Germany is a rich prize. We can capture German trade, German manufactures, German shipping, German colonies. We can exact an indemnity sufficient to cripple Germany for a dozen generations. We can split Germany into six kingdoms or republics, and weaken her beyond repair forever. We can double-cross Russia by insisting on the creation of a new Poland. We can destroy the German fleet, and economize on dreadnoughts. We can force our proletariat to accept conscription and stave off the social revolution. We can drown the Irish question in Lethe; we can fight a general election on the war, and keep the present gang of politicians in office.

And, best of all! we can achieve all this in the name of Honor, and the Sanctity of Treaties, and the Cause of the Democracies, and we can ask the blessing of God upon our arms in the name of Liberty, and Civilization, and Prosperity, and Progress.

THE GREATEST SECRET OF GERMAN PROGRESS

By Frank Koester, Consulting Engineer

Author of "Modern City Planning and Maintenance," "Hydroelectric Developments and Engineering," "The Price of Inefficiency," Etc.

(In the last issue of THE FATHERLAND Mr. Frank Koester described the efficiency of the German, laying particular stress upon this unique trait of the Teuton and pointing out how this virtue has forced the German Empire into the front rank of nations. In the sixth article of his series, dealing with the development and rise of the German people, and which we herewith publish, Mr. Koester continues his study of German efficiency. In the next number Mr. Koester will discuss the responsibilities of the press.)

THE members of the Bundesrat and Reichstag serve without pay. The bodies are co-ordinate branches, but the unique feature of the German government is in the Bundesrat, for the Reichstag does not differ materially from the lower house of other republics. It is elected by districts and the voters must be 25 years of age, but no property qualification is demanded. Bankrupts, incompetents, paupers and those who have forfeited their civil rights are not permitted to vote, and as a precaution against what we term in America "militarism" soldiers in Germany cannot vote during the period of their active service. Thus German officers in service have no votes and they have no power and but little influence outside of the army.

The Great Secret of German Progress

The great secret of German progress is to be found in the powers of the Bundesrat, in which are united the executive, the legislative and the judicial functions.

This is in absolute contradistinction to the American system, and it may seem surprising to an American that a republic can be conducted under such a form of government, the American conception being based upon the distinct division of these functions. The president is the executive, the congress the legislative, and the Supreme Court the head of the judiciary in the United States. It is called a government of checks and balances and this division of functions was particularly devised and elaborated to protect the citizen from official usurpation.

While this result has been attained it has been attained at

the cost of division of responsibility, intolerable delays in legislation, long periods of unsettled interpretation of the laws before they are finally passed upon by the Supreme Court and the gradual accretion of the power of the president until he is now the most powerful ruler in any country, with the exception of perhaps the Czar.

How the United States Could Increase Its Efficiency

An American Bundesrat or council of the nation, would consist of the Supreme Court enlarged to 58 members by the inclusion of the most brilliant and gifted of men in all callings throughout the country. It would unite in itself the functions of the Senate, the President and the Supreme Court, and would be limited by the lower house on the one hand and have its policy carried out through the instrumentality of a Secretary of State, on the other, who would have all the cabinet members under him as head clerks and whose policy would always have to conform to that of the Bundesrat and lower house. There would be no President, as we now know the office, but a commander-in-chief of the army and navy with certain appointive and formal routine functions.

The reason why such a form of government is so vastly superior to the American system of divided functions is that the body which makes the laws puts them into execution and passes upon them judicially.