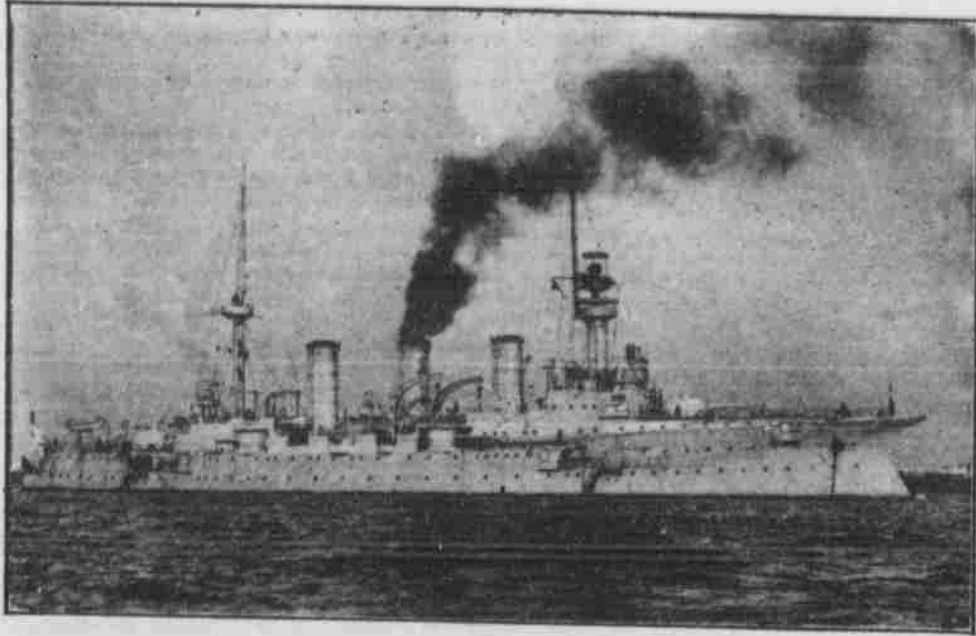
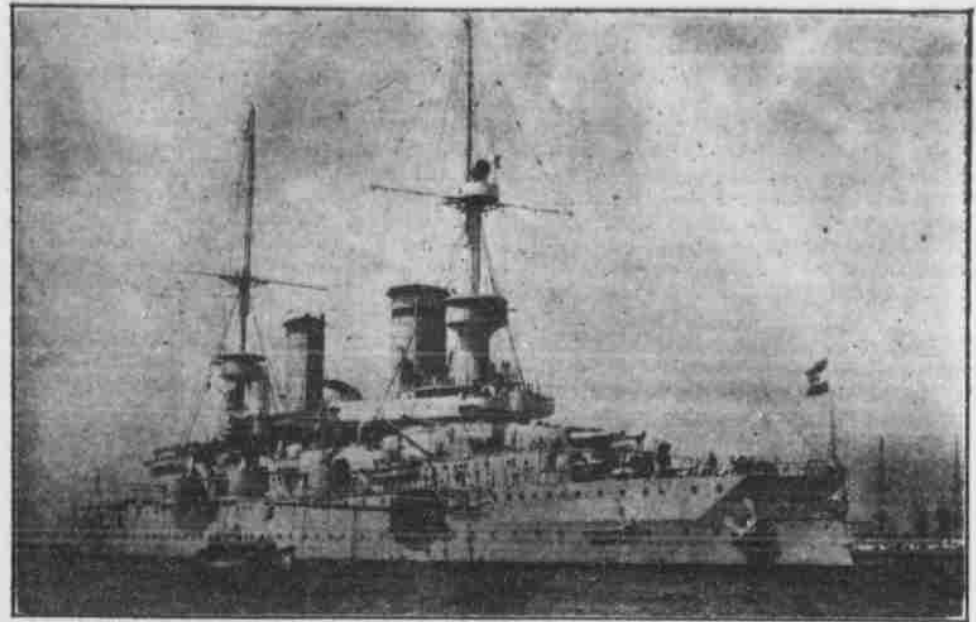


Germany's Stupendous Preparations for War



VICTORIA LOUISE, ONE OF THE BEAUTIES OF THE GERMAN NAVY.



KAISER FREDERICK III—OVER 11,000 TONS, 13,000 HORSEPOWER AND 18 KNOTS AN HOUR.

(Copyright, 1903, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

KIEL, May 20.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Are the Germans preparing for war with the United States? I think not. They are jealous of our commercial supremacy and in response to the agrarians have enacted a tariff which may affect our trade. They would like to overthrow the Monroe doctrine and develop South America, but they have no idea of attempting anything that might bring on an American war. Indeed, they realize for the first time, something of our resources and power. They know they are dependent upon us for food; they know also that we are among their best customers, and they claim to be the friendliest of our friends on the European continent.

As for war preparations, however, they are always going on in the German empire. The kaiser is surrounded by nations who would fight him at any time if they thought they could win, and he believes that the best way to prevent war is to be ready for it. Today the army and navy are trained as though war might be declared tomorrow and all sorts of defenses are steadily improved.

One gets a good idea of what is being done by a look at the naval establishment at Kiel. The Krupp have a big shipbuilding yard here which works almost night and day on the new gunboats the Reichstag has ordered. Other naval vessels are being built at Stettin and Danzig, and tens of millions of dollars are being thus spent every year.

Indeed, the Germans are planning to obtain the greatest navy of the world. They want England's place upon the ocean, and are willing to spend money for many years to gain it. About five years ago the government decided to build three battleships a year for fourteen years, and in addition a large number of cruisers, torpedo boats and minor vessels. This scheme is being carried out, and at the same time the merchant marine is being increased at a dynamic rate. Other acts have since been passed, and in 1900 a scheme was undertaken which will give Germany within thirteen years thirty-four new battleships, eleven large and thirty-four small cruisers, with many torpedo boats and special service vessels. The vessels now in use are among the best afloat. A number of them range in size from 10,000 to 15,000 tons. They are protected by the finest of modern armor plate and equipped with armor-piercing guns of large caliber and an enormous number of quick-firing guns.

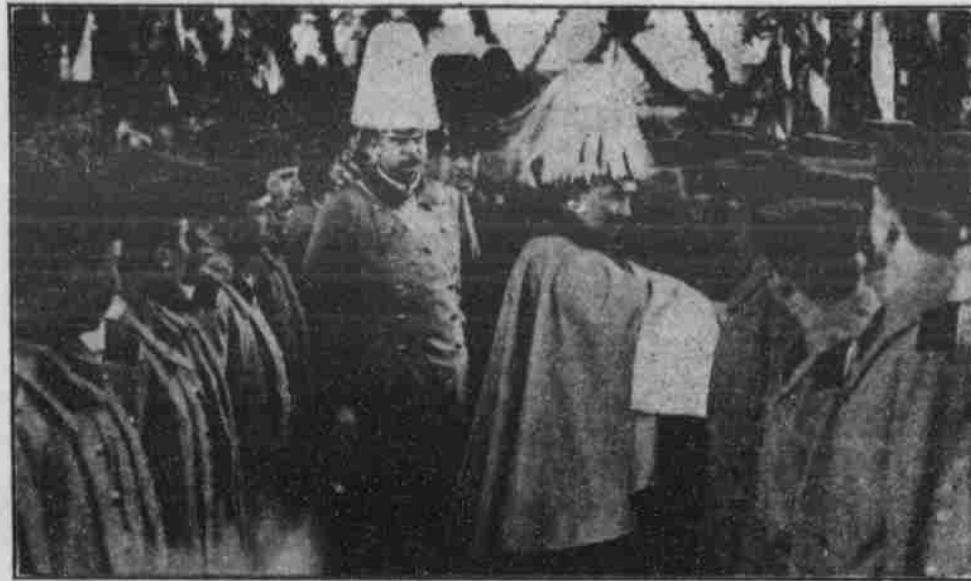
Kaiser Friedrich III, which I have seen in the harbor here at Kiel, has forty-nine four-inch guns, eighteen six-inch quick-firing guns and thirty-two smaller quick-firing guns. It is a magnificent vessel of over 11,000 tons displacement and 13,000 horse power. It can make eighteen knots an hour and is one of the most heavily armed ships afloat. Victoria Louise, which is also here, is much smaller, but it is a beauty.

The navy is now increasing at the rate of nine or ten vessels yearly, with an increased tonnage of about 75,000 a year. We have at present more vessels than Germany, but nearly all the German ships are of the most modern build, while some of ours are slow and out of date.

I find the German much interested in the navy. The people think their sailors superior to any others, and they have organized a naval society, with a membership of more than 800,000, devoted to stirring up sentiment in favor of naval improvements.

The personnel of the navy improves every year. It is increasing in numbers, and it now includes something like 30,000 men and boys. There are altogether about 1,500 officers, 1,300 boys and more than 27,000 petty officers and seamen. In other words, the Germans have on their war vessels more men than we had in our army prior to the Spanish-American war.

The Germans have good naval schools. There is one here at Kiel with several hun-



THE KAISER INSPECTING HIS SOLDIERS.

dred students. The boys are kept but a short time on shore and then put on training ships. There are a number of these ships, some here and some on other seas. A common way is to have the summers spent in the Baltic and the winters in the Mediterranean or the West Indies.

On these training vessels the boys are taught practical seamanship. They learn all about navigation, gunnery and naval warfare.

They manage the vessels themselves, under the eyes of their superiors, and carry on their studies on board. They are taught naval engineering, torpedo science, naval construction, mechanics, fortifications, tactics and learn how to fence, ride and swim. After a time they are taken on the vessels of the war fleet and upon graduation are well fitted to fill the positions in which they are placed. Kiel has a marine school and also a marine academy. The academy comes after the school, being something like ours at Annapolis.

The most important thing that the kaiser has done in connection with his naval defenses was the building of the great canal here at Kiel. I have gone out to see it and have photographed its entrances to the Baltic. The canal cost about \$40,000,000, but it is worth more than ten times that to Germany in the way of naval advantages. It has cut down the time from north Germany to the ocean almost two days, and has, in fact, made the Baltic for all practical purposes a German lake. This canal begins here and extends for sixty miles right across the peninsula to the mouth of the Elbe. In time of war it will be closed to outside nations, forming a highway for the German gunboats only. Today there is a large naval harbor just below it, which always has gunboats ready to sail back and forth for the protection of the empire.

The canal is a sea-level canal, with great locks at either end of it to control the tides. It is so wide that the largest gunboats can go through it, and there are six places where they can pass. It is thirty feet deep and seventy feet broad at the bottom. At present it is used largely for merchant vessels, 30,000 having passed in and out last year. The dues on these vessels annually pay more than 1 per cent on the cost of construction.

You have heard a great deal of the German soldier. He is the biggest man in Germany, and he is always present. His trumpet awakes you at daybreak, and you hear it also when the sun sets. You can't walk the streets without meeting him and stepping aside to let him pass. He has the best seats in the railroad trains, the best tables in the beer halls, and he is the most honored guest at every social entertainment. He appreciates his importance, and insists that it be respected.

Instances have occurred where he has enforced such respect, and that in the most

brutal manner. Take the case of Lieutenant von Brusewitz, who killed a man for jostling him in a beer hall at Karlsruhe. This lieutenant was sitting in his chair, drinking, when a poor plumber, possibly under the influence of liquor, in passing through knocked against him. The lieutenant at once demanded an apology. The plumber refused to give it, and the lieutenant thereupon drew his sword and tried to run the man through. The people in the hall interfered and the plumber ran. The lieutenant, however, grew more angry as he thought over the insult he had received. He followed the plumber, and, finding him alone and unable to get out on account of a locked door, stabbed him through the back and killed him. The offense created a great stir at the time, but the officer's conduct was practically excused by the government and the court-martial gave him but a short, mild imprisonment.

There are frequent altercations between the soldiers and citizens, and in most cases the citizen has but little chance against the soldier, the presumption being altogether in favor of the latter.

Indeed, it seems to me that everything here tends toward a military aristocracy. The kaiser encourages it and the people apparently do not object. Today the rich tradesmen, manufacturers and bankers of Germany are as anxious to have their daughters married to military officers as some of our millionaires are anxious that their daughters should mate with the broken-down dukes and earls of Europe. An officer of rank has no trouble in getting a wife, and it is the generally accepted fact that the wife should bring enough to support the husband. Penniless officers expect to marry rich girls. They realize their own market value and insist upon the price. According to law, an officer must marry money, if he has no money himself. Such money is put into funds which cannot deteriorate, and the increased income therefrom is supposed to maintain the family as becomes that of an officer and a gentleman. I do not know the exact sum required, but it is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

The average officer wants much more than this. His hope is a catch with a fortune of a hundred thousand dollars or more. He does not hesitate to ask his prospective father-in-law how much he expects to give, and in certain cases if the matter is not definitely stated the wedding is off.

I am told that the cost of the army is rapidly increasing. This is not so much in the amount paid by the government, but in the enormous sums which have to be contributed by the people to enable their sons to maintain themselves in good military style.

The German government, in fact, does not

spend as much on its war department, including pensions, as we do upon our War department and pension. In 1902 the total cost of the German army was about \$140,000,000 and its pension account about \$25,000,000, making a total of \$165,000,000. During the same year we spent in round numbers \$112,000,000 upon our War department and \$138,000,000 for pensions or in all \$250,000,000 more than the Germans.

The actual expense here, however, is equal to two or three times what the government pays. There are 600,000 private soldiers in Germany who receive from 6 to 12 cents a day outside their rations. The rations are poor, and they must have more to supplement them.

The result is that every family which has a son in the army supplies him with a weekly or monthly allowance as great as it can afford, and the total of these allowances amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars a year. I have seen it estimated at two hundred millions, but it is probably more. This sum includes the sons of officers, who must spend proportionately more than the private soldiers.

At the same time the standard of living among the military is more expensive from year to year. Germany is a much richer nation than it was a few years ago and all classes are living more extravagantly than in the past. The military class especially is spending much more. Many of the officers are club men and in the best clubs gambling is common. Indeed, it is said that some of the old families of Germany have been ruined by the play of their sons who belong to the army.

Germany has undoubtedly the best trained soldiers of Europe. The whole nation belongs to the army, and the country is a vast military camp. There are military clubs in every village, and a constant drilling goes on in every province. According to law every able-bodied man must spend seven years in the army. It is not possible to send a substitute, and this is so of rich and poor, of noble and peasant. There are some who get off on account of undersize or delicate physique and some because they are the sole bread winners of the family, but as a rule every German belongs to the army until he is 45 years of age and can be called out at almost any time.

There are over 300,000 new recruits each year, and the drilling which goes on everywhere makes it so that 3,000,000 soldiers can be called to the support of the kaiser at an hour's notice. In the reserve and Landwehr alone there are 3,000,000 men and more than 20,000 officers.

In other words, there are more officers than we had soldiers and officers in our regular army before our war with the Spaniards. There are about 4,000,000 men in the Ersatz reserve and the Landstrum, and these can be called out in case of the invasion of Germany.

The most of this enormous force is such that it can be worked as one machine. Everything is prepared to feed it and move it from place to place. The government has control of the railroads. It has its military lines, its secret telegraphs and its fortresses at every weak spot along its boundaries. The German frontier has a total length of 4,570 miles and it must guard it all. It has 843 miles to fortify against Russia, 242 miles against France, seventy miles against Belgium and 377 miles against Holland. It divides its frontier defenses into ten great fortress districts, each of which has its own organizations and troops. It has altogether seventeen fortified places which serve as camps and nineteen other fortresses. The fortresses are all connected by underground telegraphs and there are military railroads from the chief military centers to the frontier.

The government has 100,000 horses in the army, and it could double or treble this number in time of war. I have seen the cavalry at the maneuvers. The horses

(Continued on Page Sixteen.)