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Britain in the Web of the Pro-German Spider.

A Decade of Decadence.

By **SIR GEORGE MAKGILL, Bart.**,
Secretary British Empire Union, 346, Strand, W.C.

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whelming majority, upheld a national and patriotic policy. In 1911 the seeds of civil war in Ireland were sown, again with German assistance.

In 1911, when the Agadir crisis arose and war seemed imminent, a great railway and transport workers' strike was engineered in England. It is a significant fact that at nearly every great crisis between Germany and any other Power untimely labour troubles have suddenly arisen. When we recollect that Socialism was originally a German product, and that Stieber, the founder of the German secret service, was himself a Socialist agitator, we begin to understand why it is that Internationalism, Socialism, Syndicalism, and Pacificism, which have been preached throughout the world by Germans, have never gained any real hold in Germany itself.

THE MENACE OF 1911.

The crisis of 1911 lasted longer than was publicly known. Our own War Office expected war in March, 1912, and knew that Germany was likely to strike before 1916, when the Russian reorganisation would be complete. The Cabinet were not kept in the dark; but for party reasons they feared to tell the people. And in February of that year Lord Haldane undertook his mission to Potsdam, apparently with the forlorn hope of securing an Anglo-German agreement, which would supersede the Entente and secure European peace by placating Germany.

He was met, as we know now, with a demand for absolute neutrality; and England was offered peace as an appanage of Germany. At the same time he was frankly informed of Germany's sinister intentions. Yet the Cabinet not only made no preparation for war, but deceived the nation with assurances that Germany had no aggressive designs, and deliberately, and for party ends, proceeded with their perilous Irish programme.

Next month (March, 1912) Germany provided for increases of her army and navy. At the same critical time a great coal strike was engineered in England, and in April the Home Rule Bill was introduced. Throughout the year the pro-German element conducted a campaign against national service, sneered at all the warnings of Lord Roberts, and, knowing the facts, again and again assured the country that Germany had no thought of aggression. In the meantime the German strategic lines to the Belgian frontier were completed. "The Day" was drawing nigh.

"VANISHED BOGEY."

The year 1913 saw the situation in Ireland grow steadily more menacing. Germany raised a special war loan, the final payments being timed for July, 1914. At the embassies the situation was regarded as critical, but the Cabinet continued to assure the nation that our relations with Germany were improving. In December Sir John Brunner again urged a reduction of armaments, which was supported by Mr. Lloyd George in January, 1914.

On January 15 Lord Haldane, in face of all the facts, declared that there "was a far greater prospect of peace than ever there was before. No one wanted war." A disarmament meeting was organised at the Queen's Hall, with Sir Herbert Leon in the chair. The pro-German press announced that "the German bogey had vanished, and even the anti-German Press is silenced."

The policy of the pro-German party during nine years had been the policy of truckle. They had again and again proposed disarmament to Germany, and as often had been contemptuously rebuffed. Was ever a great empire so humiliated by its rulers? A Hungarian loan meanwhile was floated by Baron von Schröder, who about the same time assured the Kaiser of his abiding devotion, and who a few months later, after war broke out, was naturalised by our British Cabinet!

In March came the Army crisis over Ulster. German arms were at the same time being imported into Ireland. Meanwhile the Kiel Canal was finished and opened for Dreadnoughts, and Germany's final preparations were complete. A national demonstration organised by Germans in Petrograd hampered Russian preparations.

Then, as Bernhardi cynically had foretold in 1912, Servia was made the pretext for war. There was bloodshed in Dublin. Germany was certain of civil war in Ireland. The pro-German elements in England assured the Embassy that the Cabinet would not fight. The German financiers had so arranged accounts in the City as to leave Germany a heavy debtor. All was ready. The Day had come—and the hour.

Surely he who runs may read the lesson and see the parallel between the events of the decade ending July, 1870, and those of the decade ending August, 1914!

DAY OF RECKONING.

In both we find the web of the Pan-German spider spun about the destined victim. We see a pro-German party working preventing preparation for war, and preaching disarmament against the national interests; German intrigues stirring up domestic strife; a spineless Government truckling to the Prussian bully; Ministerial snobs cringing to an imperial spy; German agitators preaching revolution or pacificism; extravagant professions of German friendship until their preparations are complete, and then—the Day!

If we win through this war, and the Empire is saved, it will be by the courage and devotion of British fighting men, and despite our politicians. "Party before patriotism" has been their watchword. Let Britons bear in mind these things in the day of reckoning with the salaried traitor within the citadel, and with the certificated enemy within the gate.

(*"Daily Express,"* 9th Nov., 1915.)

JOIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE UNION

(with which is incorporated the Anti-German Union),

346, STRAND, W.C.,

Whose Motto is:

NO GERMAN INFLUENCE, NO GERMAN LABOUR,
NO GERMAN GOODS that compete with British,

but the

BRITISH EMPIRE FOR BRITISH SUBJECTS.

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Meanwhile the Great Plot went steadily forward. Strategic railways were being pushed towards the Belgian frontier, and vast sidings on the connecting lines were being built literally night and day. The widening of the Kiel Canal, too, was being pressed on. In 1909 Germany compelled Russia by an ultimatum to acquiesce in the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. In 1910 the German party assisted in overthrowing the British House of Lords, which, by an over-

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Britain in the Web of the Pro-German Spider.

A Decade of Decadence.

By **SIR GEORGE MAKGILL, Bart.**,
Secretary British Empire Union, 346, Strand, W.C.

For years Germany has been hatching a vast plot against Great Britain, and when I say against Great Britain rather than against Europe I have the authority of von Bernhardt himself. In 1912 he wrote, "Germany's further development as a world Power is possible only after a final settlement with England." That has been the ultimate goal of Pan-German ambition for a generation.

Fifty years ago Prussia began to plot the downfall of France. If we glance at the history of the decade ending 1870 we find that in 1860 the Prussian Parliament resolved to seize Schleswig-Holstein. Plans were carefully prepared while the Danish Government was assured of Prussian Friendship. In 1864 the bolt fell, and the coveted coastline was annexed. Holstein was given to Austria as her share of the spoil.

Palmerston pointed out at this time that at the bottom of Germany's design lay "the dream of a German fleet and the wish to get Kiel as a German seaport." Two years later (1866) Austria was beaten in seven weeks, and Holstein also was annexed by Prussia. In the same year the French Chamber rejected a scheme of national service!

PACIFICIST TREACHERY.

Meanwhile Bismarck, while professing the utmost friendship for France, prepared for war. King William, Moltke, and Bismarck, while the guests of Napoleon III., almost openly acted as spies. In 1867-8 the French pacifists prevented Napoleon from strengthening the Army on the plea that war can only be prevented by "moral force." There is something curiously familiar in the phrase! In 1870 the French pacifists suggested disarmament to Prussia, and reduced the Army by 10,000 men. A few months later Germany seized a pretext, invaded France, and between July and January had crushed her and annexed Alsace and Lorraine.

Let us now compare the tragic history of that decade with that of the last ten years. To hark back to 1900, just about the time when the new German naval programme (admittedly

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It is an open secret that the Free Trade Campaign of 1905-6 was financed to a large extent by money supplied from sources with a German or pro-German taint, if not indirectly from German secret service funds. "We shall never have war with Germany unless we have Tariff Reform," said a lawyer politician, then a Cabinet Minister. In politics the combination of the "Law and the Prophets" has proved full of peril to the nation.

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Fifty years ago Prussia began to plot the downfall of France. If we glance at the history of the decade ending 1870 we find that in 1860 the Prussian Parliament resolved to seize Schleswig-Holstein. Plans were carefully prepared while the Danish Government was assured of Prussian Friendship. In 1864 the bolt fell, and the coveted coastline was annexed. Holstein was given to Austria as her share of the spoil.

Palmerston pointed out at this time that at the bottom of Germany's design lay "the dream of a German fleet and the wish to get Kiel as a German seaport." Two years later (1866) Austria was beaten in seven weeks, and Holstein also was annexed by Prussia. In the same year the French Chamber rejected a scheme of national service!

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Meanwhile Bismarck, while professing the utmost friendship for France, prepared for war. King William, Moltke, and Bismarck, while the guests of Napoleon III., almost openly acted as spies. In 1867-8 the French pacifists prevented Napoleon from strengthening the Army on the plea that war can only be prevented by "moral force." There is something curiously familiar in the phrase! In 1870 the French pacifists suggested disarmament to Prussia, and reduced the Army by 10,000 men. A few months later Germany seized a pretext, invaded France, and between July and January had crushed her and annexed Alsace and Lorraine.

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It is an open secret that the Free Trade Campaign of 1905-6 was financed to a large extent by money supplied from sources with a German or pro-German taint, if not indirectly from German secret service funds. "We shall never have war with Germany unless we have Tariff Reform," said a lawyer politician, then a Cabinet Minister. In politics the combination of the "Law and the Prophets" has proved full of peril to the nation.

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Meanwhile the Great Plot went steadily forward. Strategic railways were being pushed towards the Belgian frontier, and vast sidings on the connecting lines were being built literally night and day. The widening of the Kiel Canal, too, was being pressed on. In 1909 Germany compelled Russia by an ultimatum to acquiesce in the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. In 1910 the German party assisted in overthrowing the British House of Lords, which, by an over-

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Britain in the Web of the Pro-German Spider.

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DAY OF RECKONING.

In both we find the web of the Pan-German spider spun about the destined victim. We see a pro-German party working preventing preparation for war, and preaching disarmament against the national interests; German intrigues stirring up domestic strife; a spineless Government truckling to the Prussian bully; Ministerial snobs cringing to an imperial spy; German agitators preaching revolution or pacificism; extravagant professions of German friendship until their preparations are complete, and then—the Day!

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(*"Daily Express," 9th Nov., 1915.*)

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(*"Daily Express," 9th Nov., 1915.*)

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(with which is incorporated the Anti-German Union),

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but the

BRITISH EMPIRE FOR BRITISH SUBJECTS.

BENHAM & COMPANY, LIMITED, Printers, 24, High Street, Colchester.

whelming majority, upheld a national and patriotic policy. In 1911 the seeds of civil war in Ireland were sown, again with German assistance.

In 1911, when the Agadir crisis arose and war seemed imminent, a great railway and transport workers' strike was engineered in England. It is a significant fact that at nearly every great crisis between Germany and any other Power untimely labour troubles have suddenly arisen. When we recollect that Socialism was originally a German product, and that Stieber, the founder of the German secret service, was himself a Socialist agitator, we begin to understand why it is that Internationalism, Socialism, Syndicalism, and Pacificism, which have been preached throughout the world by Germans, have never gained any real hold in Germany itself.

THE MENACE OF 1911.

The crisis of 1911 lasted longer than was publicly known. Our own War Office expected war in March, 1912, and knew that Germany was likely to strike before 1916, when the Russian reorganisation would be complete. The Cabinet were not kept in the dark; but for party reasons they feared to tell the people. And in February of that year Lord Haldane undertook his mission to Potsdam, apparently with the forlorn hope of securing an Anglo-German agreement, which would supersede the Entente and secure European peace by placating Germany.

He was met, as we know now, with a demand for absolute neutrality; and England was offered peace as an appanage of Germany. At the same time he was frankly informed of Germany's sinister intentions. Yet the Cabinet not only made no preparation for war, but deceived the nation with assurances that Germany had no aggressive designs, and deliberately, and for party ends, proceeded with their perilous Irish programme.

Next month (March, 1912) Germany provided for increases of her army and navy. At the same critical time a great coal strike was engineered in England, and in April the Home Rule Bill was introduced. Throughout the year the pro-German element conducted a campaign against national service, sneered at all the warnings of Lord Roberts, and, knowing the facts, again and again assured the country that Germany had no thought of aggression. In the meantime the German strategic lines to the Belgian frontier were completed. "The Day" was drawing nigh.

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