

TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN
THE "BERLINER BOERSEN COURIER OF JULY 2, 1933."

How Berlin Diplomats Understand Their Mission.
AMBASSADORS TO THE GERMAN SPIRIT.

Introduction

"Ambassadors to the German Spirit" was the title we gave to the series of articles which a short time ago appeared in these columns and in which based on numerous interviews had with leading personalities of the Diplomatic Corps accredited in Berlin we investigated the question how these ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary and the members of the consular corps look upon their "mission" unofficially that is to say aside from their regular activities and how they realize this mission. We continue this series with the following interview.

The American Consul General says:

" ONE SHOULD KNOW GERMANY ENTIRELY ! "

A pleasantly smiling Negro opens the door leading to a large room projecting into the street, through the open window of which one looks upon the front of the Esplanade Hotel. The Consul General of the United States at Berlin, Mr. Meessersmith, who is at the same time Consul General of the United States for the entire territory of the Reich greets the visitor from behind his desk. A typical American ? According to the customary definition he could be called one; and if one desires to characterize him according to the usual conception of the type of a leading American citizen, novellistic expressions like a "sharp cut face" and "smart" ought not to be missing

missing. The inclination of judging only according to outward appearance and applying the usual terminology disappears however with the first words, which prove to the visitor that the master of the house has with honest and thorough endeavor entered deeply into the problem "Germany and America" and that by energetically extending his knowledge of the country he has arrived at very interesting results. The fact that the differences between the consular and diplomatic emissaries are in the Foreign Service of the United States smaller than anywhere else make the activity of Mr. Messersmith in Germany specially important.

It has been the sincere aim of the Consul General to extend, if possible, the good relations between his mother country and the country of which he is guest, to all provinces of public life. In order to realize this aim the Consul General analyzed thoroughly and exactly the practical and psychological standpoint which the American takes towards the German scene.

"In America knowledge about foreign countries, interest in them and even personal relations with them are not as in other countries the prerogative and the custom only among a small upper-class. The American citizen, the American farmer, and above all the American workman invest innumerable small and smallest amounts not only in stocks and bonds of their own country but also in those of a great number of other countries and their industries. That an average American living in St. Louis, Chicago, or Oklahoma owns German IG. Chemical Stock is
nothing

nothing exceptional. The general public in America is therefore interested in the countries where its capital is working, above all it is interested in Germany, and was interested already before the war, to a much greater extent than is actually warranted by the number of its inhabitants or its area in square kilometers. Germany has always been in all sections of America a favored object of criticism, sympathy and antipathy.

From this basis of intense interest which America has in Germany, the Consul General proceeded, when upon being sent to us, he surveyed the field of his activity. With the aim of completely comprehending all things that are German he widely extended the field of his tasks. "I could stay in Berlin and have the other Consul Generals and Consuls send me reports from Breslau, Frankfort, Hamburg. That would be sufficient in the sense of my official instructions. But my private initiative induced me to do more than that: to become acquainted with Germany in all its parts and in all fields. I therefore go myself to Cologne or Stuttgart or any other part of Germany which to me appears characteristic of a part of Germany. I do not confine myself to official receptions and interviews with persons coming to me officially but by keeping in touch with those circles that move about everywhere, that are interested in everything and who are themselves interesting. I seek to inform myself about the entire complexity of the German forms of living and of the German contents of life.

As Mr. Messersmith has been studying Germany in the

above

above described manner for quite some time he has succeeded in getting a complete knowledge of Germany very quickly. His work in and for Germany has been especially valuable as it has been especially comprehensive and especially thorough.

Looking from his own country to our own and comparing the totality of one nation with that of the other with deliberation and with the broad horizon typical of the American who loves large fields of action and thought the first Consul General of the United States in Germany and Berlin is at work. The Consul General is an adequate proof of the fact that also from the technical and commercial side it is possible to approach the German Spirit.

EMA/n1

