The PENT-UP GERMAN FLOOD

By CHARLES J. ROSEBAULT

The other day an Austrian artist came to see me. We had met in Vienna not long after the armistice. At that time he was slowly recovering from a severe pneumonia in a large hospital, and after four years of life in the trenches. Still a young man, his hair was gray, his color pallid, and his lungs affected, and recuperation discouragingly slow. A man of brains and ability, who had come up in the madness which had turned a naturally peaceable people into puppets of the crazy war lords, he had been thrown back, broken and ruined.

But it was a different individual who came back to me here. He was his former self, and his sentence was at an end. The story was soon told. By the grace of God his ancestry had been Czechoslovakian, and his family had the right to return to New York, where, even though we complain of the high cost of living, it is still possible for those who are willing to work.

"It is wonderful," he exclaimed, "to be able to buy a steak, fat, butter, as. I am all cured. So is my wife, who suffered even as I did. Our child has been reborn. She has blood in her veins; one can see that her eyes are blue." Then be became thoughtful and a melancholy expression stole into his eyes. "My heart aches for the thousands who cannot get away," he confided. "They are waiting, ready to escape at the first chance, but passports are not to be had for those of German blood. They are wild to get away—at any sacrifice—but it is impossible.

In Germany, even more than in Austria, this craze to emigrate has been exasperating. The German emigrants have not suffered as much as the Austrians, and are by nature more hopeful and more patient with resignation. In all classes there is evident a mighty urge to flee from the boredom pressing upon the losers of the war. Resistance is today the one beacon of hope for thousands of Germans, who are convinced that there is no longer life in Germany the possibility of a satisfactory livelihood. So says Dr. Jung, head of the Department of Emigration, adding mournfully that this is due to the "unfortunate outcome" of the war. Hence this overwork, this desire to escape from under the "hard fate of the victor."

The impulse to escape is so strong. So Dr. Jung goes on to say, that all hindrances and hardships are disregarded. Anything to get away, to get the Fatherland behind them.

The value of the mark, making what once would have been regarded as a fortune a beggarly sum in most of the mining areas.

None of the men or women of means at the—the lack of facilities, due to restricted means of transportation, the peril of venturing into the war zone, and especially the fear of their reception into the known state of hostility to Germans exist-

Nothing counts except an actual physical barrier. Perhaps it is well that this exists to such an extent that it appears to be Iceland. Here is a commentary for those who preached the superiority of the German. Nor is it the assertion of any Germanophile. My source of information is German.

In the statement by Dr. Jung from which I have quoted he says frankly that the task of restraining, guiding and advising those seized with the wanderer's itch has grown beyond the powers of the Department in association with that daily, and in fact, beyond the influence of the entire Government. Hence his policy proclaiming, in which he called upon the press and the public to aid in keeping the movement within bounds. So far as possible the Government

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bitterness abroad. Answering himself, he points out that the hatred of the Germans has not vanished and is continually being stimulated by Ger-
many's enemies. Beyond that, the de-
mand is for untrained factory workers and farm laborers, to which the Germans would not respond.
Then there is the opposition to the labor unions, the proposed restric-
tions on immigration, some of which are aimed particularly against Ger-
man and Russian, and the Amer-
icanism movement.

Dr. Otto Pfann, who is the Con-
gress representative of Spain in Munich, contributes letters from per-
sonal correspondents describing con-
ditions in South America. One of these letters, that in the Argentine, 
Brazil and Chile the attitude toward

Germany is at least neutral and pos-
sibly friendly. But intellectually, le-
tchers, governmental employees, 
commercial agents and the like have little prospect of success. The same is true of army officers, while en-

dineers, doctors, dentists, techni-

cians and chemists can hardly hope for anything better than to be-

silenced. The small farmer, who is ready to learn local condi-
tions, has reasonable chances of success.

Emphatic warning against propaganda or intervention in poli-
tics concludes with "Hitler's-

 התקועת ולשון וẄץ". The German had better leave his food, gruff, comment, know-it-all manner at home, for it is this that makes him so disliked in foreign parts. To speak frankly, it is this

which makes him unsympathetic and often eclipses his admittedly good points."

From another correspondent, writ-

ing from Brazil, comes advice even more 

unanimous. Let none come, he writes, who has not sufficient capa-

bility to protect himself—and 100,000 

marka is suggested as the minimum. Neither in Brazil nor in the Argen-
tis, will the empty-handed be ac-
cepted. The climate must be con-
nected—and there is a dark tale of 

enmity who went into theインタ

from which only few remained.

West Africa is closed, even if Ger-

many could stand the climate. China

is impossible except for the well-to-

do merchant and engineer. Skilled men

cannot be exported without the ap-

proval of Soviet Russia, which with

holds consent. Keitel's influence is 

mighty in the new States—Ernst 

Udow and those carved out of Tur-

key to the north—would be un-


perished and probably could not be 

reached. Switzerland is overshadowed by the Great Powers from the north. Northern Italy there is allowed to be a wall for Germany in the event of re-

building the city, as the native labor is expected to be back there. Tyrol which was taken from Austria is likewise a friendly station, but in

other countries it is

very different.

It is remarkable how many of the authorities who write public expres-
sions to their views seem to feel it their duty to grant to the Germans 

in order to mould their manners, to ease financing his superior Kultur, to do a 

becoming clank of modesty.

All who in any way approach the subject make it clear that the one country on which all Germans unite as the most desirable haven for the Germans is the United States, and there is undiluted chagrin and an-

noyance that the barriers should con-

inue to be held. All argu-

ments evidently unite to favor 
Russia as the goal of German colo-

ization. Nor will this particularly 

surprise the world. Here and in the

regions detached from Russia are 

rich fields for German exploitation, and it is really most annoying to the people of the Crimea and Ukraine, the Letts and Lytheans.

They should not realize that Germans would help them to solve their Indus-

trial, commercial and agricultural 

problems much more easily and thoroughly than can their present French and English friends. Also, the world is blind, and it is neces-

sary to wait with such patience as is not always understood for their return. Unfortunately, in the mean-

time the impatient measurers are attain-

ing at least some headway, and for a few years they may not break loose and 

become madly, no one knows whither.

"We have looked over the whole world, and now at last we may look 


someplace where there might still be room or the wish to take in those of our German brothers who wish to 

emigrate. The result is shown in the communications we have printed. What lands remain beyond those we have discussed? France or England or some other country that may be a soul in Germany possessed of the idea that fortune was to be found there rather than at home. Holland or Scandinavia? They are societies cut at a flood of their own 

children, who can no longer find a living at home. Switzerland is full of aliens. Spain? Here and there one of us would doubtless find a welcome, even though France pours into their ears her poisoned argu-

ments against us. "

Where are we now? Per-

haps in Africa? All the north is impossible for Germans, for every-

where are colonies of the English. Only in Spanish Morocco could it be possible for us to dig a foothold. In Togo and Cameroon is left to us. The 

south African Union, 60 per cent. of which is populated consists of white 

Boers, exhibits occasional friendliness 

and even a spirit of commerce and 

chance possessing large estates 

could get along there.

All the while metabolically lab,

concluding with the bitter assertion that the once the country would glide on—to the innate canals 

laborers, the gamblers and adventur-

erers—degenerate, become the 

main mag in their burrow; it is the trained middle classes, farmers, artisans, small manufacturers, me-

chanics—just those that Ger-

man backs for her reconstruction—

that she must see go from her, es-


dually set against all persuasion 

ment to hold them back. Of course, 

they cannot really go—for the pre-

vent—but with their minds made up 

they are of little use while they wait. The Fatherland represents the past— 

their eyes are fixed on the future.