

I appreciate your interest in the German situation, but doubt whether I am in a position to tell you anything which you do not already know. I have been on the water for over a week on this fine ship, which after a good deal of experience as a traveler I can say is one of the finest that has sailed the seas, and we can be proud that it carries our flag. There is always a lot of news in Germany and you know better than I what has transpired since I left. The American and English correspondents and the other foreign correspondents whom I have known in Berlin are a fine lot of men who realize their responsibilities and who in a very difficult period have, so far as I can tell, done a very good job. We in the Government service in Germany, in the Embassy and in the Consulate General in Berlin as well as in the other nine consular establishments in the country, have had a fairly busy time during the past year, and I personally have not been able to follow our newspapers at home as carefully as I should like to have done. But from what I have seen and from what I have heard, the important developments in Germany during the past year have been thoroughly covered.

I think it is very important that in these difficult times through which we are passing in every part of the world, public opinion in every country should be kept well informed about what is happening. We are living through a period of great changes and I am particularly glad that there is in my own country this interest in the happenings in Germany, for during my three years' service

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in that great country I have learned to realize more fully even than before the importance of this nation of 65 millions of inhabitants which has in the past contributed so much to culture and science.

A real revolution has taken place in the country which has affected every phase of ^{the} political, economic and social order, and far-reaching and undoubtedly some lasting changes have been made in the structure of the country. I think in order to understand the developments, we must appreciate that there has been a real revolution, and the Chancellor, Mr. Hitler, himself wisely declared several months ago that a state of revolution cannot be a permanent one and that the period of evolution had begun. It is probably still somewhat too early for anyone to prophesy or to foresee with definiteness the ultimate trends which the new political, social and economic order in Germany will assume.

My work carries me into practically every part of Germany from time to time where I have the opportunity for contact with people in practically every sphere of German life. I find among the German people what is probably as keen an interest in what is happening in the United States as we have in what is happening in Germany. I think this is very helpful in the end. In all this upheaval, our commercial interests in Germany which are of course very considerable, have been a good deal affected as was not unexpected in so highly nationalistic a revolution, but I believe that the great majority of

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German business men and well informed opinion realize that the interchange of goods and the protection of property are an inevitable feature of our modern economic life. That our trade with Germany as well as with many other countries will very much change in character, is I believe inevitable, and all reasonable persons in these difficult times when trade is hampered by natural and artificial restrictions and by new social and economic forces, must do everything they can to keep the avenues of communication open.

Of one thing I feel very sure, and that is that we should follow with the closest interest what is taking place among these 65 millions of Germans in the heart of Europe, for the ultimate situation which will prevail there will be as vital and significant for us and for the rest of the world, as the developments in our own country will be of deep significance for the next generations.