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“The ideal to which we must look in the coming century (twentieth) is the consolidating of the nations under world governments. The suggestion that Switzerland and the United States should be under one government is not so absurd as it looks.”—New York Independent, December 13, 1900, editorial.

Trade Does not Necessarily Follow the Flag—Home Government
Should Encourage Emigration

THE last four centuries have piled up for our benefit an accumulation of experience in the colonial field that should now be turned to good account. Portuguese, Spaniards, Dutch, French, and finally Imperial Germany, all have helped in the solution of problems which must for some time engage the serious attention of statesmen. England herself has committed in times past nearly all the follies which have destroyed other nations, but, fortunately for us, her people have known how to repair the blunders of government more rapidly than government could appreciate the mischief that was being done.

One by one, colonial doctrines based upon theological and political ignorance have given way to more liberal ones, until to-day, at least in the Anglo-Saxon world, colonies are not merely permitted but urged to exercise self-government to the greatest possible extent.

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The present condition of some nations, however—as for instance France and Germany, produces an official attitude toward colonies which we should carefully avoid, for it leads back to those errors which undermined the strength of Spain.

The Bismarckian school of statesmanship is strong in more countries than Germany. It is a dangerous school from which to graduate colonial administrators, for in it is taught the doctrine that physical force is the dominating factor in national development. Bismarck never moved without a sabre in one hand—even in the peaceful halls devoted to legislation; his idea of good government was the tidiness and monotony of the barrack-yard.

To-day we often hear the meaningless maxim that “trade follows the flag”—a maxim which has dazzled continental Europe and spurred Germany on to enormous pecuniary sacrifices for the purpose of planting her flag in far-away islands. But German trade has not followed the German flag in the past, nor does it to-day; on the contrary, it follows that of England and the United States, and will continue to follow them so long as the German merchant finds ours more profitable. German trade and German shipping were built up to splendid proportions before Germany had a single colony, and it is worth noting that the craze for colonies has arisen, not from the sober merchants of Bremen and Hamburg, but from military, official, and high-school circles with scant practical knowledge. The great steamship lines from Germany to New York naturally rejoice in the prospect of heavy subsidies, no matter for what object; but no govern-

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ment subsidies can outweigh for a moment the solid advantages arising from free intercourse with ports like New York and Boston, the River Plate and Hong-Kong. The German Government can by a heavy subsidy produce a steamship line between Kiao Chow and Shanghai, but the German taxpayer must make up to the owners of that line what they lose by embarking in an enterprise devoid of legitimate freight returns. "Trade follows the flag" is one of those half truths calculated to do much mischief. It suggests the plausible idea that we buy our goods on sentimental and not on business principles. In real life we do no such thing. We do not buy our groceries from the shop nearest to us if there is one further off which gives us better value for our money. We do not cross the ocean in the ships of our own nationality if there are others who do the service as well and for less money. German ships leave New York loaded with American passengers and they return from Australia and Hong-Kong crowded with British. If trade followed the flag, passenger trade would be the first to prove it, but it does not. On the contrary, other things being equal, English and Americans show unmistakably that they patronize steamship lines with something of the impartiality with which they purchase wines or groceries.

Many of the most intelligent, industrious, and enterprising nations of Europe, that send forth a steady annual stream of emigrants, have no flag to follow—in the German sense—but are daily enriching themselves, the land in which they settle, and also the homes they have left. They look out upon the world

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through no eyes of prejudice; they select the scene of their activity with a single eye to their own personal requirements, and they prosper without the assistance of their home administration.

Norway grows daily stronger and richer; she has no colony worth mentioning, yet sends forth annually a strong percentage of her vigorous people to the United States, and elsewhere. Bismarckian politicians are capable of seeing and counting the men that leave a country, but they are not able to appreciate the indirect advantages which compensate for this temporary loss. The German official can understand why his fellow-subjects should slip away to another country, but he cannot appreciate the fact that such a one, wherever he may settle, whether in New York or in Australia, remains a German in blood and breeding, if not in political sympathies. German emigrants may hate German officialism and cheerfully renounce all political allegiance to the land of their birth, but nevertheless they and their children and their children's children will cherish a pride in the past history of their race; will cultivate good relations with those of their own nation, and when their turn comes to travel, their mind will turn instinctively to an ancestral home in the Fatherland.

Germany to-day reaps a rich harvest from the trade with America, thanks to colonists that have settled under the Stars and Stripes because they could not find what they wanted at home.

So long as official Germany permits German-Americans to return and enjoy themselves in the "Fatherland" without too much police inquisition, she will

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reap a steadily increasing harvest from this source, and little by little, even officials will appreciate the fact that emigrants to other colonies are not a dead loss to the mother country.

On the other hand, there is a great advantage to the white race in colonizing the world on a more cosmopolitan plan than merely by a colonial replica of the mother country. Europe, through centuries of warfare, religious intolerance, and political narrow-mindedness, has produced barriers between nations. The administrative organs of different European countries print perpetually statements calculated to create a false patriotism which delights in conceiving all other nations as bad.

Colonists do not know the narrow nationalism that rages in the home countries. The German, French, and English merchants of Hong-Kong, Cape Town, or New York smile at the bundle of lies which their home papers circulate. They know one another—and that is enough. In India the German merchant admires the magnanimity of the British, who, though conquerors of that Empire, have nevertheless treated the people with a measure of good government amazing in its extent and efficacy. Such a merchant cannot but be shocked when the Berlin press comments upon an Indian famine as an event brought about by British cruelty and misrule! The colonist that settles under his own flag and sees only those of his own way of thinking, gains something of breadth and political experience, but he who benefits most is one who emerges from the poisonous atmosphere of international recrimination and in the course of a few days' steaming emerges in

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a community where men of all nations are working shoulder to shoulder in the task of subduing nature—governing native races—carrying on commerce—developing the resources of the earth.

These are the people that profit most by the precious lessons of colonization, these are the ones that should be encouraged by the home government, these are the true missionaries, the men who smooth away race friction, who cast aside national spites, who pave the way for the millennium of Free Trade—good-will among nations.