

TRUST GERMANY?

Slowly but surely the gigantic tide of German aggression is being crushed. The once feared and hated superman is temporarily dropping his cloak of barbarism and attempting to assume a character which will work upon the mind of the civilized world to such an extent that sympathy will give place to justice.

One day in World War I, Mr Leopold Stokowski addressed a troubled letter to President Wilson. What made the conductor worry was German music. Concert organizations no longer permitted compositions of German masters to be put on their programs. Attempts that had been made had caused public riots. But what remains of music if Bach and Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, Wagner and Brahms, are eliminated? Mr. Stokowski appealed to President Wilson's authority as President and as a humanist, and asked him to condemn the boycott of German music. In a few days' time the President answered—evasively. Popular feeling was running high. He preferred not to oppose it.

This was in 1917. The purpose of this episode is merely to recall the fact that the average American was then even more ardently anti-German than his European allies. Little distinction was made between Germans in politics and in other spheres; between German rulers and German people; between militaristic Germany and the peace loving Germany. The average American bitterly resented everything that tasted German.

Then a sudden change came. It started during the war, Public opinion, within two years, moved from one unprecedented extreme to the opposite extreme. About 1920, not only were Bach's and Beethoven's immortal positions restored, but by then it was also clear that except for the Kaiser and his officials, everything had been all right in Germany. Dangerous Germany had been replaced by the peace loving Germany, a good, trustworthy nation. America had become Germany's strongest sponsor.

Where will public opinion veer at the end of World War II? Surely it is plain to all clear thinking men that

leniency to Germany after the first World War was inevitably the fertilizer which insured the growth of World War II.

It would seem almost impossible for any one man to offer a satisfactory solution to the question of German treatment at the completion of the present conflict. Allow me to quote from an editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer: "When the war is over the civilized nations of the world must not rest until they have devised means, however difficult it may be, to break down German arrogance, end German barbarism and for all time wipe out the menace of German militarism. It may take generations of surveillance and policing. But without such stern guardianship there can be no hope of a lasting peace."

— JAMES MORRIS, '46

WEALTH

My wordly wealth
Claims nothing new;
Just perfect health
And friendship true.

Of what good gold,
And jewels and slaves?
They serve no use
To men in graves.

Of what good gold,
With friendship gone?
They are poor men
Who live alone.

Yea, take my gold,
My useless wealth;
Just give me friends
And perfect health.

—JOHN ELDON GREEN, '47