

Address by

His Excellency, Dr BERNHARD DERNBURG
Former Secretary of State for the Colonies, Germany.

le Mr President and Gentlemen of ~~The~~ Economic Club: It is a great privilege indeed to be permitted to address so representative a gathering of economists and men of affairs. I, with your honorable president, regret very much indeed that Sir George Paish is not able to be present, because it takes from me the opportunity to express to him a tribute of his undoubted ability, of his great excellence in the work he is doing and has been doing, and of the eminent faculties that have put him upon the base he is occupying in England, and indeed all over the world. (Applause.)

You have paid me the compliment of inviting me to be a guest of honor, and I am glad to take that as a sign of respect and friendly feeling for a nation that I have, in a way, to represent here. I take it, furthermore, as an indication that you desire to put off any definite judgment as to the real responsibility for the present conflict, and that you will keep an open mind until all the facts are before you; (Applause.) and that, furthermore, in the discussion of all these questions you intend to be unbiased, to accord fair play to all, and to observe true neutrality such as the excellent head of this great nation has proclaimed.

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We of Germany have always been accustomed to look to the United States as an ally in the furtherance of the pacific aims, in the development of the peaceful progress of commerce and industry. It is hard to imagine two countries that are so complementing each other, that have so many natural ties in the way of economics, in the way of business. You ~~will--you~~ all know that Germany does not and never had any colonies that were able to produce even a very small percentage of the raw stuffs that my country, industrialized as she is, wants. So Germany has been, if not the best, one of the best customers of the United States in getting her necessities, in copper and oil, in cotton and other raw stuffs grown in the United States, and, aside from potash, in which we have practically a monopoly, we have been providing the United States with a number of finished products of high grade, such as dye-stuffs, such as toys, such as the number of small articles which are more peculiarly within the genius of the German people to produce. This give and take, this great exchange of commodities has been preceded by an immigration from my fatherland larger than from any other country in the world, all of which, or most of which, has made most excellent citizenship, ~~has~~ been most respected in this community and has helped to build it up of its own free will--good-will. (Applause.)