

THE GERMAN CAMPAIGN

SINCE the world, and especially France, persists in regarding the decision that Germany makes at the ballot box next December as a determining factor in the success of the Dawes Plan and the pacification of Europe, every augury of its probable outcome is watched with intense interest. We have already alluded to the success of the Centre, or Moderate, Parties in the Upper Silesia elections. Another sign of good omen for those who wish Germany to adopt a constructive and conciliatory course was the election held in the old Free State of Hamburg on October 26. Its results, like those of the State of Maine in our country, were watched carefully by politicians, and the leaders of each party made every possible effort to swing them in their own direction.

So far as the voting can be considered a forecast for December 7, the outcome was decidedly in favor of the Moderates. Comparing the votes cast at the Reichstag election last May and those cast at the present local election, the ultra-Conservatives lost over 64 per cent; the Communists, on the extreme Left, lost 31 per cent. The German Nationalists, who stand next to the extreme Right, lost practically 25 per cent, while the Centre Parties held their strength nearly intact. In fact the Social Democrats, who are stronger than any of their rivals, cast approximately the same number of votes as last spring, in face of a diminished registration.

The Conservative press objects to the forecasts drawn from these returns, because the Socialists will not be so strong in the new Hamburg Parliament as they were in the last one, three years ago, when Radicalism was at its apogee in Germany. But this contention, which is a post-election after-

thought, loses force from the fact that the voters themselves were alive to the moral effect of the recent polling in the Reichstag campaign.

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EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST

THE difference between the East and the West has seldom been more vividly illustrated than by the fast undertaken by Gandhi as a 'penance' for the violence and bloodshed that attended the Hindu-Moslem riots in India. Imagine, for instance, a political leader in the United States thus doing penance for the Herrin riots, although he was not even remotely responsible for them. *Swarajya*, an Indian paper of Madras, thus describes the breaking of this twenty-three-day fast, on October 8:—

Exactly at noon to-day, after Mr. Gandhi had taken his bath, he invited everyone who was present in the house to come upstairs and join together with him in the act of prayer. Before this began he asked especially that the doctors who had so faithfully and devotedly attended him might be brought to him, and he thanked them for their loving services.

After this the whole household assembled while Mr. Gandhi lay resting on his bed covered with a white *Khadder* cloth. He first called upon Imam Sahib Abdul Cadir Bawazir, who had been his lifelong friend in South Africa, to recite a prayer from the Koran. Imam Sahib chose the first Surah for his recitation, which when rendered into English runs as follows:—

'God the most compassionate and most merciful, the creator and the sustainer of the Universe, the one object of worship from whom alone comes help to mankind . . . guide us in the right path of those who are favored by Thee and not of those who are mis-

guided and have incurred Thy displeasure.'

Mr. Gandhi next asked Mr. Andrews to sing the Christian hymn which runs as follows:—

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Mr. Gandhi also asked Mr. Vinoba to recite some slokas from the Upanishads and Mr. Balkrishna to sing his favorite Gujarati hymn describing the ideal Vaishnava. The following is a free translation:—

He is a true Vaishnava who knows and feels another's woes.

Ever ready to serve, he never boasts.

He bows to everyone and despises no one, keeping his thought, word, and deed pure.

Blessed is the mother of such an one.

He reverences every woman as his own mother.

He does not stain his lips with falsehood, nor does he touch another's wealth.

No attachment can hold him.

Ever in tune with Rama Nama, his body possesses in itself all places of pilgrimage.

Free from greed, deceit, passion, and anger, he is the true Vaishnava.

After this hymn Mr. Gandhi, turning to the Mohammedan friends present, said that Moslem unity had been his chief concern for thirty years. 'But I have not succeeded in achieving it. I do not know what is the will of God.' He besought them to promise if necessary to lay down their lives for the sake of this ideal. After his friends had pledged him their support, a physician brought forward some orange juice that had been prepared before-

hand for that purpose, and Mr. Gandhi drank it. This broke his fast.

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AMERICA IN AFRICA

AFTER an ineffectual attempt in 1922, the British Government is preparing to sell at auction, at a reduced upset price, the enemy plantation properties in Kamerun. This announcement in the London press lends point to an account of economic conditions on the West Coast contributed to a recent number of *Kölnische Zeitung* by Leo Herbst, a former Kamerun plantation manager, two of whose articles were published in the *Living Age* of August 2 and November 1. He reports, perhaps with some prejudice, very bad conditions in French Kamerun. 'When I was in West Africa in 1923 I spent a month on the Spanish island of Fernando Po, which lies in the Gulf of Guinea. Dozens of Kamerun natives from the French zone came to me with agitated complaints that they were forced to work without wages, that they were taxed beyond their means to pay, and that they were forced to enlist in the army—contrary to the mandate provisions of the League.'

Business was prostrate, according to his story, throughout all western and southern Africa. Nevertheless: 'In the whole continent, west, south, and east, I observed a marked invasion of American capital. Wherever oil is found—and it occurs in many places—the Americans have already laid their hands on it. Money counts for nothing. American automobiles—Buicks, Dodges, and above all Fords—have flooded all Africa. They are cheap, they can be bought on easy terms, and excellent repair-service with abundant gasoline and lubricant is universal. Garage space, cleaning, and repairing are attended to for the owner so that he does not require a