

**REVELATIONS OF A  
GERMAN ATTACHÉ;  
TEN YEARS OF GERMAN-  
AMERICAN DIPLOMACY**

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Revelations of a German attaché; ten years of German-American diplomacy by Emil Witte

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REVELATIONS OF  
A GERMAN ATTACHÉ

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E M I L W I T T E

# Aus einer Deutschen Botschaft.

Zehn Jahre Deutsch-Amerikanischer Diplomatie.

Von

**Emil Wiffie**  
Botschaftsrat a. D.

Leipzig  
Zeitbilder-Verlag  
1907

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# REVELATIONS OF A GERMAN ATTACHÉ

*Ten Years of German-American Diplomacy*

BY

EMIL WITTE

LATE COUNCILLOR OF LEGATION AT WASHINGTON

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN



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## INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN TRANSLATION

THE experiences of Emil Witte with the German Embassy at Washington and the Foreign Office at Berlin, 1898-1907, have too long been hidden from the American people, whom they most concern, in the black text of a German volume published at Leipzig in 1907. But such is the intimate view they give of the inside workings of the German Embassy under Herr von Holleben and the intrigues against the devotion of the sons of Germany to their American fealty, that their publication in English is singularly timely to-day.

Who Emil Witte was and what were his relations to the events and scenes he describes are sufficiently set forth in the text. It may be explained, however, that the world is indebted to him for the remarkable pen pictures he has given of men and affairs in the United States during the period of his experiences. And if there is the spice of bitterness in what he writes of some of his countrymen, and if he very often errs in his judgment of the acts and motives of some Americans with whom he comes in contact, it must be remembered that he had a deep grievance against Herr von Holleben, that he felt that he had been "used and abused" by the German Foreign Office, that out of the quarrels of conspirators comes revelation and that he had only a foreigner's superficial knowledge of the underlying spirit and characteristics of Americans.

There are many things in this book relating to American men and affairs that have to be taken with more

than a grain of salt, but generally Herr Witte's observations bear the stamp of veracity, warped by the wrongs and prejudices of the writer. He was more familiar with the German side of what he saw and heard in the United States, and it is for what he has revealed of this that his book is most valuable.

It should be remembered to the credit of Herr Witte that at the opening of the Spanish-American war he was one of the editors of the *Deutsche Zeitung* at Vienna and also about the only editor in the central empires to advocate the cause of the United States.

As the reader turns page after page of this volume, disclosing German plottings against the singleness of American allegiance, he will understand why the book became so scarce that the *Fortnightly Review* suggested that the German government bought up and destroyed all the copies it could lay hands on.

The translation into English was made by Florence Clarkson Taylor, whose familiarity with the newspaper German of Herr Witte was supplemented by that of Dr. Francis Payne Mason, both of them having spent many years in Germany.

SLASON THOMPSON.

## PREFACE

UP to the period of the Spanish-American war beautiful Washington had been considered as a *buen retiro* for well-deserving diplomats who had a claim to a quiet and comfortable little resting place. Since the beginning of the imperialistic era of the United States, however, Washington has become an important storm centre of world politics and the Powers of the Old World carefully consider this change in conditions. They now appoint only their best men, men familiar with all questions of international politics and trade, to represent their interests at the seat of the American Federal Government.

As in all other fields of public life, the reckless go-ahead spirit, to which the American Republic owes its world power, shows itself in its relations with the representatives of the Old World. The diplomats in long-tailed coats and knee breeches, before they become acclimated and learn to appreciate at their full value the "shirt-sleeve," "Rough-Rider" methods of their American colleagues, frequently pay a bitter price for their experience.

It was given to me, during the critical time which followed the close of the Spanish-American war, to be entrusted with numerous important missions by the German Embassy in Washington and, through my position of confidential agent to the Ambassador in matters relating to the newspaper press, to obtain an astounding insight into the secret goings-on, the behind the scenes, so to speak, of German and Ameri-