

**DR. MUEHLON'S
DIARY: NOTES WRITTEN
EARLY IN THE WAR**

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Dr. Muehlon's diary: Notes Written Early in the War by Wilhelm Muehlon

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WILHELM MUEHLON

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DR. MUEHLON'S DIARY



Dr. Muehlon's Diary

Notes written early in the War
by Dr. Wilhelm Muehlon,
Ex-Director of Krupp's

With an Introductory Note by the Translator

Cassell and Company, Ltd
London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne

1918

TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTORY NOTE

DR. WILHELM MUEHLON, the author of the remarkable Diary here translated, has already won for himself world-wide fame by his courageous testimony to the truth. On May 7th, 1917, he addressed a Letter to Herr von Bethmann Hollweg (at that time Imperial German Chancellor), repudiating the German Government and all its works. This Letter, however, was not published till nearly a year later, ten days after the author's famous Memorandum had appeared in the *Berliner Tageblatt* of March 21st, 1918.* The Memorandum definitely stated that "the Austrians" had been with the German Emperor early in July, 1914, and that he had promised to give Austria *carte*

* The Letter was first published in a French translation by *L'Humanité* on March 31st, 1918: the German original appeared in the Swiss paper, *Die Freie Zeitung*, on May 4th, 1918. An English translation both of the Letter and of the Memorandum has been published under the title of "Revelations by an Ex-Director of Krupp's" (Hodder and Stoughton). The reader of the Diary will find the substance of the Memorandum on pp. 8-10.

Translator's Introductory Note

blanche in her dealings with Serbia, thus committing the German Government to a policy which was practically certain to provoke a European war. Who the Austrian representatives were was not stated; but Dr. Muehlon attributed a full share of the guilt to the German Emperor and named Herr Krupp von Bohlen and Herr Helfferich as his informants.

The Memorandum became known in Germany some time before its publication in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, and appears to have created considerable excitement. It was debated, together with Prince Lichnowsky's Memoir,* at a meeting of the Main Committee of the Reichstag on March 16th, 1918.

The Imperial Vice-Chancellor, Herr von Payer, speaking for the Government, tried to dismiss the Memorandum by asserting that Dr. Muchlon was a "neurasthenic who could not even come into a room if it contained a few gentlemen with whom he was personally unacquainted. . . . The document could only be regarded as pathological." Readers of the Diary will be able to form their own conclusions as to this insinuation.

* An English translation of Prince Lichnowsky's Memoir, "My Mission to London, 1912-1914," has been published (Cassell and Company, Ltd.).

Translator's Introductory Note

They will find in it a record of the impressions made upon the author during the first weeks of the war. They will become acquainted with a man who was indeed, as every line shows, highly sensitive to moral considerations and placed moral values above material success—a man who could write on the invasion of Belgium, "Our irruption into Belgium means fearful moral injury to ourselves, our action is more unscrupulous than anything ever done by Bismarek or anyone like him, and even a victorious war would not restore to us the confidence of Europe and the rest of the world" (p. 40). We read how he went about among his friends in Berlin expressing his horror at what had been done, but that nowhere could he find any comprehension of his point of view. We can easily understand that among government circles in Berlin in August, 1914, such a man might appear to be a neurotic; for to the men among whom his lot was cast all criticism of the action of the Government would appear to be foolish sentimentality. And we can also well understand how the experiences through which he passed at that time may have left a permanent impression upon his character. But readers of the Diary will also be able to convince themselves of the