

**THE SPEECHES OF COUNT
BISMARCK IN THE UPPER HOUSE
AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
OF THE PARLIAMENT ON JANUARY
29, AND FEBRUARY 13, 1869**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649424931

The Speeches of Count Bismarck in the Upper House and the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament on January 29, and February 13, 1869 by Otto Bismarck

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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OTTO BISMARCK

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THE *L. L. L.*
SPEECHES OF COUNT BISMARCK

IN THE
UPPER HOUSE AND THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF THE PARLIAMENT

ON
JANUARY 29, AND FEBRUARY 13, 1869:

IN THE
DEBATE ON THE BILL FOR SEQUESTERING THE PROPERTY
OF THE
EX-KING OF HANOVER.

PRECEDED BY A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN
THE EX-KING AND THE CROWN OF PRUSSIA.

BERLIN:

ASHER & CO. 11, UNTER DEN LINDEN;
AND 13, BEDFORD-ST. COVENT-GARDEN. LONDON.

1869.

14546.13

C.V. 22.05.3

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1869, Sept. 13.

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The Convention of 29th September 1867 on the subject of the Compensation of 16,000,000 thalers accorded to George, ex-King of Hanover; the proceedings on the same subject in the Prussian Parliament; and the legislative acts which were enacted in consequence.

A FEW days previous to the occupation of Hanover by the Prussian troops, King George had ordered the contents of the Hanoverian treasury and the Clausthal Tithe-Fund to be removed to England. The objects of value deposited in these public establishments consisted partly of cash amounting to 1,743,897 thlr. 9 gr. 3 pf., and partly of interest-bearing papers payable to the bearer, representing a sum of 18,634,179 thlr. 25 gr. 5 pf. (including 1,438,889 thlr. payable in gold) and 800,000 florins. Among these effects transported to England, there was not only much that was the undoubted property of the country, but likewise valuable papers belonging to private persons, which had been deposited by them as security for loans made them out of the Treasury or the State Domains' Fund. These papers covered a sum of more than 2,000,000 thlr.

In order to protect the public property of Hanover, as well as to guard private individuals from loss, the Prussian Government, in an official announcement of 11th Aug. 1866, made known the amount of the cash and interest-bearing paper withdrawn

from the Treasury and the State Domains' Fund and removed to England. At the same time it ordered a special catalogue of these securities to be drawn up, to warn the public against purchasing them, and declared explicitly that for the present neither the interest nor the capital of the matured bonds would be paid. On the 13th Dec. 1866, a royal ordinance was issued which pronounced null and void all the Hanoverian papers mentioned in the catalogue, with their coupons and counterfoils, which, though the property of the State, had been taken out of the Treasury; and likewise provided that new documents of the same nominal value, and enjoying the same rights, should be issued instead. Having thus safeguarded the interests of the country, the Prussian Government next took the requisite steps to protect those private individuals whom the proceedings of King George had aggrieved, and for this purpose decreed a preliminary seizure of the private property of the ex-King, till he had restored the papers carried off to England.

The result of this measure was that King George declared his willingness to give up the valuable papers transferred to England, in case the Prussian Government accorded him an indemnity. The negotiations on this subject led to the Convention of 29th Sept. 1867, which secured to King George a compensation of 16 millions of thalers. After the delivery of the papers in question to the Government, a few months later, the temporary sequestration of the private fortune of King George was annulled and by a farther ordinance of the Minister of Finance on the 6th Jan. 1868, the former prohibition of payment of the interest and matured capital was recalled.

The text of the Convention of 29th Sept. 1867, was as follows: —

His Majesty the King of Prussia and his Majesty King George V. with a view to further negotiations on the subject of an arrangement concerning the situation of the property of his Majesty King George V., have appointed as plenipotentiaries:

His Majesty the King of Prussia:
His Majesty's Privy Counsellor of Legation, König
and
His Majesty's Privy Superior Counsellor of Finance,
Wollny; and

His Majesty King George V.:
the former Minister of State, Windthorst;
who, after exchanging their credentials, found to be in due form, have agreed on the following Convention, subject to the ratification of their respective Majesties:

§ 1. His Majesty King George V. shall retain possession of:

- I. His castle of Herrenhausen and appurtenances;
- II. The domain of Calenberg; the latter in consideration of a suitable equivalent.

Both these possessions, however, shall be subjected to Prussian administration till such times as his Majesty King George V. shall have expressly renounced the Hanoverian crown for himself and his heirs.

§ 2. His Majesty King George V. shall continue in possession of the £600,000 in the English 3 per cent stocks, together with all interest payable on the same.

§ 3. All other royal castles, gardens and buildings for the use of the Court, as well as all lands, whether

appertaining to the private property of his Majesty King George V. or to the entail of the Royal House of Hanover, shall be placed at the disposal of the Prussian Crown.

§ 4. As an indemnity for the revenues not covered by the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2, which his Majesty King George V. has hitherto derived from domains and forests, as well as from his rights as supreme feudal lord, from reverted fiefs and the Fiefs' Allodification Fund, and likewise as compensation for castles, gardens and all other landed property, the Prussian Crown shall accord his Majesty King George V. the sum of eleven millions of thalers, current money, in 4½ per cent Prussian consols, computed by the nominal value of the paper; and over and above, five millions of thalers paid in cash.

As special arrangements for the fixation of this compensatory payment have been thought necessary by the Prussian Crown, regarding which an understanding has not yet been obtained, negotiations shall be opened at once between representatives named by the Prussian Crown and the parties interested, as to how the fixation of the eleven millions of thalers in papers of value and of the five millions in cash, the latter both in the sum which the Prussian Crown is to grant in accordance with the charges allowed in § 9, and also in the amount which it is reserved to place to the account of his Majesty, King George V. is to be obtained.

Till these negotiations have led to a definitive agreement, the papers of value and cash, before mentioned, shall be deposited in the hands of the Prussian Crown. The amount in money, however, shall be invested by mutual agreement in Government bonds

or other good interest-bearing securities, and the interest accruing from the entire deposit shall be paid every half-year to his Majesty King George.

§ 5. All the members of the Royal Family of Hanover shall be exempted from income-tax and from house-tax, so far as they have been so heretofore.

§ 6. His Majesty the King of Prussia undertakes:

I. The payment of the pensions contained in the accompanying list, chargeable to the Crown Fund, the Fiefs' Fund and the Fiefs' Allodification Fund, annuities and other allowances, so far as they can be certified by written proofs, from 1st July 1866; likewise

II. The payment of such pensions (to be estimated according to the Hanoverian law of 24th June 1858, on pensions and remunerations) as his Majesty King George V. has already granted to his servants entered on the list, or which he may grant till his Majesty's Court has been reconstructed.

His Majesty the King of Prussia, however, reserves the right of providing for these servants in such a way that they shall be employed in offices corresponding to their former sphere of activity, in which case the above-mentioned Hanoverian law of 24th June 1858 will be decisive regarding the complete or partial withdrawal of pensions and remunerations. However, the employment of the highest officers of the Hanoverian household in the service of his Prussian Majesty and the nobility who held charges at the Hanoverian Court, as also the personal servants of the Royal Family, can be required only in so far as such officers or servants voluntarily accede to it.

His Majesty the King of Prussia also undertakes to pay the pensions of such persons who by written