In Little Berlin.

THE "MAIL" VISITS LOXTON.

EXTRAORDINARY BEHAVIOUR OF LOCAL GERMANS.

APPALLING RECORD OF DISLOYALTY.

(Reprinted from The Mail of September 20th. Comment will be found in another column.—Ed. M.P.)

It is fortunate for Australia that the Prime Minister has returned home, even more determined than ever to cut out the malignant German cancer in our midst. Nowhere in the Commonwealth will such a policy be more necessary than in South Australia, where the problem of the Teuton is exceedingly acute and troublesome.

There is, of course, a percentage of placid British weaklings content, now that the war is over, to shake hands and forget, but Mr. Hughes very appropriately measured his type when, on his recent return to Adelaide, he stated that there were some who were shamelessly prepared to turn the other cheek and grasp the hand of the Hun red with the blood of the gallant fathers, brothers, and sons of Australia.

That is the opinion of Australia's great statesman who has come back with a mind filled with the horrors of the battlefield and of the country devastated and ruined by the ruthless hand of the Hun. What did he think of the Germans before he went abroad?

"The call of the blood," he then declared, "was too strong for them to resist. We Britons in times of peace have been foolishly credulous, opening the gates of our humble citadels to Germans and taking their hypocritical protestations of friendship at their face value." Only too truthfully does this apply to the German element in South Australia, which is faced with the deplorable fact that there are scores of people with German blood in their veins who cannot be trusted and who were traitorously disloyal during the period of the war.

LIBERTY-ABUSING HUNS.

Gradually, however, a burning indignation is animating the true British section of our community, which will shortly be called upon to take a very firm and decided stand against those of alien birth or extraction who cannot give the complete and most satisfactory evidences of loyal allegiance and citizenship.

It is an outrageous crime that even a single German cherishing the sentiments of hate and bitterness towards Britain should be given the civil liberties and rights of law-abiding subjects and no effort must be spared until all those who would have exulted over a German victory—and many of them did exult over Hun triumphs during the war—are deported to the only country that can be a fit place for people who have shown such shocking baseness and distrust.

And South Australia still has these gentr, appalling as it is, that the Civil Service and other bodies should see fit to employ some of them and continue to shield and screen them as though they were the most-treasured disciples of the land. On the question the approaching mass meeting of loyalists which will be held at the Adelaide Town Hall on Monday week will have something strong and to the point to say, and it is to be hoped that drastic action will be urged upon the Government to deal with the position.

THE WHOLE TRUTH.

One has not to travel far from Adelaide in search of the truth on the German question and in substantiation of the charge that the average German is not to be trusted, however, much he might protest his feelings of goodwill and love for all that is British and best.

Recently we published an interesting article in which the veil was lifted on some amazing happenings in German areas, including gross acts of treason and treach-
exclusion gross acts of treason and treachery at Loxton, more particularly during the early stages of the war. The disclosure of these extraordinary facts caused considerable perturbation and heartburning to some in the district, and we were the recipients of a number of letters of indignation and protest, some bearing English names and vainly attempting to explain that really nothing terrible had happened after all. No logical endeavour, however, was made to refute the material facts revealed, but we were advised that "if The Mail would take the trouble to pay us a visit and glean the facts first-hand those residents in the know would only be too pleased to give the truth, and nothing but the truth."

Availing itself of this generous invitation, The Mail sent its Special Representative to Loxton this week, and the first-hand facts which he has been able to gather have disclosed the truth in all its nakedness and beauty. So much so, in fact, that when "nothing but the truth" is presented in this article it will serve to establish some of the grosser acts of villainy and disloyalty ever committed or contemplated in a British land.

"GOOSE STEP" HEROES.

Everybody knows the year when the unseemly German nation plunged the world into war, and that was the year, too, when "war" was declared in what has come to be known as "Little Berlin."

In the latter part of September, 1914, 25 unnaturalised Germans congregated in the main street of Loxton about 8.30 p.m., and marched from the southern to the northern end. In their drill they elected to do the "Goose Step", and under the command of an individual bearing the picturesque name of Karl Wilhelm Lude, manager of a local butcher's shop and a non-commissioned officer belonging to the German Reserputate, they paraded the principal roadway of this town, receiving the command in the German tongue. At 11 p.m. this gallant band of conquering heroes again formed up, but this time they were requested by Constable Lenthall to disperse. Then they walked up the street in disorder, and after regaining themselves with muttered oaths obtained at the local butcher's shop, they again formed into line, once more doing the "Goose Step". That night one man was arrested, and the remainder disbanded.

WHOLESALE ARRESTS.

Such an outrage on British feelings and sentiments was promptly reported to the military authorities, and instructions were immediately sent for future guidance. Following this a number of arrests were effected, some of the men apprehended being those who had so insolently paraded. From time to time other arrests were made, and of the 25 who formed the street audience all but two, who fled to Queensland, finally got in the clutches of the law and were interned.

The arrest of these impudently disloyal reservists and others caused a profound sensation among those local Huns who were opposed to British rule and authority, and a feeling of bitter hatred quickly developed against the local officers who had so fearlessly and praise-worthily done their duty. And then a sequence of stirring and disgraceful episodes ensued.

On November 7, 1914, as Constable Lenthall was writing in his office at the Loxton Police Station, there was a knock at the door.

"Come in," said the officer, and an Australian German named Carl Wilhelm Traugott Tscheiring, a farmer and butcher of Moorook, situated 20 miles from Loxton, entered the room.

"What was he doing there that night?" Constable Lenthall enquired, and the answer was: "You will see in a minute."

At that moment the notorious leader of the German Goose Step Army (Lude, noted for his ability and strength as a wrestler, entered the office, and, contemptuously throwing his patrol paper on the table, uttered shockingly obscene language.

"I WILL HAVE YOUR BLOOD!"

Glaring savagely at the police officer, he threateningly continued, "You will never get out of here alive. I have come to slaughter you. I will have your blood," uttering some of the words in German. He then plunged his right hand into his black luster coat pocket, moving it backwards. At that moment an ordinary household kerosine lamp with which the office was illuminated was blown out through a puff of wind, leaving the offi-
A fortnight later the same officer was warned that a German had sharpened a jackknife on the grindstone of an adjacent farmer in the Hundred of Kerkwick, and that he had expressed his intention of settling the officer in order to avenge Lude's arrest. Hotfoot did Constable Lenthall set out in quest of this cannibalistic Hun, whom he was not long in finding, and sure enough there was the jackknife, too, ground deeply both front and back, with edges keen enough to lop off the heads of a whole regiment.

This nice German gentleman had also concealed in his armour a six-chambered "squirt," so that altogether he was splendidly equipped for his deliberately planned and bloodthirsty job. With the rest of his kidney he was soon placed behind the internment wire.

But still the plotting went on. Constable Lenthall a little later had occasion to go to Moorook to collect ballot boxes and while returning to Loxton in his motor car he had a miraculous escape from serious injury. The night was falling, and as he was travelling along the track he was suddenly hailed by the then local State school head master (Mr. Brown), who called out to him to be careful, as there was an obstruction ahead. An inspection revealed that an audacious and premeditated plan had been concocted to overthrow the car and its occupant, for a wire had been stretched across the roadway from post to post on the property of Mr. Tschirpig. Thus another little plot was happily, successfully frustrated.

Trouble also occurred with a number of Germans who were engaged on a pipetrack at Pungonda. They were found to be armed with revolvers and guns, and some of these men were also arrested and interned.

The Lusitania Outrage.

But perhaps the most shocking and callous act that could be conceived and executed at a time when the feelings of the whole civilised world were torn and outraged by the fiendish deeds of the Huns of the sea was when

a boast to the sinking of the Lusitania was actually proposed in one of the establishments at Loxton by an Australian German, and the "sentiment" was gloatingly "honoured."

Here was an act of calculated baseness and treachery sufficient to make the blood of any patriot boil with flaming desire to severely punish the perpetrators of this gross conduct, yet because at the time it was not the "policy" of the authorities to intern Australian Germans the principal instigator and promoter of this villanous act was allowed to escape both punishment and exile.

An Army of Prisoners.

An idea of the patriotic spirit which has permeated this state—and other German districts are more or less in same case—may be gauged from the fact that 105 persons were interned from the Loxton district at varying intervals during the war, of a population of about 3,500 (70 per cent of which is estimated to be either German or of German extraction), the number of internes was more than 1 in 20. Add to this the fact that in all instances the civil prisoners of war were males, and in some cases married men whose influence would extend to the members of their families, it is patent how widespread and deep was the antagonism towards Britain and everything for which she stood.

On What Side?

Yet this is the very centre in which frantic efforts are now being made to whitewash it, as though it were the most puritanical of British districts. One lamentable feature of the movement is that it has apparently enlisted the sympathies and support of a section of the British re-
Those who protest loudly that they do not side with the Germans, yet by a strange process of reasoning strongly object to any statement exposing the gross behaviour of loyal Germans.

Indeed, they go the length of denying that the deported Germans from their districts actually belonged to it, explaining that they were merely "casuals" or "floaters" and have no fixed place of abode. But facts are stubborn and sometimes very awkward things, as shown by the official records that the residence in the Loxton district of the majority of the internees ranged from three months to 18 years. There is nothing particularly "floating" about that.

"INOFFENDING INNOCENTS"

The proper British spirit would have been to come out openly and denounce such conduct, and thus help to establish for the district in the future the good name which all true loyalists should desire it to bear.

Instead, just recently the Loxton District Council unanimously made the following resolve:

That this Council enters its protest against a denial of our civil rights and liberty, and that the Federal Government be requested to abrogate the War Precautions Act under which prisoners of war are detained without trial, notwithstanding that peace has been celebrated.

One begins to wonder why even the members of this august body should be so solicitous for the welfare of the disloyal internee since so many of the prisoners of war from their own district are alleged to be irresponsible "floaters" and "casuals", disowned and unclaimed.

At all events, the authorities who intimately know all the circumstances connected with the internment of these "innocent innocents" will be likely to accord just as much consideration to the nebulous demand now made as they did on that memorable occasion in November, 1916, when a requisition from the same district fruitlessly sought release from the internment camp of a prominent and influential German resident of many years standing.

THE DIGGERS' NEEDS.

Now that our boys are fast coming home it will be to their needs—and not to those of the German—that the State and the whole loyal community will have to direct their attention. Already the Government is moving towards that objective in endeavouring by legislative means to get its hands on the flourishing lands of the disloyal and stay-at-home Germans.

A splendid way to begin would be for the State to cast its eyes along the picked land on the river frontage from Paringo to Waikerie for a distance of more than a hundred miles. Except for fruit-growing areas like Lyrap, Pyap, Moorook, and Kingston-on-the-Murray there is but one Briton holding a river frontage, and that has been only during the past eighteen months.

The men who fought for our precious liberty will need for many years to come all the help they can get. Let us have strength enough to insist that as a beginning we will hand over to them the lands of the German "casuals" and disloyal.