PROFESSOR SUMNER ON EUROPEAN CONFLICT

SUMS UP CAUSES OF PRESENT WAR
—Professor Cram Predicts "New Europe."

Last Friday evening Professor John O. Sumner and Ralph A. Cram talked before the meeting of the Architectural Society on the subject of The European War. In opening his discussion, Professor Sumner characterized the conflict as the most frightful of armistices and was said to be a war not picturesque like the Napoleonic conquests but one involving eighteen million men with consequences which each inhabitant of the globe will feel.

The speaker related a personal anecdote in which he together with a number of friends visited a hunting forest about twenty miles outside of Berlin. The grounds were laid out as a country with winding roads and dense woods, lakes and hills being placed at intervals. There were few landmarks and it was necessary to take a guide in travelling about. On a former visit they had had the services of an old guide but on this particular occasion followed a guide of a German boy of about fourteen years old, who led them unhesitatingly over an eight-mile walk. Surprised at the knowledge of the youth, who said that he had only been in the wood once, about two years before, they questioned how he could be so well acquainted with the intricate roads. He replied that, "every German soldier is supposed to know a road over which he has passed once." The boy is now at the front on the same road over which he has passed once.

Professor Sumner stated is a typical example of the German feeling that soldiering and the army are the state.

In the beginning of the seventeenth century Germany which was composed of three or four hundred small states, was the most prosperous country in Europe with a civilization of a very high degree. Early in this period the Thirty Years War caused a war between themselves and England and the political divisions as long as they serve him well. The king chooses his ministers as his servants and they hold their positions as long as they serve him well. The Reichstag, is rather more of a debating society than a law-making body.

Down to 1890 the state had no large navy. The Germans regarded a war between themselves and England as one between a dog and a fish. When she began to secure colonies attention was paid to the development of the navy. Following the revolutionary period in the middle of the nineteenth century many Germans left their native land and settled in the western and eastern United States and other foreign lands. They became citizens of the countries in which they settled and today many Franco soldiers from northern France are of German descent. In regard to the way these emigrants were regarded by the Germans the view was expressed that the Kaiser may be quoted: "I know Germans, I know Americans, but I don't know anything about Germans."