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# The Continental Times

Special War Edition

## A JOURNAL FOR AMERICANS IN EUROPE

LATEST WAR NEWS  
Price 5 Cents, 25 cts., 20 Pk.

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ROTTERDAM LUCERNE BERLIN GENEVA VIENNA ROME

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1915.

### Latest News.

Short items of interest from various sources.

#### British Front Broken.

London, February 19th. *Daily News* report German attacks along the front in Flanders. The British lines were broken at Ypres. In this fight both sides sustained heavy losses. Pardon was rarely given.

#### 48 British and French Aeroplanes Bombard Ostende.

Reuter, London, February 18th. 40 British and 8 French aeroplanes have thrown bombs on Ostende and Zeebrugge. The result is said to have been satisfactory.

#### Japan to Exploit South Sea Islands.

Peking, February 18th. A *South Sea Company* has been formed at Tokyo, which intends to exploit all South Sea islands commercially.

#### Japanese Demonstration on Chinese Coast.

London, February 18th. *Daily Chronicle* learns from Tokyo that about 35 Japanese men of war are cruising along the Chinese coast. 20,000 Marines have been embarked in 16 warships, to be ready for immediate transport to China.

#### French Concentrate Attacks in the Champagne.

W.T.B. February 19th. The French have undertaken furious attacks against the German positions in the Champagne, but were repulsed at all points. Other English and French attacks at Arras, Rheims, Boureuilles and Toul had the same result. During the last two days 174 Englishmen and 1327 Frenchmen were taken prisoners; 2 guns and 9 machine-guns captured.

#### German Naval Airship Lost.

Berlin, February 19th. Naval Airship L. 3 had motor defect during a seastorm and was compelled to land on the Island of Fanoe (Denmark). The airship is lost, but all of the crew have been saved.

#### The Russian Debacle.

W.T.B. February 19th. Rear-guard actions are still in progress beyond the East Prussian border. Up till now 64,000 prisoners, 71 guns, over 100 machine guns, 3 hospital trains, flying machines, 150 cars with ammunition and numerous other cars with war materials captured. An increase of these figures may be relied upon.—A Russian column from Lomsha was defeated at Kolno, but received re-inforcements. 700 prisoners made; 6 machine guns captured.—Another Russian force was defeated at Grajewo.—Heavy fighting between Plock and Racjow ended in favour of the Germans. 3,000 prisoners made.

#### Austrians Take Kolomea by Assault.

Vienna, February 19th. Kolomea (Bukovina) was taken by the Austrians after two days fighting. Strong Russian re-inforcements tried to stop the Austrian advance, but the enemy sustained great losses by the Austrian artillery. A general assault was made at 5 p. m. and the Austrians succeeded in reaching the town together with the fleeing Russians. 2,000 prisoners, 2 guns, several machine guns fell into Austrian hands.—The fighting in the Carpathians resulted in 4,000 more Russian prisoners brought in.

#### Austrians Occupy Czernowitz.

Vienna, February 19th. Austrian troops have reached Czernowitz. The Russians retreat towards Nowosielica. Fresh fighting has developed near Nadworna and Kolomea.

#### The Submarines at Work.

Le Havre, February, 19th. The English steamer *Dulwich* and the French steamer *Ville de Lille* were sunk in the Channel by German submarines. The steamer *Havelot* was sunk by a mine near the Thames estuary. The Australian fishing steamer *Endeavor* is missing.

#### Cable Brest—New York Broken.

Paris, February 19th. Cable P—Q of the Compagnie Francaise des Cables Telegraphiques from Brest to New York is broken. All Continental telegrams have to be transmitted via England—and the English Censor.

#### Will America Prohibit Wheat Exports?

Reuter, New York, February 19th. A commission under the chairmanship of the Mayor has recommended the prohibition of wheat exports in view of the high food prices.

#### Turkish Successes in Mesopotamia.

Constantinople, February 7th. A Turkish Cavalry force, consisting of 130 men defeated a hostile force of 200 men. Turkish troops advanced on Korna and compelled the English advance guard to withdraw with heavy losses. Two guns and large stores of ammunition were left behind by the English.

## A Great Day.

Germany with her submarines forces Great Britain to act upon the defensive.

### Tricks of War.

The English propose to try and conceal the nationality of their snips. But it's little use.

Germany woke yesterday to find the eyes of the universe intently fixed upon her. And why? Because she had commenced the most audacious, interesting and extraordinary feat of naval prowess the world has ever seen or thought of. It is stupendous, it seems incredible, it reads like a page out of the Arabian Nights. And yet it is all quite true. Britain may be first in a certain branch of naval warfare, that known as the line of battle ship but already experts of all countries admit freely that in the management and development of that most modern unit of marine warfare, the submarine, Germany stands supreme and way ahead of all other nations. Does anyone doubt that? I think not!

#### A Brilliant Campaign.

Had you told the world a year ago that in the first war in which Germany should become a party, the army of that country would most surely make a brilliant display of military, practical scientific and strategic force, every sensible person would have agreed with you. And, when the present campaign opened out, with such rapid and glorious results for German arms, when the names of Liege, Namur, Longwy, Maubeuge, Tannenberg and the stupendous victories of the Masurian lakes and swamps at once stamped the German combined armies as the greatest and most best organised fighting machine the world has ever seen, why, it had been expected by all those who had taken trouble to study the continuous preparations this country had made ever since the war of 1870/1, although most people were astonished at the completeness and rapidity with which those vast military undertakings were carried out.

#### Looked impossible.

But, if a year ago you had told some intelligent friend you had happened to meet upon the street, that in twelve months time Germany's navy would become the talk, aye the centre of interest, the living sensation of the universe, why he would most certainly have stared at you with wonder sympathy and apprehension, and after leaving you, have told all mutual friends that yours was a pitifully sad case as you had suddenly become demented, taken leave of your senses. And yet just that very most improbable thing has come to pass. That is the exact position in which the German navy stood on that fateful day, the 18th of February 1915. Germany has embarked upon a naval undertaking, the audacity, novelty and enterprise of which has without any exaggeration, staggered mankind. And by that action, which makes one so full of almost reverential respect for the bravery of every man engaged, this Teutonic navy, has, with so to speak a magic wand, turned the all powerful British from an aggressive and offensive foe into an enemy suddenly forced to take every means, honorable or not, to defend herself from submarines, swarming like locusts, around her hitherto intangible virgin shores.

#### In state of siege.

The immediate result has been that every harbor around the entire coast of the British Isles and the coast of Ireland, has been proclaimed as in state of siege, that is to say all have been proclaimed as naval harbors. Every available boat of the torpedo and torpedo destroyer class has been called out and placed upon continuous patrol duty. England "the land of the Free" is bottled up as tight as wax. Great Britain is for the first time in the annals of her history besieged. She is on the defensive!

#### Such a change.

Who could have believed such a change of aspect in the relative attitude of the one country to the other. It is difficult to realise, but the English, after wriggling very hard for awhile, have come to the understanding that they are in what is called in their country "a tight corner." The Briton is metaphorically bursting with rage and indignation. In his trouble he has appealed to the United States and America has replied with a note to this country, full of hypotheses, but which I have the highest authority for stating is not half as bad as it seems. The bark is far worse than the bite in it. I hope Germans understand what I mean, for it is fact.

The English have a saying, I think it came from Shakespeare, "All is fair in love and

war" and the English is applying that apothegm to this war, without the slightest compunction. They have forthwith proceeded to change the appearance of their merchant ships, the names are being obliterated and the colors and flags of other countries being painted on the sides and they very foolishly announce that, as far as possible, the large merchant ships will be armed with quick firing small calibre guns and that German officers coming aboard will be gagged and placed in irons. We will also fly the neutral flag. How naive to show their hand so openly! Forwarred, forwarred! The reply to all those tricks is so very simple. In the first place any ship that does not stop is liable to be sunk. The neutral ships will undoubtedly follow that international rule of the seas in wartime. Those who don't and fly neutral flags will forthwith be taken to be of the enemies boats. Should any ship of the English be armed with small guns, that at once makes her a marine franc-tireur and she is sunk without further comment. As for changing name, color of painting and althring the smokestacks and so forth, why, such little subterfuges are so easily found out, all the more in the light of brazened declarations made by the British, that they are nothing more than perile and futile. No! England has got "to face the music" and it is more than likely to sound an unharmonious note for her! And she knows it!

### Killing Commerce.

Washington Post says that the British Government is throttling business.

The Washington Post, maybe the most influential organ in the United States, editorially puts it:—Great Britain is trying to stop all exports from the United-States to Germany. She dare not state her intentions quite so plainly as they are stated here, but her action speaks louder than words.

"It being inexpedient to invite war with United States by boldly declaring war upon its commerce, Great Britain resorts to another method, which would be quite as effective if the United-States would acquiesce in it.

First—Great Britain posts men of war at the mouth of American harbors to spy upon outgoing vessels. She cannot blockade German ports and therefore she establishes the blockade at the point of departure instead of the point of destination."

#### Everything contraband.

Second—she increases the list of contraband as fast as she thinks the United-States will tolerate it. By declaring an innocent article of commerce "conditional contraband and a little later absolute contraband", Great Britain has managed to make practically every article of American commerce contraband and seizable. Raw cotton is virtually the only article not liable to seizure. Everything else produced in this country is construed to be useful to the German army or navy and is deemed to be on its way to assist the enemy.

#### Seizes cargoes.

"Third—When Great Britain cannot make out a prima facie case of contraband it accomplishes its purpose by seizing the cargo, anyhow, and paying for it, rather than have it reach the Germans. And if it cannot use the cargo and cannot show that it is contraband, it holds the ship for an indefinite time, subjects it to the menace of warships, terrorises the master and owner, and thus effectually disrupts commercial relations, and drives vessels off the usual routes. Insurance rates are boosted on account of the threats of seizure and the danger of mines, so that business is made unprofitable."

### Against Contraband.

A large meeting at New Orleans protests against the exporting of munitions of war from the United States.

New Orleans, Febr., 19th. A mass meeting has just been held here, called for the object of protesting against the exportation of contraband of war from the United States. Three thousand persons attended. A motion was passed condemning the export of war material and calling upon the government to forbid it, and to observe the strictest neutrality which could only be done by abstaining from supplying any of the adversaries with munitions.

### Raving Madness.

Lunatic French Press Prattle about Austria-Hungary.

The language recently used by the French press towards Austria-Hungary is such as to be worth being branded before the whole world. To quote an instance, the liberties taken by the "Matin," a newspaper that has been repeatedly stigmatized by its socialist and independent contemporaries as a

#### blackmail sheet,

against the illustrious person of Austria's venerable monarch, without calling forth the censor's veto are evidently bordering on raving madness. These things cannot be met by indignation, but only the straight-jacket. France, formerly so proud of its good taste and refined manners will sooner recover from the dire consequences of the war than from the disgrace which newspapers of the "Matin" type have brought to the country.

The French authorities see that France cannot grapple successfully with the Central Powers while these are closely allied to each other, therefore the press has evidently received order of the day to

#### incite the Monarchy against Germany.

The favourite expedient to achieve this purpose is the assertion repeated over and over again that Germany in order to save herself from otherwise unavoidable loss would like to compensate her enemies out of Austria-Hungary's possessions. The idea of Mr. Iswolsky, the inspirer of the French press is of course to sow discord between the allied central powers. But it is love's labour lost. Germany and Austria-Hungary cherish towards each other the firm trust engendered by the consciousness of fighting for a holy cause and nothing can shake the unity which is such a source of strength to both powers.

The craziest story of all has appeared in the "Echo de Paris" from the pen—this is the most remarkable part—not of an ordinary journalist but of Frédéric Masson, a prominent "immortal" that is to say one of the 40 members of the French academy.

Well then, Mr. Masson is telling his compatriots that the war was caused by one thing and one thing only, namely the murdered Austrian Heir-Apparent's love of his wife.

What??? His love of his wife? Yes, it's quite true. The late heir-apparent, whose children were barred from succession, out of profound affection towards his wife wanted to give these children a throne after all; he therefore appealed to the German Emperor, who sympathized with his plans. These plans were simply to create a new empire for the archduke's children, embracing Poland, Ukraina, Roumania, Servia, etc. The whole story shows that it is high time, Mr. Masson should go and see a doctor, yet it seems to be a symptom of the atmosphere prevalent in France where everyone seems to have lost his head.

### Gold Abounds.

Vast stores of the yellow metal in the Reichsbank which each week is substantially increased.

It is scarcely possible to comprehend the misinformation of the English newspapers concerning conditions existing in Germany. The "starving out" idea having had its quietus, the English Editor (a singularly un-informed being) has started the quite absurd theory that England is well off for gold and can get as much as she likes from South Africa, whereas Germany is short of the yellow metal and has no means of getting any more. One of the English papers, which makes that sort of a declaration, announces proudly that Great Britain has a gold reserve of sixty millions of pounds, equivalent, roughly calculated, to that is to say one milliard and two hundred million of marks. The latest returns of the German Reichsbank show that the gold reserve is two milliards two hundred and twenty eight millions, that is to say more than one milliard of Marks greater than what lies in the Bank of England vaults. And not only that, but during the past three weeks the payments of gold into the Reichsbank have been over eighty million of marks. This last week shows an increase in the gold reserve of 33,509,000 marks. There is about two and a half milliards of marks in gold still hoarded up in various parts of the German Empire, but each week brings in sufficient to more than keep up the credit of the country to the highest point. Since the war broke out the increase of the gold reserve of the Reichsbank has amounted to 975,000,000 of marks. England cannot show any like returns.

### American Opinion.

At a mass meeting in St. Louis, England is blamed for restraints placed upon international trade.

St. Louis, Missouri, Febr. 18th. At a large meeting held here of delegates representing the leading commercial organisations of the United-States, Mr. Carman F. Randolph of New-York said:—"All things considered, we may hold the British Government responsible for the far reaching and severe restraint on international trade. At home it imposes most searching prohibitions in trade with the enemy. At sea it holds up whatever neutral goods it decides to call contraband and which it chooses to suspect of ultimate destination to the enemy.

#### British policy doubtful.

"When I consider over British policy, I am by no means persuaded that it will hasten peace or prove a decided factor in war. We are given to understand that if the Allies shall finally establish a ring about Germany, England may lawfully bar even hospital supplies and milk for babies. So long as the Allies do not besiege Germany they cannot lawfully enforce the terrible law of siege.

"The particular rights of the United States are quite sufficient to warrant a strong but temperate demand for the proper respect for neutral commerce. The United States may be trusted to vindicate its commercial rights."

### Beware. Beware!

The London public instructed what to do in case of airship attacks.

London, Febr. 19. The following notice appears upon all the hoardings and advertising places here:—

#### Public Warning.

The public are advised to familiarise themselves with the appearance of British and German airships and aeroplanes, so that they may not be alarmed by British aircraft, and may take shelter if German aircraft appear. Should hostile aircraft be seen, take shelter immediately in the nearest available house, preferable in the basement, and remain there until the aircraft have left the vicinity: do not stand about in crowds and do not touch unexploded bombs. In the event of hostile aircraft being seen in country districts, the nearest naval, military, or police authorities should, if possible, be advised immediately by telephone of the time of appearance, the direction of flight, and whether the aircraft is an airship or an aeroplane.

### Russian prisoners.

According to estimates made, the number of Russians prisoners in the hands of the Germans amount to about 370,000 men and nearly 4,000 officers. The Austro-Hungarian army has captured about 228,000 Russians. So altogether the Russians have lost in prisoners alone near upon 600,000 men, whilst there are also to be taken into consideration the enormous number of killed. In the first Masurian Lake engagement, Hindenburg's famous drive, it was stated that 160,000 had met their death in the lakes and swamps into which they were driven. All officers returning from the front tell the same story of the quite uncommonly large percentage of Russians killed, compared to those captured. At Przemysl the slaughter of the Russians upon their first attempts to take that fortress were enormous, reckoned at 40,000. Then there are the sick and wounded to be counted. Altogether the Russian losses in this war are so great that they put into the shade anything of the kind ever known in previous wars.

### A Warning.

America's Duty Clear: We Must Watch the Paid Emissaries of England.

America's Duty is clear. It is one of strict neutrality. As true, loyal American citizens we cannot and will not take sides or permit ourselves to be drawn into the present gigantic European struggle. The placing of the blame for the war we leave to the judgment of time.

One thing we must be on our guard against, the propaganda of paid emissaries of England to enlist the sympathy and eventually, if possible, the material aid of this country.

The war reports coming to us are mostly of English manufacture and in them Germany gets scant justice. Prominent Englishmen have been sent over here to stir up pro-English sentiment and they evidently find willing dupes. We should accept with considerable reserve the story of German atrocity, brutality and reverses. In the meantime we shall continue to observe the neutrality proclaimed by the President of this great republic.

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**A naval Record.**

The world at large is watching with vivid interest the result of the most daring naval enterprise history has recorded in marine warfare. Germany has sent out submarine boats to try and stop the mercantile traffic to the shores of Great Britain and Ireland. Whilst Churchill believes in Dreadnoughts Admiral v. Tirpitz considers that submarines are mighty useful and he proposes to try conclusions with the diving boat, of which he is credited with having a great number at his command. The experiment has that unique feature about it that it is the first essay of the kind known in naval history. If it should prove successful England's already much soiled reputation will be still further tarnished. Should it fail, it will go down to record as one of the most courageous and enterprising of efforts ever made by any navy.

**Russias vast losses.**

It is almost impossible to compute the losses of the Russians in this war. One thing we do know and that is that they far and away exceed that of any destruction of forces recorded in the history of wars of the world. In the earlier parts of the war the enormous hauls of prisoners made and the awful slaughter inflicted upon the Muscovite forces did not appear to have any very marked effect. But now, all that is changed. Now it is observed that as the Russian ranks are depleted there is difficulty in filling them up again. Further that the offensive power of the foe is almost gone and is getting weaker all the while. There are all the indications that Russia, as regards this war, is badly mauled and to all intents and purposes beaten. Nor is there any chance of the Allies coming to her rescue. Even the money which Russia has begged France for, is not forthcoming. Altogether the northern colossus is in a highly perilous condition.

**Germany in Belgium.**

According to Dr. Paul Rohrbach the well known writer, lecturer and student of political economy, who has just returned from a trip through Belgium, the state of that country is not at all so bad as some people would wish to make one believe. In a practical way, in a private lecture, Dr. Rohrbach told of the highly successful efforts of the German government to rule the occupied districts east of Ghent. As usual, the Germans have provided for everyone and everything. Education, finance, agricultural interests all have been cared for, and although it cannot be said that the country is in a prosperous condition it is in as good state as circumstances admit of.

**Big Losses.**

Geneva, Febr., 18th. A despatch from Cairo states that the encounter which took place on the 2nd and 3rd of Feb., about the Suez Canal, was far more important than the English would have believed. The British lost 2700 dead out of which 2000 were Indians, 500 Egyptians and 200 English. According to English returns, which are not much credited, 500 Turks were killed and 700 taken prisoner.

**Titled Warriors.**

The Berlin Correspondent of the Associated Press cabled the following statistics to the United States: It is shown that of members belonging to the "graefliche" houses, or families carrying the title of count, seventy-four had fallen in battle or died of wounds by Nov. 1. The "freiherrlichen" or baronial families had lost 209 members, while the very essence of German nobility, the "uradligen" families, who trace their ancestors to the year 1350 or beyond, had lost 246 members. Families hit hardest are the Arnims with eight, the Wedels with eight, the Oertzens with seven, and the Deckens with six members. But the class of nobility which seems to have suffered most, though it is by no means the most numerous, is that whose members have been knighted by letters patent, and who are known in Germany as "briefadelige" houses. This class lost 250 members.

**Belgium today.**

Dr. Paul Rohrbach who has just returned from the occupied districts tells of what he saw.

**Problem to be solved.**

Matters of wage giving, questions of finance and how to feed the people.

Before a small and select audience, last evening in the Hohenzollern Saal of the Hotel Kaiserhof, Dr. Paul Rohrbach, dozent of the high school of commerce of Berlin and editor of that most instructive magazine "Das Grössere Deutschland," gave an informal and highly interesting lecture upon existing conditions in Belgium. Leading up to his subject by explaining to his listeners the complications of Belgian homogeneity owing to there being two races in the land having the widest divergency of opinions and aspirations, Dr. Rohrbach came to the practically interesting point of Belgium as she now stands and lives under German administrative direction.

**Facts as they are.**

In the first place, as we gathered from the lecturer, whose address was marked by its simplicity and straightforwardness, it was exceedingly difficult for the Germans and the Belgians to understand one another, for whereas the German is permeated with the sentiment of unity of purpose, discipline and out and out nationalism, the Belgian has quite opposite feelings. All Belgium east of Ghent is civilly occupied by the Germans, under the benign and humane rule of Governor General v. Bissing, in praise of whom Dr. Rohrbach spoke in the highest terms. In spite of the resignation of the heads of the Belgian government almost all the native officials have remained in the service and Dr. v. Sandt occupies the functions of president of the government and various experienced German officials take the place of the various chiefs of state, whilst the Belgian officials work in remarkable unity with them. All those Belgian officials are called upon to promise is, that they will give an undertaking not to conspire against German authority.

Belgium, said Dr. Rohrbach, was a very populous, highly cultivated land. There was no great development of cereal culture, only one fifth of that needed being produced, but the Belgians confine their efforts almost entirely to what may be termed intensive culture, that is to the production of early vegetables grown under glass and often one can see kilometres of glass frames under which all kinds of choice vegetables are grown for the market. Every kind of care is given by the Germans in order to see what can be done so as to develop those agricultural industries and the matter has been so well cared for that this next season will probably find those market gardens of Belgium giving forth their normal supply of produce, which can be imported into this country at will.

**Mining interests.**

There is another very important industry which the Germans are seeking to deal with in methodical manner and that is the vast mining interests which centre at Charleroi. In this matter everything has been done in order to give employment, in other words money to live upon, to the greatest number of people. Thus instead of establishing long hours for the few short times, from 4 to 6 hours have been instituted, so that the greatest number of workmen can be paid wages sufficient to keep their heads above water. Thus 90% of the miners in the district of Charleroi have been given occupation. In Belgium a greater portion of the raw material must be imported. And with characteristic frankness, Dr. Rohrbach told how upon that matter of raw material the civil and military authorities had different points of view. The latter, very naturally took the point of view that the war was being conducted towards the end of victory and that therefore all raw produce needed for the production of material for the needs of the Army, should be requisitioned and brought back into Germany. But it was all settled by goodwill and mutual agreement, which amounted to the amount of raw material needed to keep the factories in Belgium working, should be left there.

**They compromise.**

So also compromise was resorted to in other directions. The workmen at the well known arms factory at Liege were asked if they chose to continue producing. They said no, giving as reason that the arms they produced would be used against their compatriots. There was no compulsion. They were asked whether they would make wheels for automobiles and so forth. Some acquiesced others refused. The machines upon which those workmen refused to work, were requisitioned and sent to Germany. It was at first suggested they be taken upon a system of loan, for after the war they being somewhat out of date they would be of no use. Ultimately it was thought fairer to purchase them and they were bought. "Americas supplying of munitions to the Allies has much assisted the enemies of Germany," said Dr. Rohrbach "to a degree which it is impossible to imagine, when one realises that the consumption of munitions has been five times greater than had

been expected in times of peace". France England and Russia sought those supplies in America. Germany had to produce at home. And that is why so much machinery has been borrowed from Belgium and taken to Germany for the production of shells and other munitions".

In such times as these the German government has found time, according to the observations of Dr. Rohrbach, to attend to the Educational system of Belgium and has got to the point of being able to introduce reforms. In this department much credit is due to Herr Trimborn.

**The gold gone.**

A very complicated question was the regulation of money. The situation was unique, for the National Bank authorities had fled and the Government, contrary to all custom, had requisitioned all its gold and transferred it to England. Therefore there was no gold covering for the paper issue. A means was found to solve this problem. Germany had to arrange with other banks and a group was formed with the Société Générale at its head. New notes were issued and the necessary cover for them was found in the various goods and provisions requisitioned by Germany. "A very uncommon arrangement" said the lecturer. Belgium has paid 400,000,000 marks as war contribution, that is all.

**To feel them.**

How were the people to be fed? One way said Dr. Rohrbach would be to plant the land with corn, for at present the production is only one fifth of the requirements. For the usual production all the fields are ready and sown for the winter crops and prepared for the summer crops. Seed of all kinds has been sent to Belgium from Germany; in the meantime the American corn is quite sufficient for the needs of the people. Dr. Rohrbach, at some length went into the organisation of the relief committee convincing his audience that it was working practically and perfectly. The poorest received corn free, the less poor paid cheap prices and those with money paid in full.

Lastly Dr. Rohrbach came to the so much discussed matter of the laying waste of the country. He said he travelled for hundreds of kilometres in automobile through the country and could see no trace of destruction. It was just as though nothing had happened, as if there were no war. In other districts on the contrary, where the conflict has raged about the high roads destruction everywhere, Termonde for instance is razed to the ground. Dinant the same. Over them the battle raged. But Antwerp is scarcely touched, just a bit here and there, like the holes in a cheese and those holes are very far apart. At Charleroi there was nothing except in the upper part of the town, where the bullets about the window ledges told of street fights. In Namur where street fights (franc tireurs) took place, there was considerable damage and many villages were devastated but in the main the greater part of the country has suffered little. Belgian Luxembourg has not been touched, Brugge and Ghent very little; one sees the peasants peacefully tilling the land carelessly concerning the war. The English have issued fantastical reports concerning the damage along the coast. At Seebrugge and Ostende the damage is very small. It would be wrong to say that things in Belgium are good, but what one can say is that they are as well as can be expected. Everything is being done to help the people. All praise is due to the American Committee and Germany is helping all she can facilitating the movements of its members granting them passes to circulate freely and so forth. They can go where they will.

"And" said Dr. Rohrbach "I want you all to understand that what I speak of I saw for myself, that I am not in any sense of the word an official, quite the contrary, I am a volunteer! And as everyone who knows Dr. Rohrbach is aware, he is possessed of an independence of spirit which is his principal characteristic, and thus his remarks gain additional value.

**Churchill Attacked.**

Rotterdam, Febr., 18th. According to despatches from London the first Lord of the Admiralty Mr. Churchill is having hard time of it. Lord Charles Beresford in the house of commons has just lately made a violent attack upon the first Lord, on account of the loss of the Formidable, which ship was sunk by a German torpedo boat.

**Singing teacher desires accompanist** who will play in exchange for lessons.—Off. under F.W. 101 care of Continental Times office, Berlin W., Augburgerstr. 38.

**Tell me whom you are aiding and I will tell you who you are!**

An open letter to President Wilson from Citizens of the United States.

With growing astonishment and increasing indignation the Americans living in Europe are watching the attitude of the United States towards the warring Powers, particularly those who, like the undersigned, have, during their longer stay in Germany learned to love and highly esteem this country; who have convinced themselves through personal observation that, in spite of its absolute honesty, it has become a victim of infamous political intrigues; who remember what America owes to Germany materially and intellectually, can never approve of or even comprehend the attitude taken by the American government.

To wage war it is necessary to have—leaving money aside—men and arms, men without arms are powerless, arms without men useless. Both are in equal manner necessary, indispensable.

There is no difference whether a country sends 100,000 men to the seat of war to enroll them in the army of one of the belligerents or whether she, as America does, delivers arms and ammunition to one of the parties, the one as well as the other is incompatible with real neutrality.

If the American government tries to white-wash itself by saying that it is not the government but the American industry which is providing England, France and Russia with war materials and that the American industry would be quite willing to provide Germany and Austria-Hungary exactly as it does their enemies, we hold ourselves morally bound to declare before the whole world that we do not regard this as deep political wisdom, but consider it rank pharisaism!

In times of war every government is responsible for the actions of its subjects, and, if it earnestly desires to preserve its neutrality, must prevent any action on their part partial to the belligerents by export prohibitions or by other means at its disposal.

The willingness to deliver munitions of war to a Power, which, as is known, is so placed by its opposing Powers that it is utterly impossible for it ever to make use of such an offer, we consider a direct cynical taunt.

Neutrality does not consist in words but in deeds, assistance may not be given any of the warring parties, and surely it may not be given to one of them, above all when it is known that the other is in no position to receive such aid. If our government's construction of international law is justifiable then this law deserves to be immediately wiped out as the most abominable product of the human intellect.

On the one hand our government wounds our sense of justice by manifestly favoring the Triple Entente, and, on the other hand it deeply hurts our national pride because it suffers foreign men of war to stand guard directly at our coast in order to seize ships leaving our ports and drag them over to England and because it permits British Consular officers in our own country to hatch over shipments destined for foreign ports.

To what level has our self esteem fallen when we put up with such indignity? **Peace at any price is ignominy at any price!**

It is ridiculous to even think it possible that anyone would dare attack us when we are advocating justice and the true spirit of International law!

It is clear that our present foreign policy must bear evil fruit, a deep rupture among our own people, and a lasting bad feeling between us and the Central European Powers. The Germans know only too well that England, France and Russia cannot win this war without help from the United States. They know, should they succumb, that they would not have been conquered by these powers alone, but with America's aid.

We, however, who are accustomed to revere our native country as the shield of humanity and justice, as the fort of national pride, we cannot avoid a feeling of poignant shame when we find ourselves—for the sake of the "Almighty Dollar"—fighting with our arms and munitions of war in a line with Cossaks, Kirghise, Gourkas, Japanese, Senegalese and for those who have unfettered the most horrible war the world has ever seen. "Tell me whom you are aiding and I will tell you who you are!"

The present policy of this United States does not serve our own interests, but solely those of Great Britain, whose crushing power is to be made still more crushing.

Using our right as free Americans unreservedly to express our opinion for the welfare of our country and convinced of acting in unison with countless fellow-citizens we herewith raise our voices in serious warning and solemn protest.

Leon Rains, New York, N.Y.  
Robert McBride, Detroit, Mich.  
Carl L. Recknagel, Great Neck, N.Y.  
James H. Park, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**The Open Tribune.**

Letters from our readers.

**To our Readers!**

We shall be glad to publish any communication by our readers, but must ask contributors to attach name and address to their letters. These will be published anonymously, if so desired.

**Irish in America Pro-German.**

To the Editor Continental Times.  
Irish-American public sentiment in the United States is a unit for Germany. Its leading organs including the "Irish World" and "Gaelic American" have been excluded from Ireland by the British authorities. In all the meetings held in behalf of the Fatherland in the Great Republic, Irish speakers have repudiated the recruiting policy of Redmond and proclaimed their support of the German cause. A few weeks ago, the President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a great beneficiary and philanthropic organization numbering over 300,000 members, appeared before the foreign affairs committee of Congress to protest against the export of war munitions to Europe.

It is a question of the highest political significance that an alliance has been formed between the Irish and German societies in the United States to combat the British interests which seek to dominate the foreign policy of the American Government. There are, at a low estimate, thirty millions of immediate German and Irish descent in America and if they combined in the next election, their influence will be a determining factor as to who will be President.

Redmond, T. P. O'Connor and most of the Irish Parliamentary party have become denationalized and Anglicized. For thirty years their leaders have lived and in many instances earned their living in London. They are owned, body and soul, by Asquith and Lloyd George, who promised to pass the Home Rule Bill, if they supported the war policy of the Government. This would place at the disposal of Redmond and his following a patronage worth nearly one million sterling a year, which the wretched dupes and renegades were afraid to risk losing. Hence their treachery towards their countrymen both at home and abroad.

Redmond, however, has been repudiated by the American Irish, whose pensioner he has been for thirty years. As a recruiting sergeant for England he has also failed. The war office counted on Redmond's furnishing 200,000 volunteers for the front; up to this writing only 30,000 have enlisted, 15,000 of which came from the South of Ireland. If Redmond had stood up in his place in the House of Commons after the war declaration of Asquith and stated that he and his compatriots would defend their native land from any alien foe, but did not feel obliged to embark in a war about which they were not consulted and in which they had no concern, he would have immortalized himself. Now he is utterly discredited and has lost the confidence of his countrymen both at home and abroad.

As has already been announced in the German Press numerous papers published in Ireland have condemned Redmond and his policy. These have been suppressed and a condition of practically martial law has been proclaimed throughout the country. A desperate effort has been made by the British press to create hostility towards Germany in Ireland by publishing the most scandalous falsehoods as to the attitude of the German troops towards the catholic churches, monasteries and convents. Not a vestige of truth is permitted to enter Ireland and any American newspaper favorable to the German cause is excluded from the mails. The most rigid censorship is also exercised over the mail coming from America and all letters relating to the war and the truth of its origin are immediately destroyed. Such is the situation at present in the Emerald Isle!

**Thanks!**

Editor of the Continental Times.  
I admire and enjoy your paper more all the time. Your edition of the 5th instant is splendid. We are going to see some stirring times on and after the 18th! "Gott strafe England!"  
Meran (Tyrol), Feb. 17, 1915.  
John L. Stoddard.

**British Civilization.**

To the Editor, Continental Times.  
We hear a wondrous deal, from the English themselves, of their high civilization, but I am one of those who doubt it. As the old saw goes "Self praise is no recommendation." "Scratch the Russian and you find the Tartar!", that's another saying. I would like to improve a little proverb of my own, which is "Scratch the Englishman and you find the savage!" In the New York Sun of the 11th of November last I find the following: "Over three hundred Indian immigrants who had not been allowed to land in British Canada, sought, on their return to India, to organize a demonstration. On the night of 29th of September 1913, on the way to Calcutta they were shot down. To the last man, by English troops who had lain in ambush for them."  
Berlin, Feb. 18, 1915.  
A Friend of Civilization.

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**English Warfare Through English Spectacles.**

**Tommy's Ways, Not Long Ago. "Hunny," Rather Than Honey.**

The history of England has brought about that her troops have fought in all parts of the globe. To give the British army its due it must be admitted that its records show a great number of memorable successes and deeds. But there is a lot of shade besides the light. A large literature of English documents shows that in the course of last century English troops have been guilty of the gravest misdeeds. Now that English newspapers vie with each other in insulting the "modern Huns and Barbarians" a recital of a few of the cases alluded to above may not be out of place.

**Copenhagen.**

It is well known that in 1807 an English fleet appeared before Copenhagen and bombarded the town, compelling a capitulation, by the terms of which the Danish warships were handed over to the English. 315 houses lay in ashes, 1300 families were rendered homeless. By the capitulation the storming of the town was avoided, but it is on record that the landed troops nevertheless committed ugly excesses, culminating in the destruction of the tombs in the Copenhagen cemeteries. An order of the day published on the 14th September speaks for itself. Here it is:

"There is one point in which most regiments have failed. Abominable excesses, quite inconsistent with the honour of H. M.'s service, the articles of war and the repeated orders of the commanders have been committed by the troops on shore."

**Washington.**

What Copenhagen would have had to expect if the English had actually taken the town by storm is shown by the fate of Washington in the war of 1814. This is what the American author Willard says about it. "The English soldiers took Washington; they did not however act like the army of a civilized people, but burned, ravaged and looted, destroying the library and other valuable collections and laying the town in ashes."

**The Peninsular War.**

During the war in the Iberian Peninsula the English soldier had to his credit great performances on the battlefield. These are eclipsed, however by his total want of discipline after the fight. With iron rigor the Generals Crawford & Picton, subalterns of Wellington's, tried to put down the savage behaviour of the troops, but all in vain. Sir Thomas Picton's favourite way of addressing his troops when sending them into battle was to call out to them:

**Go ahead, you scoundrels!**

**Go ahead, you fighting rabble!**

The storming of Badajoz on the 6th April was a horrible affair. Let us see what Lieutenant-Colonel Cooper King says about it in his "Story of the British Army":

"The fall of Badajoz was followed by a butchery even worse than that of Ciudad Rodrigo. The men were literally drowned in brandy. For two days and two nights no stop appears to have been called to the horrors. There was nothing but shameless robbery, rough licence, savage lust, cruelty, murder."

Referring to the same incident, Cooper King's fellow chronicler, Jones Shand wrote in the "War in the Peninsula":

Maddened by the blood shed and afterwards by the wine the soldiers broke down every barrier of discipline. Many officers and petty officers paid with their lives for the attempt to save the victims of drunk barbarism and to hem in the insane lust of incendiarism. When Wellington rode through the streets the drunk held out to him bottles of wine, shouting:

**Have a drink, old boy!**

The following passage occurs in Cooper King's description of the storming of San Sebastian, in 1813:

"The soldiers committed atrocities which eclipsed the wildest barbarism of antiquity. In Ciudad Rodrigo drink and pillage had been the main object, in Badajoz rape and murder were added, but in San Sebastian the most debased, revolting cruelties swelled the list of crimes."

**India.**

When the great Indian mutiny broke out the English were fully entitled to inflict the sharpest punishment upon the natives, for the murder and torture of Europeans. But what did happen far surpassed the bounds of anything permissible. Cooper King describes how, by the order of General Neill, the Indian chieftains before being hung were forced by whipping to wipe off the pools of blood of the persons murdered, just because according to their faith the contact with blood meant eternal damnation of their souls for natives of superior caste.

The author of the "History of the Indian Mutiny," Rice Holmes in telling about the relief of Allahabad, says:

"The work of revenge was not over yet. Many soldiers did not care whom they butchered as long as there was some one there to be butchered. Volunteers and Sikhs ran from the forts into the streets and massacred every native they came across. The system of burning down

villages, political and proper, if used with discrimination was terribly abused in many cases. Old men who had done us no harm; helpless women who were suckling their babies felt the force of our revenge, no less than the meanest criminal.

Under General Havelock the excesses of the English soldiery were such, that according to Archibald Forbes the general gave orders to hang in his uniform every English soldier caught looting. Drunkenness he fought by buying up all spirits, because otherwise, as he wrote to Sir Patrick Grant, **one half of his corps would have been necessary to prevent the other half from getting drunk.**

All natives condemned to death were tied to the mouth of a gun so that in firing the body should be torn to tatters by the air pressure. According to native faith resurrection is thus lost. In the Indian campaigns dum-dum bullets also were first introduced.

In conclusion, we do not wish to suggest that the English soldier is still the savage drunkard he used to be. But what has remained unchanged in the English method of carrying on the war is the absolute contempt of every legal obligation. That the "warlike inconsideration" of England knows no bounds the inhabitants of the allied Belgium & the north of France have learned to their cost.

**Remarkable Claim against owner of the Dacia.**

**Suit for \$250,000. — Story of Secret Marriage.**

From our own Correspondent.

New York. The love-making of Juliet Breitung, daughter of Edward Breitung, who bought the Dacia from the Germans, occupies more space here at present than the war. The lady is only 20, and she wrote letters to Max Kleist, a former gardener to her father and then chauffeur. He said he had not made any response for a long time, and then he gave her a bunch of violets and a box of marshmallows. Thenceforth the courtship proceeded at a furious rate.

After a short period of secret marriage Juliet began to regret her bargain, and Mr. and Mrs. Breitung, who had great social ambitions, urged her daughter to secure a divorce.

**Tons of correspondence.**

In the battle of wits between Kleist and the defendant's counsel, the young bridegroom asserted that his bride induced him to marry her, and finally, under parental pressure, had forsaken him and damaged his feelings to such an extent that he felt constrained to demand \$250,000 from his father-in-law as heart balm. Nineteen fervent letters written by Juliet to Max were read from a large bale of correspondence, which will eventually be submitted as evidence in an effort to show "why young men go wrong." During the testimony Juliet, who is a tall, pretty, lissom young woman with a weak mouth, frequently exchanged smiles with her youthful husband in the witness-box, but she sat apart from her parents, and most of the time her face appeared troubled.

All her letters written before the secret nuptials are full of expressions of devotion and love for Kleist. They made it clear that the young woman keenly resented her lover being forced to leave his position as gardener and chauffeur to Mr. Breitung, in which capacity Kleist first met his future wife, and go to Cleveland, Ohio, in search of work. She urged her lover to seek acquaintance with well-to-do families, and in that way elevate himself socially. "I know you are shy," she wrote, with reference to Max's acquaintance with two girls, "but I should go to see them, as they might be nice."

Under examination Kleist declared Miss Breitung made all the advances in their love affair, and that finally he learned to love her. "Did Miss Breitung teach you to love her?"—"Yes."

"Did she hold your hand, that is, before you held hers?"—"Yes."

"Did she kiss you?"—"She asked me to kiss her."

"Did you do it?"—"Not at first; afterwards I gave her a kiss on the cheek."

Asked to explain the secret of his fatal fascination, Kleist replied he had never flattered Juliet, and never told her she was pretty, witty, or intelligent.

**Russians very Tired.**

According to an officer who has just returned from the Eastern front, the offensive spirit has completely taken leave of the Russians. He says that the number of prisoners taken although very large, is as nothing compared to the count of those killed. At Belmow alone some 7000 prisoners were taken and the battle field was almost too terrible a sight to behold. Warsaw can be taken any day the Germans choose. It is merely a matter of a certain loss of life. But as he says:—"Why sacrifice men, when it will all come to us a little later without loss. The Russians are very tired!"

**Truth Not Wanted.**  
 Some of the leading American papers only want to know one side of the war.

The following letter is published in the *Vital Issue*, of New York:—

The honored maxim, "Two sides to every story" seems to be out of date just now in America. I am an American of English ancestry, with no German blood or interests to influence me. But having lived in that country for five years, I have had an opportunity to study Germany and her wonderfully regulated and beneficial government. Everyone who observed the conduct of this nation, could wish to see only fair play in America.

Germans were surprised and justly indignant at the hostile attitude of the American press. They felt sure that the American Public was only eager to be just, but had been obliged to form its biased opinion through having heard only one side, because of England's control of the cable and control over certain newspapers. I set about collecting authentic evidence, and convincing material for Germany's cause.

**Dum Dums.**

Upon our arrival in this country, our boat, the Noordam, was met by reporters in search of truthful news, as they said, for their papers. While I was being interviewed by a reporter of the New York Press, I overheard the testimony given to a World reporter by an American eye-witness of the battles in Belgium. He spoke of the reassuring kindness of the German soldiers to frightened Belgian women and children, and refuted generally the tales of German atrocities. I had just learned that this gentleman also had dum-dum bullets in his possession. There, for the first time, in the presence of the reporters, we compared the bullets and the French packings, and found them to be identical. His were given him by a wounded German soldier, who had captured them in battle, while mine were from the German War Department. I begged both reporters to mention the kindness of the German people to stranded Americans. The Germans took stranded Americans into their homes, caring for them until succour could arrive from the United States. The German Government, extended to us every protection and consideration. In both the Press, and the World appeared short articles to the effect that scores of American refugees on the Noordam carried French dum-dum bullets, loose and in packages,—all claiming to have received them from wounded German soldiers. I can almost positively state that only two of us had those bullets. Of the testimony favorable to Germany, not a word was written.

**Illusions.**

I found my native country generally full of incredulous surprise when a word was uttered in justification of the German Kaiser, of "the hero and Warlord who fancied himself a second Napoleon," and "who had planned and incited this horrible slaughter, etc." It seemed useless to argue against these fictions of the Press.

I then turned my attention to the so-called "neutral" newspapers. The Times reporter courteously made notes of my material, and called in another gentleman, a "military expert" to examine the dum-dum bullets. This gentleman, upon learning that they were not made in Germany, but bore instead the French stamp, vehemently pronounced them not genuine before he had so much as looked at them. He took them with scornful mien into the Editorial Rooms, declaring that the German War Department was manufacturing them, and sending them broadcast into America. "Why," he exclaimed, "twenty of you on the Noordam had them." In vain I protested that the extra eighteen were inventions of the crafty reporter. The packages were pronounced worthless because the word "dum-dum" did not appear thereon.

**No use for the truth.**

The editor of the New York Sun begged leave to photograph my material. He said that they were always glad to print impartial news of both sides. He gladly took the address of an American who was in a position to tell him something of the terrible provocation which forced Germany to her stern measures in Belgium. This American had just come back from a visit to a friend of his, a Prussian officer, whose eyes had been gouged out by a vengeful "Franc-Tireur," as he lay wounded on a Belgian battlefield. His was only one of the many cases of such cruelty. The Sun has not as yet, I believe, availed itself of his evidence.

**How it is done.**

A good reproduction of the dum-dum bullets and the French inscription on the packages appears in both the Sun, and reprinted by the *Courier des Etats-Unis* (a French American paper) under the heading: "Dum-dum bullets used in French target practice." Thus you see how skillfully my information was distorted to favor the Allies. Then came an explanation of the advantages of said bullets for such purpose, with no explanation as to why they should have been carried in such large quantities by the soldiers of the Allied forces.

**No use.**

Discouraged, I bow my head in sorrow that my countrymen, of whose just character and love of fair play I have always been so

**The Open Tribune.**

Letters from our readers.

The Editor

*The Continental Times.*

Tuesday, 16. February, 1915.

Sir,

Permit me to correct a mistranslation of my letter to Sir E. Grey that has appeared in the German rendering of that letter, as it is published in the Vienna and Berlin press.

My companion on my journey to Norway, Mr. Adler Christensen, is referred to in the German renderings I have seen as my "Diener".

This is incorrect, and has no foundation in any term used by me to describe his services in my letter to Sir E. Grey.

So far as I knew, until he entered my service Mr. Christensen had been a sailor; and it was precisely because he knew the sea and was at home in Norway, I wished him to accompany me to that country.

I shall be grateful if correction can be made of an inaccuracy that has no justification in fact or in any statement in my letter to Sir E. Grey.

I am &c.

Roger Casement.

**Spirit in Vienna.**

*To the Continental Times.*

People say all kinds of things about conditions existing in Vienna. Here is an extract of a letter just received from the Austrian capital:—

"Here the spirit is fine, without maybe being so strong as in Berlin. Everything goes its usual course, the theatres, restaurants and cafes are full and if it were not for the sight of the wounded and the war bread, we would not feel as though we were at war. Many of our friends have gone to the front so that the "cavalier" table at the Bristol is empty. Count Adalbert Sternberg has been called out and Arthur Wolff has joined the automobile corps and von Pronay is working in the ministry of war."

A. S.

**Poulney Bigelows' shame.**

*Editor of the Continental Times.*

Apropos of the recent malicious utterances of Mr. Poulney Bigelow in America, I desire to say, as a born American, and a relative of Mr. Bigelow, that I am ashamed that a man, who bears the name of my deceased mother, should have attacked the German Emperor in such a shameful way. The world should understand that Bigelow was, as a boy, the playmate of the Kaiser, and in later years his intimate friend. Some time ago however, he forfeited the respect and friendship of the Emperor, and his present action is nothing else than a desire for revenge.—  
 Baroness Alten (née de Haven).

**An awkward Guest.**

*To the Continental Times.*

I read your Open Tribune, with great interest and often gain much instruction and amusement out of it. I wonder if you could publish the enclosed which I clipped from the New York World, sent to that paper by its London Correspondent

**Congo Cannibal Quartered on English Lady Who Had Turned Her Country House Into a Hospital.**

Among those who agreed to receive mild cases was the wife of a prominent London publisher who has a beautiful country home in Surrey. There she had arranged to care for eighteen patients, her daughter acting as head nurse. Telling me her experiences one day, she said:

"I had been notified that eighteen patients would arrive on a certain day. Imagine my consternation when three of those who came turned out to be stretcher cases, men whose wounds required dressing twice daily and who needed constant medical attention. But that was only a trifle, for one of the men was a huge Belgian Congolese Cannibal—a man eater! He was over six feet tall and as black as ebony. He uttered the most ferocious sounds, out of which I could distinguish a few words of atrocious French, and he emphasized his remarks by drawing his hand across his throat. He carried with him a spear taller than himself and a murderous looking knife, which he insisted on taking to bed. When my daughter entered the room he sat up and made the most awful noises, which gave one the cold shivers. But my daughter, who is something of an athlete, walked calmly over to him and pushed him back on the bed, after which he remained fairly quiet. We found out that there wasn't anything much the matter with him except a pain in his stomach, but he would not leave. So the next day we sent for two constables and two territorials and had him taken back to London."  
 New-York, February 1915.

Clarence J. . . . .

proud, seem to listen only to evidence against a land which is bravely waging an unequal fight against many. That this land was systematically and splendidly equipped to defend itself against terrible odds, seems to the average American to be the only cause for condemnation.

Let us follow the heads of our nation, and,—with malice toward none, and charity to all—suspend judgment until all the evidence is in.

**Corn Monopoly and Contraband.**

By Aulic Councillor Dr. Heinrich Lamenasch. Member of the International Court of Arbitration in the Hague and the Austrian House of Lords.

As reported, the "Times" are using the introduction of the corn monopoly and the confiscation by the German Government of corn in private possession as an argument that corn bound for Germany has now become absolute contraband of war, liable to confiscation on the sea even if destination for the hostile army or navy cannot be proven. This argument evidently relies upon article No. 33 of the London Declaration, reading "The objects of relative contraband are liable to confiscation if it is proved that they are destined for the hostile forces or the administrative departments of the hostile state." Since the introduction of the corn monopoly all corn, it is argued, is meant for the administrative departments of the German Empire, therefore corn, although otherwise only relative contraband becomes absolute contraband. This interpretation may be objected to on the ground that according to article No. 65 all provisions of the London Declaration form an indivisible whole. If Britain ignores the London Declaration in some points she has no right to rely upon other points which happen to suit her convenience.

Besides, article No. 33 is based upon the principle that the state being a unit in spite of the different functions being distributed amongst various departments, commodities destined for the civil administration may be requisitioned by the military authorities. This does not however apply to the present case. The corn monopoly has for its purpose the equitable distribution of the available quantities of corn amongst the peaceful population. The needs of the army and navy have long ago been adequately provided for.

By accepting the interpretation suggested by the Times, Great Britain officially adopts a view she made her own in 1793, viz: It is the task of naval war to starve the whole population of a hostile state and to force the enemy to peace by the pressure thus exercised. This view however is opposed to the principle generally recognized since over a century, that wars should be conducted between the hostile forces, leaving the civil population unaffected as much as possible. The "Times" view is particularly in contrast with the view of the United States, as expressed in the protest note of the American secretary of state, Jefferson, dated 7th September 1793. Surely, the United States as a world power will not tolerate a matter they contested 120 years ago when a small rising state that had just acquired its independence.

But a few years ago even Great Britain condemned the practice suggested by it to-day. In her war with China France declared rice contraband. Against this Lord Granville lodged a sharp protest dated 27th February 1885. He insisted on his view even when it was pointed out that the Chinese soldiers got their pay in rice. A protest was also directed by Lord Lansdowne against Russia trying to declare rice and other foodstuffs contraband in her war with Japan.

Even when at war herself Great Britain recently used to back the same view. On the 10th of January 1900, Lord Salisbury sent a note to the American Ambassador, Mr. Choate, to say: Foodstuffs with hostile destination can only be regarded as contraband of war if they are destined for the hostile forces. It is not sufficient that they are capable of being so used; it must be shown that this was in fact their destination at the time of seizure.

It is therefore to be hoped that the British Government will not fall in with the view of the "Times," in contradiction of universally recognized principles and her own practice during the last century.

**Too late.**

The Novoe Vremia, the leading Petersburg paper, announces that the Russian troops are now trusting to the help of God to save themselves. But as a wit remarked all that is no use because the German troops also place their faith in God, and, as the Russian calendar is thirteen days behind, the Russians come too late.

**Disguising their ships.**

The English busy giving new coats of paint and obliterating names.

Rotterdam, Feb. 17th. The authorities of the Harwich line of passenger ships are busy painting their boats over so that they may resemble those of the Holland Batavia line. The names are being obliterated and stern, deck and small boats being colored so as to resemble those of the Dutch line.

**Protecting Art.**

An Imperial Commission sent out to catalogue and place in Safety all Art Treasures. Pictures Saved.

During the Conflagration at Louvain officers saved rare works. Famous historical paintings carefully housed.

By James O'Donnell Bennett (War Correspondent of the Chicago Tribune).

Brussels. It was intensely characteristic of the German love of method that even while the siege guns were booming around Antwerp and the occasional franc-tireur was crouching behind the hedges, an imperial art commission should have come into Belgium from Berlin on a mission of conservation.

Its duty was to catalogue and transport to places of safety all works of art and ecclesiastical treasures which lay in the war zone.

On the testimony of the Belgian clergy and civil authorities this work has been done in no high handed manner, but has been carried on by means of friendly interviews between the German privy councillor, Dr. Otto von Falke, who is head of the commission, and the various priests, bishops, and burgomasters whom it was fitting to consult in the matter.

**To Conserve.**

The purpose of the commission has been not confiscation but conservation.

More often than not the Belgian leaders in church and state have expressed satisfaction with the German scheme and have shown alacrity and good will in forwarding it.

Dr. von Falke spoke with special pleasure of the attitude of Prof. Neerinx, the new burgomaster of stricken Louvain. Dr. von Falke said that the professor displayed a most intelligent understanding not only of the treasures from St. Peter's church which have been entrusted to his care, but of the purpose of the German government in assuming responsibility for the preservation of works which confer a special glory on many a remote and possibly endangered Belgian village which is in no position to protect its own inheritance in these troublous times.

The Germans have in no case taken permanent possession of the treasures which they removed from the danger zone. Invariably the consignee has been the Belgian himself, as represented either by a local pastor or burgomaster or by the curator of the Royal Picture gallery in Brussels.

**Saving treasures.**

In some instances altar furnishings of silver and altar pictures have been removed from the churches to the store-rooms of the Hotel de Ville nearby, as was the case at Louvain, or have been deposited in the fireproof vaults maintained in the Rue de la Regence, Brussels, by the curator of the Royal gallery.

During the conflagration at Louvain only Germans went into the church of St. Peter, and Germans alone carried the imperiled treasures across the street to the Hotel de Ville. The masterpieces of Dirck Bouts—the "Last Supper" (1467) and the "Martyrdom of St. Erasmus"—were saved by two German officers, one of whom was a student of art. The other was an overlieutenant of reserves, Mr. Thelemann, of the ministry of railways in Berlin. All the silver of the church was saved.

In Saventhem, a village lying between Brussels and Louvain, the parish church contains Van Dyck's "St. Martin Dividing His Cloak" (restored in 1902) which Dr. von Falke said is valued at £ 250,000. That treasure was removed and is now in the custody of the Belgian authorities in Brussels.

**The report.**

Dr. von Falke, formerly of Vienna, now of Berlin, is president of the Museum of Industrial Arts of Prussia. He prepared for The Tribune the following brief synopsis of the long report he sent to the imperial authorities in Berlin:

"The following cities, together with their art treasures and memorial, were visited and examined in Belgium by art experts of the imperial civil government:

"Liege, Huy, Namur, Mons, Louvain, Dinant, Malines, Saventhem, Nivelles, Ghrimbergen, Vilvoorde, Hal, Braine-le-Comte, and various smaller places.

"At Liege the churches and works of art suffered no damage. All church treasures were left where they belonged under the protection of the clergy and the supervision of the German authorities. The museums are closed and guarded.

"At Huy the famous early Gothic collegiate church is wholly intact, as no part of the

city has suffered by the war. The church treasures were hidden when the war broke out and are in safety.

**Saved.**

"At Namur the treasures of the cathedral and the nun's cloister were also concealed under the direction of the bishop and are safe. Churches and the museum are in perfect condition.

"At Dinant the beautiful cathedral lost its roof as a result of the burning of the city, but the interior is not seriously damaged. The church treasures are in the custody of the pastor.

"At Saventhem the 'Martinus altar,' an earlier masterpiece of Van Dyck, was, for better safeguarding against the dangers of war, removed to the Royal Belgian Picture gallery in Brussels.

**All intact.**

In Vilvoorde the church containing the beautiful choir stalls remains intact.

Furthermore, the churches and works of art at Hal, Mons, Nivelles, and Ghrimbergen are not in the least damaged.

At Malines, which was several times under artillery fire, the cathedral was damaged, but can be repaired without much effort. One day after the capture of the city it was fired upon by the Belgians. As a rule the ancient structures of the city did not suffer.

**No cash for Russia.**

Paris, Feb. 18. From the Banque de France and the Bank of England the Russian government has obtained enough money to pay the coupon. But the attempt to obtain 1000 millions from the Credit Lyonnais in return for treasury notes has failed. This leaves Russia in a very awkward position financially.

**Found at Last.**

Vienne, Feb. 18. At last the word has been found to replace the Frenchified expression *Chaufeur*. There has been a great discussion over it. Mr. Victor Silberer was in favor of *Schöffer*, but he thinks that the suggestion of Robert Knoller is still better namely *Fahrman*.

**High Prices in Russia.**

Zürich, Feb. 18. The Neue Zürcher Zeitung says:—From Petersburg we hear that the price of salt has gone up 70 per cent. Other commodities have risen in proportion. The Commandant of Cronstadt has put a maximum price on provisions.

**Situation in Ireland.**

If we are to credit certain portions of the press, the great war now raging on the European continent has precipitated in Ireland a warmer conflict than even the famous Ulster Movement of inglorious memory. According to many reports, Ireland is today hotly divided into two strong camps, one fiercely opposed to the participation of Irish soldiers in the continental war, the other as strongly in favor of Ireland aiding England in the fight. The latter party is headed by the Irish parliamentarian, John Redmond.

**Mr. Findlay Keeps Silent.**

Sir Edward Grey will Answer.

All Christiania papers have reported of Sir Roger Casement's accusations against the British Ambassador at Christiania. *Aftenposten* asked Mr. Findlay if he would consent to an interview but the Ambassador declared that he at present could not say anything. It may be possible that Sir Edward Grey would answer Sir Roger Casement's letter.—This looks to us very much like a confession of Mr. Findlay's guilt; the reference to Sir Edward Grey seems to show that whatever Mr. Findlay has done, he did with the consent or even under orders of his chief.

**Muzzling Erin.**

A proclamation has been issued [in Ireland] against the importation or sale of all arms, except shotguns, which, however, are permitted by special license only. The papers that have been suppressed include the "Irish Volunteer," "Sinn Fein," "Irish Worker," "Freedom," "The Celt," and "Ireland," the only daily that opposed the recruiting policy. Circulation in Ireland of the New York "Irish World" has been prohibited, as has that of the "Gaelic American."

**German Bank Bunkum.**

The article attached from the *Financial News*, London, does not need comment.—It is by far the silliest thing written by a formerly respectable paper since the war started.

Here we are in Germany with a bigger gold supply on hand than the Imperial Bank ever had in times of peace and there we are accused to have received the money either out of robberies or from debasing our gold material or, which is still more ridiculous, from proceeds of jewellery taken from German women, who doubtless "in very great numbers travel constantly from England to Germany for this purpose" evidently unmolested by the otherwise so inquisitive and searchingly inclined Englishmen.—How a hitherto respectable paper has the nerve to print such "rot" is beyond comprehension.

Everybody knows that Germany is unable to import much during the war, therefore the money stays in the country, although millions are spent every day for army and navy, out of which the German trades people make good money.—Again the German export to a great extent has stopped and therefore German capitalists and exporters invest their capital at home, creating a surplus of money which shows in the ever increasing Gold supply of the Bank.—The big war loan which was issued below par is now above par, a sign that German capitalists are taking advantage of the good rate of interest and are daily investing their money in this well secured loan.—

German newspapers as a rule are very carefully edited and in most instances one can pretty well believe what appears in their columns; things are about the same in the States except that the American public discounts a great deal of the news.—In England the average reader believes everything and anything that appears in the paper and necessarily this "Bunkum" story too.—It therefore pays the owners to fill their columns full of such dope, knowing full well that it is readily and eagerly read and believed in, with no chance of any reader venturing to repudiate such stories.—Here is the article in question.

**"German Bank Bunkum."**

Amsterdam. The Imperial Bank of Germany has reduced its rate of discount to 5 and the rate for loans on securities to 6 1/2%.—Statement.

This statement may be regarded as pure "bunkum" of the most impudent type, or else it is an admission that Germany is lending out the proceeds of blackmail and theft at a cheap rate, in order to create the idea that she has plenty of money.

What are the facts? All over Belgium the population is being blackmailed by the Germans. Even tradesmen's tills are "being robbed and peasants savings filched" by these "rascally brigands." A proclamation has been issued at Namur, according to the "Frankfurter Zeitung," making rubbishy German bank notes a forced currency in Belgium, or, in other words, compelling the Belgians to part with honest goods against what is practically "sugar-paper." Again, the German gold coinage is being debased by the "simple expedient of taking out the gold and filling the coin with base metal."

Turning from Belgium to England, the German Government, in its financial desperation, has devised a very clever method of obtaining remittances from Germans, German "branch" managers, and the directors of Anglo-German companies in this country. Under the arrangement the money to be remitted to Germany is employed in the purchase of good jewellery. This is used to deck the persons of the numerous German women who are constantly going back to Germany. The jewellery is then realized in a neutral country, and the proceeds at once sent to the German Government for use in the purchase of bombs, mines, and other instruments of warfare.—No German woman is allowed to take money out of this country to Germany, but apparently no opposition is offered to her taking huge quantities of jewellery. Obviously, the only course would be for the female searcher to remove all jewellery (except the wedding ring), and for it to be deposited in safe custody until the return of the apparent possessor. This would shut off the means of remittance, which is said to be worth thousands of pounds a week to Germany.

But, with all these desperate and discreditable devices in operation, it is obvious that the announcement by the Imperial Bank of Germany must either be, as we say, "bunkum", or else it means that the money raised by the very vilest of methods is being used to finance Germany "on the cheap."

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**MUNICH.**

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# THE CONTINENTAL TIMES

## Supplement

### British Honour. British Minister on behalf of Lstr. 5000 Bribe. They wanted to do away with the Irish patriot Sir Roger Casement.

One of the most remarkable documents of modern times, is one which Sir Roger Casement has decided to make public. It is a letter, the facsimile of which he furnishes, a photographic reproduction, written and signed by Mr. M. de C. Findlay, British Minister to the Court of Norway, in which His Excellency, in the name of his Government makes a promise to pay to Adler Christensen, the follower of Sir Roger Casement, the sum of 5,000 pounds sterling, for the capture of his master. Sir Roger, in a letter he addresses to Sir Edward Grey, goes very much further and openly accuses the British Minister in Christiania of criminal attempts to influence his dependent to do away with him. In fact Sir Roger was to disappear and the man who did the deed should remain immune and be given facilities to reach the United States with the aid of the British representative.

The following is the letter which Sir Roger has written to Sir E. Grey.

Berlin, 1st February 1915.

The Right Honourable  
Sir E. Grey, Bart, K.G. M.P.  
London.

Sir

I observe that some discussion has taken place in the House of Lords on the subject of the pension I voluntarily ceased to draw when I set out to learn what might be the intentions of the German Government in regard to Ireland.

In the course of that discussion I understand Lord Crewe observed that "Sir Roger Casement's action merited a sensible punishment."

The question raised thus as to my action and your publicly suggested punishment of it I propose discussing here and now, since the final proof of the actual punishment you sought in secret to inflict upon me is, at length, in my possession.

It is true I was aware of your intentions from the first day I set foot in Norway three months ago; but it has taken time to compel your agent there to furnish the written proof of the conspiracy then set on foot against me by His Majesty's Government.

Let me first briefly define my action before proceeding to contrast it with your own.

The question between the British Government and myself has never been, as you are fully aware, a matter of a pension, of a reward, a decoration.

I served the British Government faithfully and loyally as long as it was possible for me to do so, and when it became impossible, I resigned. When later, it became impossible for me to use the pension assigned me by law I voluntarily abandoned that income as I had previously resigned the post from which it was derived, and as I now proceed to divest myself of the honours and distinctions that at various times have been conferred upon me by His Majesty's Government.

I came to Europe from the United States last October in order to make sure that whatever might be the course of this war, my own country, Ireland, should suffer from it the minimum of harm.

The view I held was made sufficiently clear in an open letter I wrote on the 17th September last in New York, and sent to Ireland for public distribution among my countrymen. I append a printed copy of that letter. It defines my personal standpoint clearly enough and expresses the views I held, and hold, on an Irishman's duty to his country in this crisis of world affairs. Soon after writing that letter I set out for Europe.

To save Ireland from some of the calamities of war was worth the loss to myself of pension and honours and was even worth the commission of an act of technical "treason."

I decided to take all the risks and to accept all the penalties the Law might attach to my action. I did not, however, bargain for risks and penalties that lay outside the law as far as my own action lay outside the field of moral turpitude.

In other words, while I reckoned with British law and legal penalties and accepted the sacrifice of income, position and reputation as prices I must pay, I did not reckon with the British Government.

I was prepared to face charges in a Court of Law; I was not prepared to meet waylaying, kidnapping, suborning of dependents or "knocking on the head"—in fine, all the expedients your representative in a neutral country invoked when he became aware of my presence there.

For the criminal conspiracy that Mr. M. de C. Findlay, H.B.M. Minister to the Court of Norway entered into on

But he was bent on doing so. Therefore he boldly invoked lawless methods, and suggested to my dependent that were I to "disappear" it would be "a very good thing for whoever brought it about."

He was careful to point out that nothing could happen to the perpetrator of the crime, since my presence in Christiania was known only to the British Government and that Government would screen and provide for those responsible for my "disappearance."

He indicated, quite plainly, the methods to be employed, by assuring Adler Christensen, that who ever "knocked him on the head need not do any work for the rest of his life," and proceeded to apply the moral by asking Christensen, "I suppose you would not mind having an easy time of it for the rest of your days?"

My faithful follower concealed the anger he felt at this suggestion and continued the conversation in order to become more

Feeling a not unnatural interest in these proposals as to how I should be disposed of, I instructed the man it was thus sought to bribe to return to the British Legation at 3 o'clock and to seemingly fall in with the wishes of your Envoy extraordinary.

I advised him, however, for the sake of appearances to "sell me dear" and to secure the promise of a very respectable sum for so very disreputable an act.

Christensen who has been a sailor and naturally has seen some strange company assured me he was perfectly at home with His Majesty's Representative.

He returned to the Legation at 3 o'clock and remained closeted with Mr. Findlay until nearly 5 p.m. The full record of their conversation will be laid before you, and others, in due course.

My follower pretended to fall in with the British Minister's projects, only stipulating for a good sum to be paid in return for his treachery. Mr. Findlay promised on his "word of honour" (such was the quaint phraseology employed to guarantee this transaction), that Christensen should receive £5000 sterling whenever he could deliver me into the hands of the British authorities.

If in the course of this kidnapping process I should come to harm or personal injury be done me, then no question would be asked and full immunity guaranteed the kidnapper.

My follower pointed out that as I was leaving that evening for Copenhagen, having already booked my compartment in the mail train, he would not have any immediate chance of executing the commission.

Mr. Findlay agreed that it would be necessary to defer the attempt until some favourable opportunity offered of decoying me down to the coast "anywhere on the Skaggerack or North Sea" where British warships might be in waiting to seize me.

He entrusted my dependent with the further commission of purloining my correspondence with my supposed associates in America and Ireland, particularly in Ireland, so that they, too, might participate in the "sensible punishment" being devised for me.

He ordained a system of secret correspondence with himself Christensen should employ, and wrote out the confidential address in Christiania to which he was to communicate the results of his efforts to purloin my papers and to report on my plans.

This address in Christiania was written down by Mr. Findlay on a halfsheet of Legation note paper in printed characters. This precaution was adopted he said "so as to prevent the handwriting being traced."

This document, along with one hundred crowns in Norwegian paper money given by Mr. Findlay as an earnest of more to follow was at once brought to me with an account of the proceedings.

As I was clearly in a position of some danger, I changed my plans and instead of proceeding to Copenhagen as I had intended doing, I decided to alter my procedure and route.

It was, then, with this secret knowledge of the full extent of the crime plotted by your Representative in Norway against me that I left Christiania on the 30th October.

The rest of the story need not take so long in the telling.

You are fully aware of most of the details, as you were in constant touch with your agent both by cable and despatch.

You are also aware of the declaration of the Imperial German Government, issued on 20th November last in reply to the enquiry I addressed to them.

The British Government, both by press reports and by direct agents had charged Germany, throughout the length and breadth of Ireland, with the commission of atrocious crimes in Belgium and had warned the Irish people that their fate would be the same, did Germany win this war.

Your Government sought to frighten Irishmen into a predatory raid upon a people who had never injured them and to persuade them by false charges that this was their duty.

I sought not only a guarantee of German goodwill to Ireland, but to relieve my countrymen from the apprehensions this campaign of calumny was designed to provoke and so far as was possible to dissuade them from embarking in an immoral conflict against a people who had never wronged Ireland. That Declaration of the German Government, issued as I know in all sincerity is the justification for my "treason". The justification of the conspiracy of the British Government and its Minister at Christiania, begun before I had set foot on German soil, in a country where I had a perfect right to be and conducted by means of the lowest forms of attempted bribery and corruption I leave you, Sir, to discover.

You will not discover it in the many interviews Mr. Findlay had, during the months of November and December last, at his own seeking, with my faithful follower. The correspondence between them in the cypher the Minister had arranged tells its own story.

These interviews furnished matter that in due course I shall make public. What passed between your agent and mine on these occasions you are fully aware of, for you were the directing power throughout the whole proceeding.

Your object, as Mr. Findlay frankly avowed to the man he thought he had bought, was to take my life with public indignity—mine was to expose your design and to do so through the very agent you had yourselves singled out for the purpose and had sought to corrupt to an act of singular infamy.

On one occasion in response to my follower's pretended dissatisfaction with the amount offered for betraying me you authorized your agent to increase the sum to £10,000. I have a full record of the conversations held and of the pledges proffered in your name.

On two occasions, during these prolonged bargainings your Minister gave Adler Christensen gifts of "earnest money". Once it was five hundred crowns in Norwegian currency; the next time a similar sum, partly in Norwegian money and partly in English gold. On one of these occasions, to be precise on the 7th December last, Mr. Findlay handed Adler Christensen the key of the back entrance of the British Legation so that he might go and come unobserved and at all hours.

I propose returning this key in person to the donor and along with it the various sums so anxiously bestowed upon my follower.

The stories told Mr. Findlay at these interviews should not have deceived a schoolboy. All the pretended evidence of my plans and intentions Adler Christensen produced, the bogus letters, fictitious maps and charts and other incitements to Mr. Findlay's appetite for the incredible were part of my necessary plan of self-defence to lay bare the conspiracy you were engaged in and to secure that convincing proof of it I now hold.

It was not until the 3rd ultimo that Mr. Findlay committed himself to give my protector the duly signed and formal pledge of reward and immunity, in the name of the British Government, for the crime he was being instigated to commit, that is now in my possession.

I transmit you herewith a photograph of this document.

At a date compatible with my own security against the clandestine guarantees and immunities of the British Minister in Norway I shall proceed to lay before the legitimate authorities in that country the original document and the evidence in my possession that throws light on the proceedings of His Majesty's Government.

To that Government, through you, Sir, I now beg to return the insignia of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, the Coronation Medal of His Majesty King George V. and any other medal, honour or distinction conferred upon me by His Majesty's Government, of which it is possible for me to divest myself.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,  
humble servant,  
sig. Roger Casement.

the 30th October last, in the British Legation at Christiania, with the Norwegian subject, my dependent, Eivind Adler Christensen, involved all these things and more. It involved not merely a lawless attack upon myself for which the British Minister promised my follower the sum of £5000, but it involved a breach of international law as well as of common law, for which the British Minister in Norway promised this Norwegian subject full immunity.

British Legation,  
Christiania,  
Norway.

*On behalf of the British Government I promise that if Adler Christensen, Sir Roger Casement be captured either with or without his companions, the said Adler Christensen is to receive from the British Government the sum of £5000 to be paid as he may desire. Adler Christensen is also to enjoy personal immunity & to be given a passage to the United States should he desire it.*  
M. de C. Findlay  
H. B. M. Minister

On the 29th October last year I landed at Christiania, coming from America.

Within a few hours of my landing the man I had engaged and in whom I reposed trust was accosted by one of the secret service agents of the British Minister and carried off, in a private motor car, to the British Legation, where the first attempt was made on his honour to induce him to be false to me.

Your agent in the Legation that afternoon professed ignorance of who I was and sought, as he put it, merely to find out my identity and movements.

Failing in this the first attempt to obtain satisfaction, Adler Christensen was assailed the next day, the 30th October, by a fresh agent and received an invitation to again visit the British Legation "where he would hear something good."

This, the second interview, held in the early forenoon, was with the Minister himself.

Mr. Findlay came quickly to the point. The ignorance, assumed or actual, of the previous day, as to my identity, was now discarded. He confessed that he knew me, but that he did not know where I was going to, what I intended doing, or what might be the specific end I had in view.

It was enough for him that I was an Irish nationalist.

He admitted that the British Government had no evidence of anything wrong done or contemplated by me that empowered them either morally or lawfully to interfere with my movements.

fully aware of the plot that might be devised against my safety. He pointed out that I had not only been very kind to him but that I "trusted him implicitly".

It was on this "implicit trust" Mr. Findlay then proceeded to build the whole framework of his conspiracy against my life, my liberty, the public law of Norway and the happiness of the young man he sought to tempt by monstrous bribes to the commission of a dastardly crime against his admitted benefactor.

If I could be intercepted, cut off, "disappear", no one would know and no question could be asked, since there was no Government save the British Government knew of my presence in Norway and there was no authority I could appeal to for help, while that Government would shield the individual implicated and provide handsomely for his future. Such, in Mr. Findlay's words (recorded by me) was the proposition put by His Majesty's Minister before the young man who had been enticed for this purpose into the British Legation.

That this man was faithful to me and the law of his country was a triumph of Norwegian integrity over the ignoble inducement proffered him by the richest and most powerful Government in the world to be false to both.

Having thus outlined his project, Mr. Findlay invited Christensen to "think the matter over and return at 3 o'clock if you are disposed to go on with it".

He handed him in Norwegian paper money twentyfive Kroner "just to pay your taxi-cab fares", and dismissed him.

# THE CONTINENTAL TIMES.

## WAR DIARY.

February 8th, 1915.

Telegram from London: "The Cunard liner 'Lusitania' approaching the coast of Ireland, received a wireless message from the admiralty instructing the captain to haul down the British flag and fly the American flag. The vessel steaming into the harbor of Liverpool showed the American flag."

This is the practical confirmation of the story, that the British government insists upon the right of ships belonging to a belligerent power, to fly a neutral flag if there is danger of being captured by the enemy. As the action of the "Lusitania" was based upon a peremptory order by the British government and not the single act of one captain who could be held responsible, a new situation has been created for all neutral powers.

It is reported from Washington that Count Bernstorff informed the American government, Germany did not intend to molest American vessels carrying foodstuffs for the civil population of belligerent countries. This should help to allay the excitement in America about the consequences of the so-called blockade of the English coast by Germany.

Frederick Coudert, the eminent lawyer in New York, is said to have explained, in an article published by a New York paper, that Germany's intention to blockade England was a desperate step. As far as the United States or other neutral countries were concerned, the sinking of neutral ships would be a brutal lawless attack. American ships should ignore it and continue to enter those waters. If one of them should be sunk or hurt by a German naval vessel or submarine boat Germany was to be held responsible. Mr. Coudert is considered an authority on international law in America. But I have not yet heard that he protested just as vigorously against the identical announcement of the British admiralty, that the larger part of the North Sea was to be considered as territory of maritime warfare and therefore dangerous ground for neutral vessels. As a lawyer and learned jurist Mr. Coudert should have heard something of equity in law or, to use the more popular vernacular, of the old saying: "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." And in this connection a reminiscence comes to my mind. It was in the fall of 1892. An international naval parade took place in New York in commemoration of the discovery of America, ships of all naval powers, headed by true imitations of the three caravels of Columbus, escorted by the whole fleet of the United States, had sailed from Norfolk, Va., to New York and dropped anchor in the Hudson river, the long line extending from the battery to the Harlem river. Amidst the peaceful thundering of cannon and greeted by bands playing the "Stars and Banner," the presidential yacht "Delphin" with Benjamin Harrison, the members of the cabinet, the diplomatic corps and other high dignitaries on board, steamed slowly up the river while the marine band played the different national hymns when the "Delphin" passed the foreign ships. In the evening, a great official banquet assembled statesmen, admirals, captains, generals etc. at Delmonico's and official toasts were answered by eminent men. To avoid jealousies, it had been agreed upon that the foreign nations should be called up in alphabetical order. By an oversight of the toastmaster Germany was omitted which unpleasant fact caused considerable uneasiness to the German minister, Count Arco-Valley if I remember rightly, and the senior officer commanding the two German cruisers, Captain Büchsel. Finally, the toastmaster having been reminded of his mistake, excused himself, proposed the toast to Germany and requested Mr. Frederick Coudert to answer the toast. The eloquent speaker rose in his seat, began his speech with the words: "Germany can well afford to wait" and closed with a glowing eulogy of German progress, of German honesty and loyalty, of German obedience to law, of her love of peace and of her young Emperor. Well, Mr. Coudert, now Germany cannot afford to wait any longer but must act, and will act. But Americans could well afford to wait until she has committed real acts of brutality and lawlessness before condemning her. I wonder, whether Mr. Coudert's memory is strong enough to remind him of the significant little episode in the fall of 1892.

February 9th, 1915.

German experts call attention to the fact that British newspapers and private firms have set a high reward for the crew of the first merchant vessel which runs over and destroys a German submarine boat, and that such vessels are advised to carry small calibre quickfiring guns for firing at demergering submarine boats. It is maintained, and rightly so, that such practice would entitle the German boat to consider a merchant vessel in such a case as a warship and send her down with a torpedo shot without taking care of the passengers on board.

Japan has delivered a note in Peking to the Chinese government containing certain demands which involve practically a Japanese protectorate over China. I expected this from the beginning. As soon as Japan has established herself snugly in China, England and France will be politely told to get out of Hongkong and Tonking until the true

Monroe doctrine of the Japs: "Asia for the Asiatics" is carried out. The allies receive only the treatment they deserve for calling upon the Japanese for assistance in driving the Germans out of Tsingtau. But what do the United States think of it? Japanese control of China means the destruction of American commerce in China, for the Japanese tolerate no other gods beside themselves wherever they are. And then the hour will come when the Americans will be invited also, to leave the Philippines. This is a question of greatest moment which should occupy the attention of President Wilson and Mr. Bryan more than wrangling about questions of international law which have been abolished by England anyhow.

It has been concluded by the competent authorities that from now on each inhabitant of Germany, male and female, grown people, children and infants, shall be entitled to eat no more than two kilogram or 4.4 American pounds of bread a week. Consumption is to be regulated by issuing so-called bread-tickets to each family or inhabitant which must be produced and detached from stubs whenever bread is bought, the baker receiving no more flour for baking than the amount sold in his store during the preceding week as shown by his tickets. This sounds quite simple but a good many intricate questions are involved which cannot be solved so easily. For instance, how will things be regulated when a man wants to buy a sandwich in a restaurant? How about travellers? How about people moving from one city to another? But I trust German administrative ability will overcome these difficulties also.

February 10th, 1915.

It is very significant that all other neutral countries like Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Italy, and Spain take the proclamation of the German admiralty very quietly, and are discussing means to distinguish their merchant ships from English ones even if the latter should continue to carry neutral flags, while only from America comes one howl after the other. Have they entirely lost their former sense of justice and fairness over there? With rare exceptions, the whole neutral press condemns the order of the British admiralty to supplant the British flag by a neutral one, as a piece of cowardice, as a complete loss of national pride. Only the American press seems to acquiesce to it and continues to argue vociferously against German aggression. The President should follow the example of Ambassador Gerard who, in the beginning of the war, tried hard to persuade Americans living in Europe without fixed positions, to return to America because Americans ought to be at home during such troublesome times. The President should issue a proclamation warning Americans not to travel to Europe if they had no pressing business to attend there, and to keep away from belligerent countries at all events.

Professor Eltzbacher, president of the Berlin high school of commerce, has declined to be one of twelve leading professors of economics who were asked by the "Brooklyn Eagle" to illuminate Americans about Germany. He states that he disapproves of all such movements because they are doomed to be absolutely futile. The American people, he continues, are not acting from sentiment but are doing what they think is in their own interest, which was their undeniable right. The best way to convince them of the righteousness of the German cause was to be successful in this war. For this obvious reason he would leave it to General von Falkenhayn and Admiral von Tirpitz to convince Americans that Germany was right. It seems to me that there is a great deal of truth in what the professor says with refreshing simplicity. Germans have been entirely too much in the fraternizing and illuminating business. Arguments will convince nobody now. The guns have the last word and their roaring speaks louder and better than any professor here or anywhere else.

Only one other article "talks" just now-money. A concern of American banks under the leadership of Morgan & Co. has given Russia a loan of 25 million dollars to pay for orders for war material placed in America. So the money is to remain in America and to bear interest of about 6 1/4 percent. This is the kind of talk Americans like best.

Senator La Follette has introduced, in the senate, a very sensible resolution. It proposes to call a conference of neutral powers which should try to neutralize certain high-ways of commerce, forbid the exportation of war material from any country to another and to offer their good services for the ending of the war when the time is ripe for it. This joint resolution should be adopted and carried out.

February 11th, 1915.

Again complaints about the shameful treatment of German civil prisoners in the French colony of Dahomey in tropical Africa, have been brought to the attention of the French government through the American Embassy in Paris, on behalf of the German government. It is officially announced that the French government will be held responsible for all consequences, if there should be no considerable improvement visible in a near

future. Missionaries have reported that German men and even women have been placed under the control of most brutal negroes who have subjected them to indignities of the worst kind. Here is a fitting occasion to get excited about true barbarism on the part of Americans.

In order to save barley for other and more pressing purposes, the government is considering a large reduction of the output of beer. Probably breweries will be compelled to reduce their output to forty or even fifty percent. What a terrible blow for the friends of this national beverage of the Germans! Undoubtedly there will be grumbling among many, especially in Bavaria, and the soldiers in the field will be spurred to still greater efforts if they hear that a beer famine might be threatening.

A German newspaper publishes a letter of an 85 years old German-American who emigrated to, and settled in America after the troublesome years of 1848/50. It is rather touching how angrily and energetically this veteran speaks of the insults heaped by American papers and citizens upon Germany, the German Emperor and German-Americans. If those men only knew how deeply they offend the best element in the United States by their insane anti-German mud throwing campaign!

An interesting little item, worth noticing: Until now 38 women have been decorated with the Iron Cross for bravery. They have nursed their wounded patients in hospitals shelled by the enemy! And only yesterday I happened to read in an Austrian paper that an Austrian Archduke had personally decorated surgeons and sisters of the American Red Cross expedition sent to the field in Galicia. Bravo!

February 12th, 1915.

The British steamer "Laertes" arrived in the Dutch port Ymuiden and reports that she was chased by a German submarine boat, but escaped by running away at full speed after flying the Dutch flag. The boat fired at her with a machine gun because the ship disregarded the order to lay to. The damage done was insignificant. A torpedo was fired at and missed her. Such recklessness on the part of the captain of the "Laertes" must lead to serious consequences. If a hostile ship flies a neutral flag and disobeys orders of a man-of-war, all neutral ships become suspicious. Suppose, the "Laertes" had had American passengers on board and the torpedo fired by the German boat would have hit sending the ship to the bottom of the sea? What would be the attitude of the American government in this case?

The American registered steamer "Wilhelmina", with a cargo of grain consigned to Hamburg and addressed to an American citizen, has been held up by the English and brought to Falmouth where a prize court will decide the case. England had, in the beginning of the war, pledged herself to regard breadstuffs as indirect contraband of war, which means that only such breadstuffs as are destined directly for the use of the enemy's army and navy, were liable to seizure. So, the cargo of the "Wilhelmina" should be let free. But the English government is using the control exercised by the German government over the supply of breadstuffs as a pretext to declare, that the grain would thereby become the property of the German government the very moment it arrived in Hamburg, and therefore be available for the feeding of troops. Of course, this is a willful misconception. The German government as such does not become the owner of any grain under the new law. Only the use of the supply in the country is controlled by a company with limited liability, composed of officials and representatives of agricultural, industrial and municipal interests. It is legally a private firm in the same sense as the "Reichsbank," which is under government control, but not a government institution, in the strictest sense of the word - it is a public but not a government institution. Funds of the Reichsbank are not subject to confiscation as are regular government funds by an invading enemy according to international law. But even if it was a government institution pure and simple, the proviso of the law, that grain imported from abroad was not subject to any control would exempt the cargo of the "Wilhelmina" from any compulsory use for military or government purposes. This is as well known in London as in Berlin. But they are only too glad across the channel to find a pretext for evading international obligations.

Hindenburg has again routed the Russians. They had invaded East Prussia once more hoping to turn his left flank in Poland. But General Hindenburg was too foxy for them. He quickly and quietly assembled a large body of troops in East Prussia, near the Mazur lakes where he defeated the Russians once before, surprised and attacked them so furiously that they were totally routed, losing over 23000 prisoners of war, many guns, rifles, machine guns and other war material which they can spare the least. This great victory of Hindenburg has ended once for all, all further attempts of the Russians to make another aggressive movement in the East. It might be the beginning of a series of decisive battles which would bring us a good deal nearer to the conclusion of peace. The news of this great victory filled every heart with joy, but the

most happy were the school children who enjoyed another holiday. With them Hindenburg is the most popular man on earth.

Belgium has announced that she is unable to pay the interest on her state debt which means a formal declaration of bankruptcy. This unfortunate victim of British loyalty and altruism has every reason to be grateful to Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Grey for her fate.

February 13th, 1915.

Ambassador Gerard yesterday delivered the note of the American government to the secretary of foreign affairs von Jagow in the Foreign Office and an official translation has been published tonight. The official remark added to the publication simply states, that the answer will be couched in the same friendly terms as the note. It is true that the note is written in very friendly terms and this fact has made a good impression in official quarters. But nevertheless it must be admitted that it contains very serious representations and even hidden threats. It is bound to provoke very harsh criticism by the German people especially as the anti-American feeling is getting stronger from day to day. It has been added to by the merely incidental remark of one of the latest official reports of the general staff, that French artillery ammunition just taken by German troops, bore the mark of American factories. Soldiers' letters from the front state, that lately losses from French artillery fire are heavier than formerly, since the French have received American ammunition. An American officer in Berlin, with whom I talked about the matter a few days ago, told me that American firms were hardly able to manufacture so quickly such large quantities of ammunition as are said to have been delivered to France and England. The army as well as the navy have had trouble all these years to place contracts with American firms manufacturing shell and shrapnell, though the amount needed was not very large. Especially the making of gun powder was a very serious problem and the Dupont Co. in Delaware was the only one able to manufacture considerable quantities of first class gun powder to be shipped to Europe. While possibly other factories could be changed into shell and shrapnell making establishments, gun powder had to be made by specially trained and skilled workmen with the aid of expensive and complicated machinery which could not be acquired so quickly. His opinion was that the French themselves finally succeeded in making better ammunition than before the war.

This may be as it is, the fact remains that the American note will not contribute to appease the ill feeling in Germany towards America. I have the personal impression that it is based on a misconception of conditions. The announcement of the German admiralty was simply a warning that it would be dangerous for neutrals to move about in the waters around the British and Irish islands and that neutral ships, after the 18th day of February, would run the risk of being mistaken for a hostile ship, especially after the order of the British admiralty recommending the use of neutral flags by English ships. It did not say and did not mean to say that all ships, neutral or hostile, would be torpedoed at sight by German warships, without making any effort to identify the ships' nationality or to take care of passengers. But the insane howling of the New York jingo papers seems to have affected President Wilson and Secretary Bryan and inspired the idea that wanton destruction of neutral ships, property and lives was intended. They entirely overlook the possibility of strewing mines around the British islands, as has been done before by both, England and Germany. Will the American government hold Germany responsible if an American ship is sunk by a submarine mine, after fair and ample warning has been given? And again, the note speaks of a blockade by submarine boats merely which could not be considered as effective. Is the British blockade of the German coast effective in the sense laid down by international law? We have still to hear of an American protest against this sham blockade which is, however, sufficient for England as a pretext to stop Germany's trade with neutral countries in flagrant violation of international law. I for one believe that President Wilson could well afford to await, what measures Germany was to take in carrying out her announcement before protesting. A warning by the President that it would be advisable for Americans to stay at home during this war as much as possible and to keep away from England as long as there was danger to approach her, would do more to evade difficulties than onesided notes of protest.

February 14th, 1915.

As I expected, the morning papers are commenting the American note very unfavorably. They point out that in spite of the friendly terms in which it is written, the note contains a threat against Germany which is being driven to take drastic measures in her war with England by the attempt to starve her out. They assert that America acquiesced when England justified her standpoint by stating that the complete change of methods in the art of war at sea had created a new situation to be met with new means. This should apply to Germany as well as to Eng-

land. The submarine boat was a new arm, its use created a new condition and this justified new methods in waging war to which neutral powers had to accommodate themselves. The tone of the papers is very cautious, not to offend anybody, but nevertheless decided. There can be no doubt that the German nation stands by their government in doing everything to make England feel the horrors of war as much as others. The German government and the German people, I trust, are perfectly willing to take all measures of precaution to protect neutral life and property as compatible with the supreme object of the war. But they will not waive one iota of the full rights of belligerents to conduct the war with the utmost vigor. If there should happen what would better be avoided, namely that American interests should be hurt, the question of making amends could be decided by arbitration. But Americans should also be very cautious and heed all warnings of the German admiralty. The world is full of troubles already. It is not necessary to borrow more.

Sir Roger Casement, who arrived in Berlin a few days ago, has made a startling statement. He published a letter to Sir Edward Grey accusing the British minister in Christiania, Mr. Findlay of attempting to bribe his Norwegian man servant Adler Christensen to deliver Sir Roger into the hands of the British government. The servant was no Englishman and, therefore, loyal to his master. He informed Sir Roger of Mr. Findlay's offer and played his part so well that he induced Mr. Findlay to offer him, in writing, a reward of £5000 if he should deliver Sir Roger into his hands, assuring him freedom from punishment. The whole material will be submitted to the Norwegian government which ought to have a deep interest to learn on what grounds the British minister in Christiania felt justified to promise a Norwegian subject immunity for the committing of an ordinary crime. But the statement, which reads like a detective novel, demonstrates that British government officials are absolutely free of any scruples whatever and that they have read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with much profit. Sir Roger's story reveals an abyss of meanness hardly surpassable by the most vivid and, at the same time, corrupt imagination. And it shows to what extent the English government is afraid of his activity and of the attitude of the Irish on both sides of the ocean. If Sir Roger Casement should accomplish no more he would have rendered the world a great service.

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