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Every
Monday
Wednesday
Friday

The Continental Times

Special War Edition

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1914.

ROTTERDAM LUCERNE BERLIN GENEVA VIENNA ROME

No. 1059. Vol. XX. No. 67.

War News.

W. T. B. The great battle of Lodz (Russian Poland) which has ended with a complete defeat of the Russians is being followed up. The Russians are quickly retreating in an Easterly and South-Easterly direction, pressed by the pursuing German troops. Russian casualties have been exceedingly heavy. Up to now 500 prisoners have been made and 16 guns were captured. Russian Relief Corps from the South were kept in check by German and Austrian forces near Petrikow.

W. T. B. Reports of French successes in the Argonnes are untrue. No attack by the French has taken place for a considerable time. The German forces on the other hand are steadily gaining ground. A French position East of Varennes has been taken. Those of the defending force who were not killed (a few officers and 150 men) have been taken prisoners.

Vienna. An important battle has begun in Western Galicia. Germans and Austrians have made over 5000 Russian prisoners. Fighting in the Carpathians continues.

Rotterdam. The *Times* estimates the English losses in Flanders at 100,000 men killed, wounded and missing.

Constantinople. The Turkish forces advancing on Batum have had several successful fights with Russian detachments near Adjara. Russian raids into Turkish territory in the Lake Van district have been repulsed. The Turkish troops operating in the Persian Province of Azerbaïdjan, which is occupied by the Russians, have taken Saudsch-Bulagh, the most important position of the Russians next Tabriz.

Don't Poison Spiritual Weapons!

Certain Oxford scholars of Modern History having published a pamphlet defending England's war against Germany, a few of the leading German professors of History and of International Law have issued a dignified protest, from which we quote the following sentences:

Amongst the foundations of future civilized intercourse of nations is scientific truth. To preserve such foundation at the present moment is the particular and sacred task of the representatives of science in all countries.

That the pamphlet contains vulgarities such as we are not accustomed to from college teachers may be due to the state of war. But all faith in the honesty of scientific work is bound to be shaken if those men abuse science for the sake of politics.

Are the Oxford savants aware of the fact that a mere week previous to the declaration of war, extorted from Germany by the Russian mobilisation, the Kaiser, confident of the preservation of peace was cruising in Norwegian waters and so was the whole of the High Sea Fleet? Would such a thing have been possible if the Kaiser had harboured schemes of war?

On the other hand do the Oxford gentlemen lack the information that England, while before the world she made offers of mediation sent assurances of support to Russia? Is it not known at Oxford that England had violated the very same Belgian neutrality, for the pretended protection of which she drew the sword—with the assent and co-operation of Belgium?

The Oxonians assume the part of historians and experts of international law. Can they tell us then why England has subjugated India, occupied Egypt and robbed the Boer states of their independence? Why just now she again tramples under foot recognised rules of international law? If ever there has been a State in the world to base its politics upon selfish motives, despise justice and make use of its power that State is England.

We regret the pollution of truth, the degradation of science to which Oxonian college teachers have abased themselves. We hereby protest against the poisoning of spiritual weapons in this struggle of nations.

Signed by the University Professors: van Calker, Kiel; Daenell, Münster; Fleischmann, Königsberg; Heinrich Harburger, München; Kohler, Berlin; Laband, Straßburg; Max Lenz, Hamburg; M. Liepmann, Kiel; F. v. Liszt, Berlin; Ferdinand v. Martitz, Berlin; Erich Marcks, München; F. Meinecke, Berlin; Christian Meurer, Würzburg; Eduard Meyer, Berlin; Th. Niemeyer, Kiel; H. Oncken, Heidelberg; R. Piloty, Würzburg; R. Rachfahl, Freiburg i. B.; C. Rodenberg, Kiel; Dietrich Schäfer, Berlin; Theodor Schiemann, Berlin; Stier-Somlo, Köln; Dr. Karl Strupp, Frankfurt a. M.; F. Tönnies, Kiel; Heinrich Triefel, Berlin; Ph. Zorn, Bonn.

England and Germany.

By an Englishwoman.

The following letter may arouse interest through the fact that the writer is an Englishwoman living in Germany. Her father, a well known English man of letters, played no little part in English politics. Her brother-in-law and many near relations are at the present moment fighting as English officers against Germany. (The Editor.)

I hope this letter will reach you . . . I implore you and your brother to do all you can to publish this letter; you can make use of my father's name.

England is blind; is misled by a handful of unscrupulous statesmen who have let the country in for a shortsighted, selfish and criminal line of policy. We cannot believe that our country really follows the government, not the educated class. The only words of truth that have reached us were from Mr. Burns, Mr. Trevelyan, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald. Ties of blood, a thousand connecting links, all forgotten. No German has ever been in England without loving it, no Englishman or woman in Germany, unless blind in every sense, without taking away the most delightful and stimulating impressions. Both countries have the same standard of honour, the same ethical ideal. Yet England now plays the contemptible part of the saviour of Russian barbarism and Serbian regicides; is the champion of Belgians and French, who in this war have proved themselves on incontestable evidence as unworthy of the name of cultured nations. They have tortured the wounded, mutilated the dead, have violated the Geneva convention, have killed doctors and nurses, helpless women and children. Space and time make details impossible, but I know the horrors reported in the papers to be true. Have I not spoken to soldiers myself, and know from them and from my husband's letters, that this war has proved civilisation and christianity to be but empty words to thousands of England's allies? What is the use of all the lies about Dumdum bullets, when again on October 4th one was found on a wounded soldier in my husband's lazaret, and the enemy was English! You hear the grossest misrepresentations of German action, and the English papers are fed by the lies thrown broadcast in Belgium, Russia and France, in the hope of feeding the war-fever. When you hear of priests and mayors sentenced to death, of villages set on fire, you can think out the reason for yourselves. Will England copy the franc-tireurs, and sink still lower?

I know I speak for thousands of English men and women in Germany, when I say we have felt ourselves absolutely estranged from our mother country, ever since the outbreak of the war. We are ashamed and disgusted beyond words at England's political duplicity, and feel humbled to the dust that our great country shall have so lost sense of right and wrong. We are convinced that Germany has acted uprightly from first to last: Germany compels our love and boundless respect. The fact that an Englishman, whose love and adulation of his own country is a by-word, can turn away from his home at such a moment, perhaps is worthy of consideration. Relations, a hundred ties over there, and here the knowledge of moral right and might.

Germany never wanted the war. The Kaiser's patience and love of peace went to the farthest limits. Indescribable was the suspense of those last days before the declaration of war. One heard the pulse of Germany beating, those breathless summerdays. This peaceful, industrious people simply could not realise the war alarm at first. When the order of mobilization came, there was a moment's silence through the whole country, then in all humility, in all simplicity "das sich hereinfinden". Then the universal inspiration "God is with us—His ways are wonderful". In a few hours, not only the whole army, but the whole nation was "mobil". One mind through the whole country—worth while living and dying to go through those wonderful days. The partings at the station! We did not cry, when we sent out our dearest and best. I cannot write about that time—it would be a sacrilege on the greatest moments of one's life.

Germany has kept up the attitude of strength ever since. Other countries are torn in factions, you have only to travel through this huge empire from North to South, from East to West to see for yourselves the same calm, heroic feeling in every class, in those who are fighting, in those who are waiting: the same lofty, but simple thoughts in peasant and prince.

And how was it before the war? Anyone like myself, who has spent years of one's life in Germany, meeting an unusual number of people of every class and line of life, can tax the inward life of the country to a certain extent, the almost visible progress in every way in the last years, the earnest, upright way of growth. What has Germany done to call down such numbers of enemies? The nation was hard working to a degree. Industry and conscientiousness are national characteristics. Are they reprehensible ones? That national painstaking diligence should result in an increase of trade, is no wonder. That a conscientious people should produce trustworthy goods at honest prices, is a strange reason for laziness, less capable nations to make war. Germany has never wished to do another country harm. England judges it by its own train of thought. Was it necessary to make war because Germany is the intellectual leader of the whole world? Because Germany produces more in the way of art and science than any other country? Because Germany is infinitely more ingenious, more thorough, more patient in its whole being, more reasonable, more fore seeing? There is no crying poverty in the lower classes here, no huge strata of misery through vice and drink. Every class, every individual is provided for in the most far-seeing and detailed manner. England in its present state of mind can never grasp Germany, still less a Sir Edward Grey, who has hardly crossed the Channel. Many of his compeers can speak no modern language, are completely ignorant of any modern foreign literature. Carlyle himself said that England forgets the highest values of earthly existence over petty money advantage, through envy. Here lies the great deficit in England's accounts, the great overplus on those of Germany: in the word created by Kant and Goethe, Bach and Beethoven. In art and science, in literature, philosophy and music, greater things have been produced in Germany than in any nation on the face of the earth. To weaken Germany would be to weaken the whole of civilisation. You may laugh at German red tape, at German militarism. You do not know or see the roots from which Germany draws out her strength. From where did M. Lloyd George fetch his Old Age Pension scheme and the rest? Where will you look for a pattern for compulsory enlistment, the legacy bequeathed by Scharnhorst and Gneisenau a century ago! A country that has created undying values, that has made its own paths in every branch of learning and art, need not be ashamed of a few petty bureaucratic traits, especially when this very bureaucracy has resulted in the triumphant success shown in the mobilization, that may well be envied by England. Has every sense for human greatness been lost in England, the home of hero-worship? Is England not strong enough to hear the truth about Germany? Must English defeats be suppressed and public opinion still further deceived?

To wipe out Germany England must needs make dirty contracts with Japan, must use yellow, black and brown races in the field against the best and noblest, against the most intellectual nation in the world. One's blood boils to think of it, and it will be many a century before the world forgets this unpardonable crime. It is no empty word that Germany's most valued sons are in the front. Writers, actors, musicians, painters, statesmen, artists, scientists, reformers have gone out as volunteers; old grey-headed men among them. There was never such a sight in the history of man. The nation arose as one man. Women and children are calm and courageous in the knowledge that Germany's hands are clean. You can form no idea in England of the mobilisation, how in a moment peace loving burghers are transformed into soldiers, how the baker, the hair-dresser, the postman, the doctor with his chauffeur, the village schoolmaster disappear, forsake their useful, tranquil vocations, many never to come home again. Every family has 10-20 relations in the field. I have read of two, of four brothers fallen—of father and son gone. Unlike other countries, the Royal Houses of Germany have taken their full and active share, led by the incomparable Kaiser. There is an invincible moral strength in Germany, not yet realised by the world outside, unique in the annals of war. The quiet reserve of the publications of Headquarters, the announcement of German successes, monumental in their tensify,

devoid of any laudatory triumph, are another proof of the true greatness and simplicity of this people. I cannot help recalling with shame the behaviour of English crowds at the news of a victory in the Boer war, when I listen to the prayers and thanks offered to God in the open, and see the earnest, restrained faces around me.

Germany trusted to England—blindly. In its honest, somewhat heavy way disdained to follow England's and France's example in financing the foreign press, and thus throw light on this misunderstood country. For years past we have been astonished at the ignorance shown in England of everything German. The cleverest man I know in Germany said once to me "English people are naive; one must remember one is talking to children even with greybearded men." It is very exhausting to deal only with children. Childish exaggeration and fairy stories have taken a tragic turn, thereby threatening the existence of grown up nations. May those, who know anything of the real Germany, not the Germany of Mr. Churchill's lunatic imagination, may they do what lies in their power to bring light to benighted England. Ignorance and prejudice, together with false pride have blurred your vision. Look into your accounts before it is too late, then even at this hour the bitterest punishment may be averted. For punishment there will be, read it on every face in Germany. Those who have experienced the liberating sensation, when a wall of false pre-conceptions has been pulled down, long for others to breathe the same fresh, clean air. A truly great nation can free itself from a ministry that never held the confidence of the people, that has long since proved itself unable to solve its home problems, Home Rule, the Suffrage question; that has laid a dead weight on England by bad finance and heavy taxation. You are slaves of convention, for all your jargon of English freedom. Perhaps South Africa and Egypt at the present moment will lift scales from your eyes. There is nothing more pernicious for the national character than the self-righteous wordiness of the *Times*, the barometer of a wellfed Englishman.

A truly great nation can own its mistakes, can see a wrong turning, Truth and manliness are ethical conceptions, that tower above nations. Let us find a foundation, on which people can speak to people, and be understood. This English generation has sinned enough against the centuries to come. It still can do much to atone by rebuilding on ground that cannot shift.

Winifrid Bosworth Heisler.

America Marking time.

New York. The "peace party" has been much more active lately, particularly the university members of the group, such as Professor Jordan and Lyon Phelps. But none of them receive any encouragement from President Wilson, who has no intention of making any premature or ridiculous proposals. He believes, that unsuccessful attempts on America's part to mediate in Europe would probably endanger America's position when the proper moment actually does arrive. President Wilson, although a sincere lover of peace, is essentially a determined and practical diplomat.

The activity of the peace party at this time is more for effect than anything else. They are alarmed at the recrudescence of the Big Navy idea. The words "standing army" send shivers down their backs. They are, therefore, initiating a campaign of their own against wicked gunmakers and shipbuilders in favour, generally speaking, of the Golden Rule and disarmament, directed as a rival attraction to the Big Navy party.

But, of course, the mediation question is entirely in the hands of the Administration. Mr. Wilson has the habit, in important matters, of dealing directly and personally with foreign Governments, often through an unofficial intermediary. In this connection the names of Mr. Oscar Strauss and of Dr. William Bayard Hale naturally present themselves. Both enjoy the confidence of the President. Both are familiar with diplomatic procedure and with the personnel of the Imperial German Government. One thing is quite certain; the first steps will be taken imperceptibly and quietly. No one who knows President Wilson has any doubt of that.

It is really a very peculiar thing to watch a nation so large as the United States marking time, for all domestic questions depend, ultimately, on the outcome of the war. With an international economic arrangement certain to take place, business, finance, and the tariff can make no important advance at the present time.

The next session of Congress will hear the varying fortunes of the professional pacifists and the party of national defence, with the odds all in favour of the latter. There will be a good deal of talk about economy, particularly by those Congressmen who wish appropriations for their districts—appropriations (for public buildings or river and harbour improvements) which might be reduced by military expenditures. These Congressmen are likely to take an anti-British, or at least ultra-neutral, attitude, as the Big Navy faction is frankly preparing against Germany and Japan. The next session will also hear certain minor economic reforms.

Mr. Jacob Schiff.

New York. Mr. Jacob Schiff has resigned his membership of the Japan Society, an organisation formed to encourage sympathy between Japan and the United States. According to an officer of the society, Mr. Schiff gave as the reason for his resignation his Germanic affiliations. It is stated that Mr. Oscar Strauss resigned at the same time, and that the resignations were sent in about two months ago, although they have only just been made public.

Royal Scots Fusiliers Annihilated.

A non-commissioned officer of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, who were cut off and surrounded during the recent fighting in Flanders, writing to a friend in London, says:

Of our battalion that you saw leave home only about 160 remain. The others are killed, wounded, and missing—chiefly wounded, I am glad to say. I told you in my last letter that we were relieved and were going to get a rest for a day or two. Well, something went wrong and we had to go into the firing line again the same night. We got shelled out after a couple of days, and then had to re-take our trenches. Last Saturday we were again forced to retire owing to troops on our left and right being broken. We lost very heavily in the retirement. It being about four o'clock, the captain decided to wait for dark before moving, as the place was being heavily shelled, and the ground also that we had to cross was covered by two machine-guns. When the time came to retire the captain told me to send the men after them, three at a time. I did this, and was last to leave.

I dropped into a ditch and waited for about an hour. The enemy, following their usual custom started setting light to the farms round about, so I made tracks for a turnip-field, pulling myself along on my stomach. The Germans in one case almost kicked me as they passed. About an hour after this when they had had rations, they fell in and moved forward. I waited just a little longer and then crawled after them. I kept to their left, and almost crawled into another party. By continual crawling and keeping my ears wide open for the movement and firing of their sentries I managed to get through their lines just before dawn. I came out at the Queen's front line, and can't tell you how pleased I was when I heard British voices.

I was taken before the commanding officer of the Queen's, and reported what I had done and what I know of the enemy. I stopped in their lines that day and rejoined my unit next morning. Strange to say, the day I stayed with the Queen's my regiment was again engaged, and only about fifty got away. Practically all the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men are missing.

Fresh from the Front.

This Friday at 8.30 P.M., under the auspices of the Berlin-Amerika-Institut and the Deutsch-Amerikanischer Wirtschaftsverband, in the Festsaal of the Deutsche Handelskammer (Dorotheenstr. 8), Colonel Edwin Emerson, one of our American war correspondents, will give a war lecture and lantern slide exhibition of snapshots taken at the German fronts in Belgium, France and on the Russian frontier.

Col. Emerson, who has just returned from an extended trip to the western front where he saw some of the fiercest fighting, is well known at home as a military writer and war correspondent, having served in this capacity in Mexico, Nicaragua, the Balkans, Manchuria, South America and in Cuba.

His reputation as a brilliant lecturer is well established in the United States, where he has lectured repeatedly at the universities of Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Chicago, San Francisco, and elsewhere in America.

Germany and South Africa.

The German Government has been asked by Boers about Germany's intentions towards South Africa. Mr. Solf, the German Colonial Secretary has given an answer to this query in which he says that the German Government has never had the intention or the desire to occupy South African territory temporarily or for good, nor to extend German rule to the Union or to parts of it.

Reisinger Legacies.

The late Mr. Reisinger, son-in-law of Adolphus Busch of St. Louis, has in his will left considerable legacies for institutes of arts and sciences and for charities. Harvard will get \$ 55 000 for the establishment of a Germanic Museum and the acquisition of German books. \$ 50 000 go to the Metropolitan Museum in New York for the acquisition of works by German artists.

The German Man in the Street.

The "Daily Mail" publishes the following impressions of an English traveller returned from Berlin:

It is natural that English people should be interested in the German attitude with regard to the war. No greater mistake could be made than to believe that there is any doubt or depression in Germany. German opinion as far as encountered it, is unanimous as to the eventual result. It is unanimous, also, as to the necessity for preparing for a long, long struggle.

Each independent observer will naturally bring from Germany a different impression, because no two people ever see the same landscape or group of persons from exactly the same point of view.

That there are some doubters in Germany is obvious by reference to the German newspapers, which very rarely print articles calculated to reassure. Some persons complain of bad business, because a good many kinds of businesses in Germany are in a bad way, though by no means all. The casual observer might travel throughout the whole of Germany and see but very little other than the usual German prosperity.

Women are here and there to be found doing men's work—at no time an uncommon sight in some parts of Germany. The great dry goods stores are obviously not doing well. Regulations have been promulgated ordering the use of a certain percentage of potato flour in bread; but the Germans are a frugal folk and not at all disturbed by precautions of that kind.

The Germans have infinite faith in their leaders. The Kaiser was never more popular than at the present moment, and if here and there a man complains in conversation of the slowness of the movements in Flanders or the incursions of the Russians in the East he will always find one to reply to him that all will go well.

I do not agree that the Germans are unacquainted with their casualties, as is stated by some English writers. Casualty lists are sold in the cafés and restaurants for the benefit of the Red Cross.

One must remember that they have had a number of really substantial successes, and, like every nation, they naturally make the most of their victories. Liege, Maubeuge, Antwerp, the defeat of the English Fleet off Chili, the undoubted success of the German submarines, the smashing victory against the Russians at Tannenberg, and von Hindenburg's other successes have come at convenient intervals to maintain the national spirit, and Germany is looking forward to its winter campaign with the utmost enthusiasm.

They claim that their ultimate resources in men are 15,000,000. I merely repeat their statement. They claim that their preparations in the way of Zeppelins and other aircraft will eventually startle the world. Gold may be at a premium, eggs may have doubled in price, tea and coffee growing scarce, many export businesses at a standstill—all these are trifles compared with the unity and the enthusiasm of the German people.

To the Editor.

French war customs.

1. An American, formerly lecturer in one of the foremost universities of the United States and a scholar of reputation reports as eye-witness the following: "November 22th 1914 I saw at the railroad station in Cette (South France) a lightly wounded Moroccan Soldier showing to the public a leather strip with twelve ears which he has cut off from German soldiers. The man was celebrated by the public as a hero. The following day I was in Montpellier, where I saw at the station the "ladies", of the Red Cross spitting in the faces of wounded German soldiers."

2. On November the 19th three German Red Cross officers, staff physicians, prisoners of war in France, were led through the streets of Ste Menehoule. The population spat and threw refuse at them.

3. A distinguished Italian lady, married to a senator, tells in the Roman newspaper "Popolo Romano" of November the 16th her impressions from the camp of Vigor (Dept Gard, France), where the German and Austrian civilian prisoners of war are kept. She says "they are locked up in an old building, which once served as a wool-mill. The poor devils, including women and infants, lie about on straw, they have no covers. The food they receive consists in some miserable potato-soup with bran-bread. This they get twice daily. Some of the men tried to improve their situation by working 14 hours a day for 25 centimes (5 cents). After the lapse of four weeks, when they were to receive their wages, they were told that the manager has disappeared with the money in his pocket."

4. According to sworn statement of German soldiers and Red Cross employes, French soldiers and officers maltreat and shoot wounded German soldiers on the battlefield in a most bestial manner (e.g. at Rehainviller on Sept. 5th; at Arlon on Sept. 7th; at Lunéville on August 25th; at St. Quentin on August 29th etc.). Documents relative to these facts were published by the German Government in a white book on October 10th 1914.

5. On September 8th 1914 two automobiles, carrying wounded Germans under the Red Cross flag were held up by a detachment of French infantry-cyclists under the leadership of an officer. The wounded and the hospital-men were killed and robbed. Only two men could escape and this report is based upon their sworn statements (see White book of Oct. 10th).

6. Chief-physician Dr. Stamer of the 19th regiment of Uhlans was shot, according to sworn statement of eye-witnesses, on September 14th by French riflemen, while he was, with the Red Cross on his arm, administering a wounded German soldier.

7. After the skirmish near Arlon, September 7th, German cavalrymen, who were left wounded on the battlefield, were achieved by French soldiers with the bayonet.

8. German troops found on September 26th, when they entered the village of Orchies on the roadside lying about the terribly disfigured bodies of 20 German soldiers: mouth, nose and eye-holes filled up with saw-dust, ears and fingers cut off. Moreover, the bodies were all robbed out.

How Berlin Amuses Itself.

In the Berlin theatre world full houses are still the order of the day. In view of the excellence of new productions it is not astonishing of course that play-goers should show themselves grateful for the artistic enterprise of theatre owners.

At the Kuenstler Theatre, Strindberg's "Luther" provides high-grade dramatic fare of the historical kind. Everyone can only be highly interested to see how the Swedish poet, whose depth of thought rendered most of his work so epoch-making would interpret his task of sketching the great reformator. The result is very fascinating—to say the least of it.

At the Charlottenburg Schiller Theatre Fulda's "Der Seeräuber" has been added to the repertory. This may be described as an amiable light comedy, typical of its author. A dangerous pirate turns over a new leaf and becomes a highly respectable, if humdrum, citizen. In that character he gets married, only to find out that his young wife has a hankering for what appears to her more romantic company.

The revival of "Waldmeister", an opera by Johann Strauss, the "Waltzking" is meeting with well-deserved success. Beyond mentioning that an excellent cast is provided nothing need be said, seeing that the composer of "Fledermaus" and "Zigeunerbaron" needs no introduction. The "Theater des Westens" has made a good hit.

The program of the Winter-Garten this month includes that celebrated actor, Mr. Ferdinand Bonn, who earns much applause with his recitation. The other artists also belong to a class which it is well worth seeing. The house has nightly a large audience.

Social and Charity entertainments are in full swing and are greatly frequented. A musical tea party given by that well-known actress, Frau Poppe-Lewa was a brilliant and successful gathering.

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The Fatherland, the American Weekly which is working for "fair play for Germany and Austria", may be obtained in Europe from Mr. L. Viereck, Berlin-Friedenau, Südwest Korso 8.

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