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The Continental Times

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"Lusitania Question" Suddenly Revived in An Acute Form

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LATEST NEWS SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

Prince Alexander in Corfu.
Paris, Tuesday. It is announced that Prince Alexander of Serbia has arrived in the island of Corfu. He came aboard a French torpedo boat from Albania.

Swiss War Taxation.
Bern, Tuesday. So great have been the profits made by many of the Hotels in Zurich owing to the war, that a tax is to be imposed upon such special gains.

Anglo-French Offensive.
Lugano, Tuesday. The *Corriere della Sera* is responsible for the statement that the British and French columns stationed at Salonica have commenced an offensive movement and have advanced towards the Greek frontier.

Council in Rome.
Lugano, Tuesday. At a Ministerial Council held, M. Salandra announced that M. Briand would reach Rome on Thursday and would be accompanied by General Pellier of the French military General Staff.

Kamegun Colony in Spanish Guinea.
Rotterdam, Tuesday. Nine hundred Germans and 14,000 natives, who had hitherto inhabited the Kameruns, have passed over into Spanish Guinea where they have been disarmed and interned.

Germans Released.
Amsterdam, Tuesday. One hundred and fifteen Germans who had been interned in England have arrived at Flushing on their way home.

Servian Legislators Fight.
Lugano, Tuesday. At a sitting of the Servian Skupchina, which appears now to have transferred itself to Rome it came to a general fight between the members owing to disagreements concerning the reorganisation of the army.

Briand's Visit to Rome.
Geneva, Tuesday. It is stated that the object of M. Briand's visit to Rome is to organise a thorough unity of all the armies of the Quadruple Alliance so that all will be under the one general command.

Italy To Divide its Army.
Rome, Tuesday. Much against the will of General Cadorna, who has been steadfastly against the dividing up of the Italian troops, Italy it is stated, has agreed to send 100,000 men to Valona and 50,000 to Salonica.

Rebels Routed or Not?
London, Tuesday. According to news received here the rebels in the South have met with a severe defeat and are being hardly pressed by the Governmental troops. A Russian report tells the exact contrary.

Italians Abandon Durazzo.
Lugano, Tuesday. At the last Ministerial Council it was decided that Durazzo would be abandoned and the Italian force concentrated at Valona.

Salonica Zeppelin Visit.
Athens, Tuesday. According to latest advices from Salonica three millions francs worth of damage was done during the last Zeppelin raid over that city. The English Insurance Companies are doing a large business insuring goods against damage.

Defence of London.
London, Tuesday. At the end of the present week, Sir Percy Scott will be superseded and give up his post as Commander of the defences which will be conducted by a joint committee composed of representatives of army and navy under the direction of Fieldmarshal General French.

Turkey and Greece.
Athens, Tuesday. Several meetings have taken place between the Turkish Minister, Galib Kemal Bey and the Premier, M. Skuludis, with the result that a great number of questions regarding the Aegean Islands and other subjects which had given rise to friction between the two countries have been satisfactorily settled.

R Denial.
London, Tuesday. The English Navy Department denies that the "Caroline" or any other warship has been sunk by bombs from a Zeppelin as claimed.

Concentrating in Valona.
Constantinople, Tuesday. The newspaper *Turk-Sedasi* announces that the Italians have withdrawn their troops from all parts of Albania and concentrated them in Valona.

The First Shots.
Lugano, Tuesday. The *Corriere della Sera* publishes a despatch from Salonica to the effect that a skirmish has taken place between French and Bulgarian troops in the neighborhood of the Doiran Lake.

Hostilities in Albania.
Rotterdam, Tuesday. Hostilities have begun in Albania between the Italians and Servians on the one side and the Austrian and Bulgarian troops on the other. A sharp fight took place at Alessio and the Italian troops and the Servians beat a retreat. The Bulgarians have taken Elbesan.

Greece Under Tutelage.
Lugano, Tuesday. Travellers returning from Greece tell that that country is now completely under the domination of the Entente Powers. Everything concerning the control of the country, including its provisioning, is regulated by the French and English. There is a great dearth of coal which fact cripples the large Greek mercantile navy and it is now lying idle.

Greece Against the Entente.
Athens, Tuesday. The Government organ the *Neon Asti* publishes an article inciting the entire population to rise and make a grand demonstration against the action of the Entente Powers in applying the Blockade to Greece. It further states that the Paris news of the Greek army is unfounded and that on the contrary the Greeks will never disarm until the last foreign soldier has left Greek territory.

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Wilson's Speeches

London, Tuesday. The *Times* Washington Correspondent states that President Wilson's speeches have created a great sensation. The Republicans say that they have been undignified and unworthy of a Chief of State. The Democrats admit that the President has spoken more than he ought to have done, said more than he was justified in saying under existing conditions. They think he could have found other means to stimulate the people of the country into a sentiment that greater protective measures were needful for the safety of the Union. The *Times* correspondent cables that Doctor Wilson's depressing utterances concerning English-American relations are not taken seriously, at all events not in the East. The pro-English press condemns the President's statement that America must have a larger fleet than England.

The *Journal of Commerce* puts it, that the excited words of Doctor Wilson concerning the English blockade are unheard from the mouth of a President. The *N.Y. Times* considers that Wilson has harmed himself by his speeches.

The Blockade Question

Copenhagen, Tuesday. The newspaper *Copenhagen*, which is sympathetic towards the Allies, commenting upon the proposed plan of Great Britain to restrict imports into neutral countries to the quantities imported before the war, says:—

Even though the plan is carried out in a lenient manner, it will inevitably hamper our trade severely. It is obvious that Denmark will be threatened with reprisals by the other belligerents if she is compelled to comply with the English demands, which are not compatible with Danish rights under international law.

Dear Bread In England

London, Tuesday. The London Master Bakers Protection Association proposes increasing the price of the 4 lb. loaf from 9d. to 9½d. This will make bread nearly 75% dearer than it was at the beginning of the war when the 4 lb. loaf cost 5½d.

As a rule, bakers regard an increase of 4s. on the 280 lb sack of flour, which yields 92 to 96 quarters, as involving ½d. increase in the price of the loaf. Within the past week the cost of flour has increased by 3s. a sack, making a 4s. rise since the price of the loaf was raised to 9d.

At Moment When Sinking of Cunard Liner Had Been Almost Forgotten America Makes New Requests Which Are Impossible For Imperial Government to Accept. Interview With Under Secretary of State Zimmermann. Germany Cannot Consent to Demands Made

By Aubrey Stanhope.

To the astonishment of most people, at a time when the diplomatic discussions between the Department of State at Washington and the Wilhelm Strasse concerning the sinking of the big Cunard Liner were thought to be on the verge of being closed, the "Lusitania Question" has once again been brought to the front by President Wilson in a manner so unexpected, and in such a form as to be quite unacceptable to the German Government.

To sum up the whole matter in the briefest possible space, the Washington Government asks Germany to admit that the torpedoing of the "Lusitania" was an illegal action.

American Diplomat's Views

According to an American diplomat, who happens to be passing through Berlin and who was good enough to give me his views upon the whole affair, the point of view of the United States Government is the following. The "Lusitania Case" would never have been heard of again had it not been that the Ancona and Persia sinkings followed. The German Government, he said, in giving the assurance to the Washington Cabinet, that the Commanders of submarines had been forbidden in the future to attack passenger ships without previous notice, must be taken as having admitted that it had acted illegally. And in consequence the latest demand made by the State Department was nothing beyond a logical conclusion of fact. "It is merely the question of a word" said the diplomat, "but it spells humanity and that is what America stands upon."

"America is perfectly neutral and will act with even hand as regards England. But America holds that the question of the loss of American lives is of prior importance to that of losses of American commerce. And that is why the question of losses of lives in the torpedoed ships is given precedence over that of the severe loss of commerce which the English have inflicted upon the United States merchants. The charges against England will quite surely be taken up with equal force a little later on."

The German Side

So much for the American viewpoint! But the German side must likewise be stated, all the more as it has a full quantum of logic and force behind it. It was told me as follows, by one to whom I repeated what the Diplomat had just said. "That way of looking at the question", he said with emphasis, "is quite wrong. To expect a great Empire like Germany to admit that it has acted illegally is asking too much and shows that the position of Germany in the submarine blockade question is misunderstood in America. The matter stands thus. In order to cultivate friendliness with the United States, Germany decided to give certain orders to the Commanders of submarine boats. It must be remembered that submarine warfare is a new form of fighting concerning which no exact laws have been established. England had announced its determination to attempt to starve to death the non-combatant population of the Empire, the women and the children. That Germany considered to be a monstrous and perfectly illegal mode of warfare, and felt itself fully justified in using every means to hand in order to prevent the carrying out of such a barbarous proposition.

Tit for Tat

"The most effective weapon for the purpose of stopping the inhuman intentions of the English for Germany was its magnificent fleet of submarine boats. The submarine blockade was therefore announced, due information having been given as to the date of its initiation beforehand, so that all ships might know it and passengers keep out of the way of danger. It was distinctly stated that this measure of retaliation was taken in return to the British starvation threat and would be abandoned from the moment England desisted from that policy. To that the British Government paid no attention and the British press made fun of the idea, treating it as an empty threat. Since that time hundreds upon hundreds of British ships have been torpedoed, with the practical result

American Press Quite Calm

Not Supposed That There Will be a Crisis Concerning the "Lusitania" Question President Will Await the Return of Colonel House and Ambassador Morgenthau

New York, Tuesday. The press in general does not appear to consider that the "Lusitania" question has reached a particularly threatening stage, as would appear to be the case in Germany. Undoubtedly British influences are being used, in the well known channels, to stir up bad blood between America and Germany. But England is in great danger itself of the ill will of people here owing to the growing impatience of the American public concerning the autocratic attitude of the British Government upon the subject of the blockade, and the immeasurable damage being done thereby to American trade.

Moreover it is reckoned that no immediate decision will be come to as regards the German reply. Report goes that President Wilson will await the return of his trusted friend Colonel House, who received whilst in the German Capital the fullest assurances of the goodwill of Germany towards the United States, before taking any decision.

Voice of the Senators

It must also be remembered that a large group of influential Senators have expressed themselves of late as out and out opposed to the foreign policy of President Wilson in forcing the hand of Germany, and, as the Senate is in session, they have a considerable influence.

There are those also who say that the direction of negotiations having been given over by the President to Mr. Lansing, during the absence of the former upon his re-election tour, the Secretary of State, whose judgment is beginning to be very much questioned, started out upon a quite new line of policy upon his own responsibility. If President Wilson should insist upon his theories regarding the "laws of humanity", as against those of "laws of nations", why undoubtedly he will find the strongest opposition amongst the Senators of the country, inspired as they are by the dictates of common sense and the sentiment that America is suffering more from the maritime tyranny of England and the infringement of Neutral rights by Great Britain, than from any other cause. Sentiment in the United States is just now in a very peculiar stage and the sensible members of the community are veering over and never before has the foreign policy of President Wilson met with such strong criticism as at the present time.

Secretary Zimmermann's declaration were exceedingly positive. He stated that Germany had done everything possible and given way to the very uttermost point, but could under no circumstances admit the illegality of the U-Boat war in the spheres of hostilities. The German Government, he said, had done everything, and was prepared to do everything, in order to meet the American wishes.

"I do not understand the standpoint of America," said the Under Secretary of State. "We had imagined that the U-Boat conflict had been laid aside and that the Lusitania Question had well-nigh reached a solution. Now, however, Washington all of a sudden makes new demands, which it is impossible for us to accede to. You Americans should not go too far in your demands. You should not seek to humiliate Germany."

Secretary Zimmermann would not discuss the new demands of America, or the telegraphic instructions given to Count Bernstorff, but he let it be clearly understood, that the entire crisis had been brought about by President Wilson's demand that Germany should recognise the sinking of the "Lusitania" as a breach of international law.

Repeatedly the Under Secretary of State asserted that with all due desire to be accommodating, Germany could not go so far as to abandon its weapon the U-Boat. He stated that, even if America made it a matter of breach between the two countries, Germany could go no further to avoid such breach with all its regrettable consequences. There was no direct subject of disagreement between Germany and America. Germany had hoped that after the war there would have been a great development of trade between the two countries. That hope would be dispelled were there to come a breach

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with the United States, or at all events it would lead to a great shrinkage.

Opinion in Berlin.

As can well be imagined, there was but one subject of conversation in Berlin, regarding the latest phase of the "Lusitania" Note and the so important statement of the Under-secretary of State regarding it. All Germans I met were unanimous that it would be undignified and impossible for the Country to adopt any other attitude than that outlined by Herr Zimmermann.

At the American Embassy, where the Ambassador received me, Judge Gerard was absolutely not to be interviewed. He sat back in his chair and said that he knew absolutely nothing of the whole affair, but referred me to the statement of the Under-Secretary of State.

I met two Americans who have just returned from the United States, Mr. von Wiegand, the *World* Special Correspondent and Mr. St. John Gaffney. Neither of them believe for one moment that the American Government has any idea of embarking the United States in a war. Both assert that there is no war party in the United States and that, contrary to what so many Germans imagine, there is no strong anti-German sentiment in official or other circles in Washington. One American correspondent professed having received the news that President Wilson had made a speech most friendly in its terms towards Germany.

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Business Section.
Imports and Exports. — Finances and Forwards

England's Credit.

One of England's best known financiers, Sir Felix Schuster, in a recent speech has drawn attention to the fact that it is of vital importance that the rate of exchange upon the golden sovereign shall be maintained and that every exertion must be made in order to prevent its constant tendency to sag. The exchange in Holland, says Sir Felix, has been specially bad. In America likewise the great problem which faces the Morgan Group, is how possibly to keep the exchange upon the sovereign from falling. It was, to try and bolster up the agio upon English gold that the last big Anglo-French Loan was underwritten by the bankers of the United States, and it is in order to again try and maintain the exchange upon the golden sovereign, that a new loan in the United States has once more become imperative. And the necessity for such a loan is evidently the reason for the announced visit of Mr. Pierpont Morgan to Europe.

It is highly significant, as coming from such a source, to hear that Sir Felix Schuster realises that the position of Great Britain as the international banking centre of the world is "now certainly threatened" by the United States. He admits that the bullion centre of the Universe has ceased to be on the banks of the Thames and has been transferred across the Atlantic. Today America has become the financial centre of the Universe and is likely to remain in that proud position, although Sir Felix expresses the hope, that after the war Great Britain will recover its lost prestige and again dominate the trade of the world.

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Chaos in Italy.

What is Italy going to do next? That is the question which preoccupies the minds of the leading politicians of the day. And indeed Italy is in sore straits, militarily, economically and politically.

In no sense has Italy, up to date, lived up to the fulsome and bombastic programme of the Salandra Cabinet at the outbreak of the war. And now, Signor Salandra, having launched his country into a slough of despond, apparently cannot think of anything better than to threaten resignation.

M. Briand is in Rome trying to patch up a sorely rent political situation between Italy and her allies. In the general combination, known as the Quadruple Alliance, Italy is by far the weaker pot and has shown inevitable signs for some time past of breaking up. Without coal, money exceedingly scarce, engaged in a traitorous war against those it was a solemn duty to assist, treated with a considerable measure of contempt by France, England and Russia, the position of Italy is just as unenviable as that of any country could possibly be. The whole Italian attitude from first till last may be compared to the set piece in a great fireworks show; much noise, a vast deal of display, a whole lot of cracking and spluttering and all is over.

The military reports of General Cadorna, his announcements of constant victories, where none in truth existed, can be taken as one of the comedies of the war. Cadorna is now silent, but at two points his troops are on the retreat.

England, in spite of the over many calls upon its exchequer, offers to advance the much needed funds for which Italy appeals, but under conditions which the Italian war authorities are either unable or unwilling to comply with, namely that of sending troops to help the Entente Powers in Salonica, Egypt and elsewhere. Plaintively Cadorna replies: "We have not a single man to

spare.' To which England rejoins coldly: "Very well, no men no money!"

Was ever a country, specially one having pretensions to be a "Great Power", in such a miserable and abject plight? When one remembers the fanfaronades of Salandra, Sonnino, the egregious d'Annunzio and others of the small clique that drove Italy into a war for no reason at all, and one comes to note the spirit of self-effacement amongst all those mischief makers today, the contrast is both remarkable and most eloquent. Salandra wishes to retire, Sonnino has been to confer with Gioielli, the friend of peace; whilst as for the loud mouthed and much besmirched d'Annunzio, why he has most discreetly retired without leaving any address.

Financial Needs Of Great Britain

American Underwriters Have to Absorb One Third of Loan. England's Latest Project.

London, Sunday. A despatch from New York states that the bankers of the United States have been very much disillusioned at the results of the Anglo French loan and are disappointed at the constant decline in the price of the bonds. Issued at 98, the bonds have sagged to 94 1/2.

Approximately one third of the \$500,000,000, five year 5% Anglo-French bond issue remains unsold in the hands of the bankers. And the unsold balance has been distributed to the underwriters.

NEW PLAN DISCUSSED.

The plan presented in the British House of Commons by Reginald McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, for the mobilization of securities, was much discussed today both in American and British financial circles. A cable dispatch from London by The Associated Press said: "The plan is received with favor by a major part of the British press."

"The whole scheme will come under close scrutiny in the House of Commons before final approval is given to a measure which puts such large power into the hands of the treasury."

"In financial circles the question asked most frequently concerns Mr. McKenna's remark that the treasury does not intend to throw a large amount of securities on the American market, but purposes 'to borrow on securities.' The inquiry is made why securities should be bought outright if the only intention is to borrow on them."

"This is an argument we are unable to follow," says the Post "Certainly, if the government actually purchases securities here, the simpler method would be to resell on the other side."

The Manchester Guardian questions the soundness of the whole plan, saying:

"There are obvious objections to government intervention as a purchaser or borrower. It sends up the price of securities against the government. When the government meddled in sugar the market beat it. The market assuredly will beat the government if it tries to buy securities."

MONEY NEEDED.

Sir George Paish, one of the best known English authorities on financial affairs, made the following statement to The Associated Press to-day in regard to the British government's plan for mobilization of American securities:

"Practically speaking, Great Britain has to provide all the money needed to settle the American favorable trade balance. For 1915 the excess of exports will probably reach \$1,750,000,000 and, after allowing for payment of interest, freights, etc., the balance in favor of the United States will probably reach about \$1,350,000,000, of which about \$400,000,000 will be settled in gold, \$460,000,000 by the recent Franco-British loan and the balance of about \$500,000,000 by sales of securities."

The "L. 19."

(The sinking Zeppelin, the crew of which was left to drown by the Captain of the British trawler "King Stephen.")

Long they strove—their case grew skittish—

Death stood on the waves afloat.

Had a ship! What flag? The British.

"Captain! Send along a boat!"

But the Captain kept on chewin'—

Grinned and spat, and thus he spoke:

"Bloody Germans! go to ruin!

What care I if you must croak?"

"For our government has further Sanctioned murder in its cause;

Yes, it's made a law of murder

And we all respect the laws.

"Forward, boys! We're late—let's flit on—

Leave these fools to taste the flood

How could they expect a Briton To deny his race and blood!"

Swenden, in the B. Z.

America As Financial Rival

Sir Felix Schuster Says That England's Financial Supremacy is Threatened by the United States. The New War Loan.

London, Tuesday. At the recent annual meeting of the shareholders of the Union of London and Smiths Bank, the President Sir Felix Schuster touched upon the question of the maintenance of the rate of exchange which he admitted was one of the utmost seriousness for Great Britain.

Sir Felix said that it was of vital importance to the country that confidence in the maintenance of the exchanges on a gold basis should not be shaken. In that way alone would Great Britain be able to maintain her vast overseas trade without hinderance, and also to retain its place in the world as an international banking centre, a position now, certainly threatened, he trusted only temporarily, by the United States and which when the war was over everything possible must be done to re-establish.

The speaker said that the banks had during the half-year placed a considerable amount of gold out of their own reserves at the disposal of the Treasury for the maintenance of the exchanges, but they might be presumed, notwithstanding this fact, still to hold a fairly important stock of gold, while there must also be a further amount yet in circulation.

The New War Loan.

As regards the very delicate question of the new War Loan, Sir Felix Schuster spoke with great caution. He said that there was, of course, a good deal of discussion as to the date and nature of the next War Loan, the issue of which in all probability must take place during this half-year. If the public response to the issue of Exchequer bonds now being made was large a further loan might be delayed for a little while, but the amount of Treasury bills now in circulation was so considerable that it would hardly seem advisable to add to that form of indebtedness, convenient though it might be to both the Government and the market. The probabilities, then, pointed to the issue of another large loan. It was to be hoped that the conditions of the new loan would be such as to attract subscriptions from all classes and also from abroad.

Strictest Economy Necessary.

But in order to maintain our financial strength at the level which was needed for the successful conduct of the war it was necessary that British imports from abroad, both on Government account and for general consumption, should be rigorously restricted. If a breakdown in the exchanges was to be avoided, it could only be by putting a check on the imports of anything that was not absolutely essential. Taxation seemed the only means of providing such a check, and on articles of luxury it should be prohibitive. He feared the spirit of extravagance was still abroad, and especially so among those classes to whom the war had suddenly brought largely increased earnings and profits. Economy, exercised by all classes of the population, was not only necessary in the interests of the State, but would be of the greatest benefit to the individuals themselves and save them from trouble and hardship in the future. For this reason they had urged not only that every one should practise economy, but that they should put their savings into Exchequer bonds.

WHAT CAPITAL DID FOR ALASKA

At 6 a. m., Juneau is reached—a night's run from Petersburg. Here you see what capital can do for Alaska. Placer gold was found at the site of Juneau in 1880. Then quartz claims were located, but the ore was of such low grade, running from \$1.50 to \$3 per ton, that little was done with it. Prospectors searched the hills to find profitable high-grade ore, but it wasn't there. Then came men with capital, ready to invest the millions necessary to treat great quantities of low-grade ores and make them profitable. They took the risk and the risk in mining is always great. What was the result? The famous Treadwell Mines, crushing 10,000 tons of ore a day at a daily profit of \$10,000, with 2,000 employees; the Gastineau Mining Company at Thane, crushing 3,000 tons and getting ready to increase it to 10,000 a day; employing 1,000 men and expending \$6,000,000; the Alaska-Juneau expending \$4,000,000 and a score of others, increasing their output and adding to their payrolls week by week.

This low-grade gold ore at Juneau, Douglas and Thane, appears to be inexhaustible in quantity, and its utilization, involving an initial expenditure of at least \$10,000,000 is helping to make Juneau an industrial center.

John A. Steicher's Alaska Letter in Leslie's.

Do not throw away your Continental Times after reading it, but send it to a friend either at home or abroad.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Idea of War Exhibition in Vienna Meets with Hearty Approval.

Heroes of the War.

Traffic Lively on the Danube. Turkish Parliament Sends Thanks to Members of Hungarian Chamber.

The new announcement of the proposed War Exhibition in Vienna has been received in all quarters with the heartiest approval, and the liveliest interest is being shown in the undertaking, which will serve such high patriotic, commercial and charitable ends. The War Exhibition, which will be supported in every possible manner by the Army Headquarters, has just received a proof that the project is also regarded favorably in the highest places, and the success of the exhibition is considered to be something of interest and value to the country as a whole. The Working Committee of the War Exhibition which some days ago addressed an appeal to Grand Duke Karl Franz Joseph, the Heir-Apparent, to accept the office of Patron of the Exhibition, has just received a reply. The letter declared the Grand Duke's willingness to grant the request and to assume the rôle of Patron of the Exhibition. The patriotic undertaking is now assured of approval in the highest quarters, and of the continued support of the Ministry of War, and is planted firmly on the road to success.

Father and Son.

On the endless roll of heroes, to which the progress of the world war is continually adding fresh names, those of the Austrian Landstürmer Florian Oertl and his son, Wallther, a Cadet of the Reserve, deserve special notice as those of shining examples of true and conscientious performance of duty in face of the enemy.

Florian Oertl, a man in the fifties, was a Post Office Director in Vienna at the outbreak of the war. He took up his old commission and led his Landsturm Battalion as First Lieutenant from September 1914. In many a wild storm he rode at the head of his gallant troops, who loved him like a father. They fought in Russian Poland, where the Lieutenant was wounded in a fierce attack; they fought in Serbia. Lieutenant Oertl was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery, and became a Captain. Then he led his men in the fire and thunder of the Isonzo front against the despairing Italians—and here among the roaring cannon, he had the joy of encountering his only son, whom he had not seen for eleven months.

The young Cadet, only twenty years old, had volunteered at the outbreak of war, and was with a Field-Artillery Battalion. He had taken part in the capture of Lublin and the storm of Brest-Litovsk. Singular chance united the father and son on the Isonzo battlefield, and they sent a joyful joint postcard to the waiting mother in Vienna, with the hope that they would soon be home on leave. Two days later the father heard that the young man was dead. He had intrepidly gone out under fire to repair a shattered telephone connection. The Captain's one desire now was to bury his son in friendly earth. He undertook himself the perilous task of removing the body from its exposed position, and finally all difficulties were overcome, and the body of the young hero was sent to Vienna. It arrived on the same day on which the mother had received with joy the hopeful postcard signed by her husband and son. The heroic Captain Oertl is again with his regiment on the Isonzo front.

Shipping on the Danube.

Shipping on the Danube is in a most lively condition; never perhaps were circumstances so favorable, or traffic so vigorous, as at present. In the last fortnight large numbers of shiploads of maize and wheat from Roumania and Bulgaria have taken the river road. It should not be forgotten that large quantities of this Roumanian grain represent delayed private purchases and have nothing to do with the purchases made by the official buyers of the Central Committee for the Transport of Grain in War, of Germany and Austria-Hungary.

These large consignments represent, therefore, not only the result of the latest transactions, but the tardy fulfillment of long-standing orders, which, although not connected with the official purchases, will, of course, have to be delivered to the War Grain Central Bureau. The quality of the maize is not particularly good, but quite sufficient for its use as fodder. The quality of the ship's lading in wheat is also somewhat second-rate, but those which are coming in from Roumania by train are, on the contrary, of most superior quality.

The Recognition of Islam.

The Turkish Parliament in Constantinople has just sent hearty thanks to the Hungarian Parliament for its declaration that the religion of Islam should have the same legal rights as the other creeds represented in the Double Monarchy. Austria has already a similar measure. The Turkish members expressed a hope that the other Allies of Turkey would take similar or the same steps towards protecting the right of every member of a community to his own form of religious faith.

The Open Tribune

To Our Readers.

We shall be glad to publish any communication from our readers, but must ask contributors to attach name and address to their letters. These will be published anonymously, if so desired. The Continental Times is not responsible for the opinions of the contributors to this column. Contributors are requested to limit the length of their letters to the utmost, in order to avoid the necessity of curtailing by the Editor.

English Viewpoints.

To the Editor:

It is satisfactory to find from time to time in the English newspapers some gleams of sense concerning the real situation and sentiments existing in Germany. Below is an extract taken from a special article published on the Editorial page of the London Times. Part of it may be taken as sensible enough, but other portions, as all people living in this country will at once realise, are way off the high road of the truth. The article which is headed "The Two Germanies" amongst other things puts forward the following:

No doubt war is the business of military people, and trade is the business of commercial people; but the notion that the military element dragged the commercial into war, though it has a superficial truth, is profoundly false in a deeper sense. It was rather the other way about. The development of German commerce and the need or desire of further expansion furnished the military element with a defined aim, a stimulus, and an occasion, with the approval and something more than the approval, of the commercial interests, which looked to military power to enforce their claims and fulfil their ambitions.

Why is England singled out as the enemy above all others? Not because she was particularly obnoxious to military Germany, which regarded her with contemptuous indifference; but because she was the greatest obstacle to the expansion of commercial Germany. In no class is the belief in England's decadence and Germany's right to take her place stronger than in the commercial; none is so eager to step into the inheritance. It must inevitably be so, for that is their own particular field.

Now the statements made in the above are just true in spots, and those spots are few. But it is interesting to note that here is at least one writer who does not believe the fallacy so universally proclaimed in England that Germany rushed into this conflict hounded on by a bloodthirsty and unreasoning war party. Germany on the contrary was forced into war owing to the well known policy of the late King Edward, that of isolating Germany and depriving that country of its rightful place amongst the independent nations.

"Why is England singled out as the enemy above all others?" ask the writer and makes the false reply that it is on account of trade rivalry. What a fallacy! The sentiment that exists in Germany against the English is deep seated and lies in the firm conviction: Firstly that the war would never have come about had it not been for the machinations and intrigues of well known British high personalities and statesmen. Secondly that the British deliberately incited the other nations to embark upon war against Germany. Thirdly that the English expressed their determination to starve out Germany, in other words to try and starve the civil population, the non-fighters, the women and children, a style of warfare which the Germans consider to be ignoble, unjust, and cowardly.

Berlin, Jan. 7. "Fair Play."

STRAY PEARLS

Wisdom from our Contemporaries.

"In warfare there is nothing so savagely implacable as the middle-class civilian Englishman who advocates 'reprisals' and brass bands to encourage other Englishmen to recruit."

—Richard Harding Davis.

"We Germans do not understand what you Americans call a 'free press.' Our laws allow the fullest personal liberty consistent with the welfare of the state. But we do not permit the diplomatic representatives of friendly governments to be insulted *ad libitum*, or our Government to be embarrassed in its dealings with other nations, nor men's reputations to be wantonly sacrificed by the wild and reckless utterances of an irresponsible press like the Providence Journal. And I venture to predict that you will be forced to take like measures, notwithstanding the dangerous power of your press."

—Capt. Karl Boy-Ed—"Issues and Events."

"Sooner or later all the fighting that can be done will be done, and generally rather overdone. I think we might say we have come to that period of the war at which the possibilities of improvement to our character are exhausted, and it might be well to make up our minds as to what we really want to get out of the war."

—George Bernard Shaw.

"War was declared not only against German soldiers and sailors, but against German reputations."

—The New Statesman.

IRELAND AS A PEACE FACTOR

By Diplomaticus.

An interesting light is thrown on Ireland's attitude to the war by the recent discussions in the House of Commons on the United Kingdom Compulsory Service Bill and the enforced confession of the British Government that they dare not include Ireland in the scope of the measure.

The far-reaching significance of this omission of an integral part of the United Kingdom from obligatory service to the state cannot fail to impair and eventually, perhaps, to undermine the hoped for utility of the measure as a potent aid to the joint cause of the Allies.

For the end sought to be gained by the imposition of military service on the United Kingdom was as much a moral as a material end. Men were wanted, it is true, but not men alone. It was necessary to assure the world, and above all the Allies of England, that no sacrifice incurred by the other parties to the Entente would be omitted by Great Britain, and that where they gave their youth and manhood to the struggle, she, too, would give hers.

And now the chief end sought has to be abandoned at the outset, and a shameful confession made to the world that the United Kingdom is but a name, and one of its component parts must be exempted from an obligation to the state whose principal value lay in the fact that it was to be a national obligation, imposed on all the King's subjects alike, and fulfilled by all men in the British Isles.

One of those islands, covering much more than a fourth part of the entire kingdom and inhabited by fully a tenth part of the total population, has to be omitted altogether from the Bill and treated as if Sovereign and Parliament had no jurisdiction there, as if, indeed, it were a foreign country and this on the openly confessed ground that it would be too dangerous for the Government to enforce the law of the land over that great area of the Kingdom.

Perhaps no more portentous failure of British policy has been anywhere apparent since the war began. Students of history cannot fail to be impressed by this attitude of Ireland and the position of powerlessness into which it has forced an elsewhere all powerful Government.

Viewing the magnitude of the issues involved for the British Empire and the enormous contributions in men, money and material made by Great Britain and her great self-governing Dominions, the abstention of Irishmen from the conflict is a phenomenon that admits of no explanation compatible with the claim of England that Ireland and Great Britain constitute one realm united by a common loyalty to a common crown.

In the opening days of the conflict the world was assured by Sir Edward Grey, in the speech that announced the forthcoming declaration of war against Germany, that Ireland was "the one bright spot." Irish loyalty to England, we were told, had been cemented by the "gift" of Home Rule and Irishmen now would stand shoulder to shoulder with their British comrades in resisting the German assault on "the freedom of the small nations" and "the liberties of the world."

When we inspect the figures officially supplied in Parliament, setting forth the available strength in men of military age in Ireland and those who have enlisted in the

British armed forces since the war began the attitude of Ireland to the conflict becomes one of interest to all countries and particularly to those where men hope and work for peace.

For in her widespread abstention from voluntary military service and her openly expressed determination to resist any effort to now compel her young men to serve, Ireland has set an example of national morality and high purpose that should have an ever growing effect on the mind of all peace loving men.

She is achieving, unarmed and defenceless, a victory greater, perhaps, than any won in the field—a victory for peace, for sanity, for reason, and is overthrowing by a resolute "No" the machinations of those whose chief aim is to extend the area of conflict and involve ever fresh victims in their widespread scheme of destruction.

In answer to a question in Parliament the Chief Secretary for Ireland recently stated (January 10) that there were believed to be 562,115 men of military age in Ireland—i. e. between 19 and 41—on the 15th August 1915. The number of these who had "voluntarily" joined the British forces, both Army and Navy, up to 15th December last, he gave as 94,997.

These figures, it should be observed, do not agree with the Census returns compiled in 1911 which showed a very much larger number of men of military age in Ireland.

But confining ourselves for the moment to the return now presented to Parliament and contrasting the result of sixteen months of unceasing effort to get Irishmen into the Army, it will be admitted that the Bishop of Limerick and the Extreme School of Irish nationalists in their appeal to Irishmen to treat this war as "England's war," have far more truly represented Irish convictions than either Messrs. Redmond and Dillon, or the inspired organs of the Government press who have sought to represent Ireland as cheerfully participating with England in the holiest of wars.

The following are the figures furnished to Parliament:

	Men of military age in Ireland, according to Province, on 15th August 1915.	Number who had enlisted in either Army or Navy up to 15th December 1915.
Leinster	174,597	27,458
Ulster	169,489	49,760
Munster	136,637	14,190
Connaught	81,392	3,589
	562,115	94,997

Inspecting these figures from within, it will be found that the abstention of Irishmen from the British armed forces rests on moral and religious grounds no less than on national grounds, as the Bishop of Limerick was the first to point out in public.

Ulster, mainly protestant and pro-English, with an available military population of 169,489 gave 49,760 men to the British Army and Navy.

The three nationalist provinces Leinster, Munster and Connaught, overwhelmingly catholic, with close on 400,000 men of military age (392,626) gave only 45,237 (many of whom were protestants) and the greater part of these came from the four cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Water-

ford, where extreme poverty, homelessness and lack of employment furnish, even in normal times, the chief recruiting grounds in Ireland for the British Army.

If we deduct, as we safely may, 25,000 recruits for these four cities there remains but a small contingent of some 20,000 men given by the great mass of 2,500,000 catholic farmers and agriculturists who make up the rural population of the three provinces.

At the passing of the Home Rule Bill in September 1914, it was confidently hoped by the British Government that Irishmen would "flock to the colours", and the leading organs of British policy claimed that "at least 300,000 Irishmen will respond to this generous act by enlisting in the Army."

Where England has given 3,000,000 of men, we are told, and Scotland, according to the Member of Parliament for Edinburgh, has sent "at least 460,000 men" (vide Mr. Hogg's speech in the House of Commons on 17th January), Ireland has sent under 100,000 and nearly half of these (some 41,000) are claimed as Ulster Protestants, passionate haters of Ireland and proudly calling themselves England's "loyal garrison."

Of the residue of some 50,000 Irish catholics who have been bribed, cajoled, starved or bullied into the war in sixteen months of ceaseless effort, it may safely be said not more than 20,000 had any real desire to help England and the rest had only the cause of their stomachs to serve.

Assuming that the return presented to Parliament on January 11th, was accurate, it shows that the effort to get Irishmen to fight England's battle has been a dismal failure. It was out of all proportion to those available, and bore no relation to the response made in England or Scotland, or even in the far distant and quite unaffected Dominions of Australia, Canada, &c. Canada, for instance, we are told to-day by her Prime Minister, is raising 500,000 men "without compulsion."

If compulsion were anywhere needed within the British Empire, it was clearly in Ireland.

If we turn to the Census of 1911 it will be found that however unfavorable the situation was revealed to be by the figures given in parliament it becomes infinitely worse if the Census returns are to be accepted as more reliable.

According to the Census there were about 760,000 males between the ages of 18 and 41 in Ireland in 1911. The actual figures on the report were (Table 63, page 99) 735,707 males between the ages of 18 and 40. If we add the approximate number between 40 and 41, namely 25,497, we get a total of 761,204 as the number of males in Ireland of military age from 18 to 41.

As only some 100,000 at the outside have been induced to enlist it is clear that Ireland has a reserve of well over 600,000 men who should be compelled by law "to fight for their King and Country."

Every effort to induce them to do so by voluntary means has failed.

Lord Derby in two months, we are told, enlisted in the neighboring island of Great Britain 2,184,000 men. While the Derby scheme was being applied in Great Britain, the Viceroy of Ireland at the head of a Committee including Mr. Redmond "the national leader of the Irish race at home and abroad," undertook to recruit in Ireland. Against Lord Derby's 2,184,000 Britons, Lord Wimborne and Mr. Redmond secured in the same time 10,000 Irishmen.

The population of Great Britain is nine times that of Ireland.

Had Great Britain responded as Ireland did, Lord Derby would have got only 90,000 men. Had Ireland obeyed the call as England and Scotland did, Lord Wimborne would have got 242,000 Irishmen.

Here if anywhere where the flag of British freedom and equality floats should compulsion be applied. And how does the British Government deal with this one black spot in the otherwise bright prospect of an all consenting British Empire?

In the House of Commons on the 17th January Mr. Bonar Law, the minister for the Colonies, in opposing an amendment to apply the Bill to Ireland, declared as follows:

"I noticed that my hon. friend who moved the amendment went further and said that in his belief the idea that there will be any serious opposition in Ireland is unfounded. If the Government shared that view we should not have been justified in excluding Ireland. But I do not share that view. I believe as strongly as I believe anything that, looking at Ireland as it is, and there is no use in any of us hiding our eyes of what we all know, I do not believe that it would be possible to put this Bill into operation in Ireland without the exercise of force and of a considerable amount of force."

On this ground and on this ground alone the House of Commons rejected the Amendment and Irishmen are excluded from a vital obligation enforced on all other subjects of the Realm, because the British Government has to confess that it would be too dangerous to apply the law to Ireland since it would involve "the exercise of force and of a considerable amount of force."

That is, in fact, a declaration of Irish independence wrung from her foreign rulers.

The fact that, faced with a movement of resistance of this magnitude, aimed at the very heart of the State in a struggle of unprecedented gravity, the British Government has refused to compel the recalcitrant population to fulfil the obligation it enforces on all other parts of the Kingdom is the clearest proof that there yet survives in Ireland a spirit of national self-reliance that even England at war with Germany dare not assail.

That spirit of Irish nationality we see exists more strongly where the Catholic Church claims the spiritual allegiance of the people. The Protestant parts of Ulster with a total Protestant population of some 800,000 have sent fully 40,000 men to the field. Catholic Leinster, Connaught and Munster, with a total population, urban and rural of some 3,000,000 have sent only 45,000, and of these fully 10,000 are also Protestants.

So far as Catholic, as national Ireland is concerned, the war does not exist. It does not exist as a moral, religious or national obligation, and, again to appeal to the Bishop of Limerick's Letter, Ireland says to England:—

"—This is your war, not mine; fight your battle with your own sons."

This attitude of Catholic Ireland towards the calamity of Christendom we have come to regard as a part of our daily lives to rise with the sun to surely rise again to-morrow—the world war—is one of the few hopeful signs that make us not altogether despair of the morrow.

This war that desolates the whole earth springs not from the soil of peasant minds but was hurled from the battlements over

the ruined and the ruled by a handful of men, of no fear of God before their eyes, whom the irony of the political systems of our time designates "the representatives of democracy."

If love and not hate is ever again to rule men's minds its coming must be looked for from the people—from the ruled and not from the rulers—from the Manger rather than from the Palace; from the Crib and not from the Castle."

And it is just here that the attitude of the Irish peasantry gives hope to the warring world.

It is just here that in very truth Ireland is the one bright spot in all the vast black picture the British Empire today presents to the world of misspent energy and misdirected pride.

NEW LAWS IN INDIA ARBITRARY ARRESTS

The exact situation in India is not known to the outside world even in England because the British Government does not want to let the world know the nature of the keen unrest raging there to overthrow the British Rule.

Several thousand Indian patriots including Rabindranath Tagore, "the Nobel Prize Man", have been interned and about one thousand patriots have been hanged and deported during the year 1915.

Martial Law is in force all over India. The situation has become so serious that the Government of India, according to the *Pioneer Mail* of Allahabad, December 25, has adopted more stringent measures against the Indian patriots. The new measure has been adopted to legalise the wholesale arrest of Indian patriots.

The following telegram is significant: "Delhi, December 17th, 1915. It is decided that after rule 12 of the 'Defence of India Rules under the Defence of India Act' the following rule shall be inserted:

12a (1) Any officer of Government authorized in this behalf by a general or special order of the Local Government may arrest without warrant any person against whom a reasonable suspicion exists that he acted, is acting, or is about to act with the intent to assist the King's enemies in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the defence of British India.

(2) Any officer exercising the power conferred by this rule may use any and every means necessary to enforce the same."

British rule in India, "red in tooth and claw," leaves no doubt as to what is meant by the final phrase.

BRITISH SHIPPING LOSSES IN 1915.

According to the annual report of the Liverpool Underwriters' Association, maritime losses, £10,000 and upwards during 1915 amounted to £29,744,053, representing 628 vessels as against £13,688,954, representing 272 vessels in 1914 and £6,736,000, representing 176 vessels in 1913. Out of a tonnage of 1,825,365 totally lost last year, 996,972 tons represented British tonnage. The number of vessels of 500 tons gross register and upwards totally lost was 726, of which 317 were British. During the year 231 British vessels and 212 Foreign vessels were sunk by enemy cruisers, submarines or mines.

The Times, January 20, 1916.

The Continental Times is the only newspaper published in all Europe which tells the truth in English.

GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES

War and the Conscience of Nations.

A Talk with Dr. Stresemann, a Member of the German Parliament.

A representative of the Hearst press of the United States has had an interview with Dr. Stresemann, a member of the German parliament, on questions concerning the relations between Germany and that country. We believe these statements to be of interest and value to our readers, and take pleasure in reproducing the statements made by Dr. Stresemann who enjoys a lofty reputation in our own country as a writer upon many themes of a political or economic interest.

"In the autumn of 1913, I was travelling from Bremen to New York on the steamer Kaiser Wilhelm II. of the North German Lloyd. I sat at the captain's table together with a prominent American, whose family is very well-known in connection with the political history and the presidential campaigns of the United States. This gentleman one day turned the conversation to the subject of a future war between England and Germany, which he considered as likely to take place. 'In such a conflict,' he said to me at that time, the sympathies of America would be on your side. America and Germany have much in common. We are both young and strenuous nations and have freed ourselves from old traditions, and developed mightily in industry and trade; we are modern giants wrestling with each other in a good-natured struggle for the

palm of victory. In such a contest, both of us have already got the better of England. American competition is not felt so much by England because we have such a huge home consumption that our spirit of enterprise can find vent here, whilst you must make accessible for yourselves the markets of the world in order to be able to dispose of your marvellously increasing productivity. England, who is being left behind in this competitive struggle, will never forgive you for that, and sometime you will have to go to war to maintain your international position as a first-class power. All Americans, however, at least all who know Germany and who, as I, have learned to know and value German science and German learning, will accompany you with their sympathies in such a struggle'.

Bitter Disillusion.
"Since the outbreak of the war, I have often had occasion to think of these words. The opinion then expressed has, alas, not been verified. We recognize with joy and pride that the ties which connect the German-born Americans with their old home still hold, that the feeling of relationship still makes itself effective in their active sympathies with us in our struggle for existence. We hear that the Irish, who know by sore experience the English policy of

oppression, do not wish for the victory of Great Britain. Single voices also reach us from the other side from such Americans as understand our position, and are at least opposed to a too strong Anglo-American propaganda. But beyond this, the voices that come to us from America reveal a complete misunderstanding of Germany, of German institutions and of our cause in general. We cannot alter this. Only at some later time shall we perhaps recognize that in this period of universal war we have each of us spoken to no purpose. This was perhaps inevitable because the premises from which we argue various points are so different. We see in this the effect of that anti-German propaganda which was carried on for decades in the attempt to influence your public opinion, a propaganda the effects of which I myself clearly recognized during my four months' stay in your country. Our German conceptions of freedom are incomprehensible to your people. You cling to your idea of German bureaucracy, which perhaps often quibbles about a penny, but represents, on the whole, a model of exact and just national administration; you do not know of our freedom of the press nor of our scientific nor literary freedom. The great democratic conception of universal military service, by which the individual must unselfishly risk all, even to his life, as soon as it is demanded by the community, has been rendered distasteful to Americans by that grotesque and impossible caricature called "Prussian militarism."

A Democratic Army.
"That it is precisely the South Germans, the democratic Germans in Bavaria, who have been among the most dashing heroes of the German army, that we have never

been so united from the Meuse to the Memel in forgetting all differences of origin, so at one in the consciousness of fighting for the freedom and independence of our country—these are facts that you are unwilling to believe because all your views of the German people are as distorted as the images seen in the twisted mirrors of a dime museum. It should give you something to think about, however, that that very England whom you look upon as such a lover of liberty, sees herself obliged to copy or attempt to copy German militarism for her own preservation!

"However, let us not speak longer on this point; for it is possible that we are each speaking a language the other does not understand. When the war is over it is to be hoped that our diplomats will recognize that they have taken too little account of what Bismarck called the imponderable factors which go to make up the soul of a people and which cannot be neglected. The public opinion of a great people which can only form a very limited conception of Germany from its own distant reflections, must have presented to it the image of the real, the living Germany, and not as the Anglo-American press represents her—with its grotesque exaggeration of our faults—of which all nations have a sufficiency—and, on the other hand, its intentional suppression of the undeniable merits of our national and popular institutions, and the qualities of our people.

The Advance of German Commerce.
"During my stay in America, I took a trip to Canada, on the occasion of the International Congress of Chambers of Commerce. There I had the opportunity of speaking with many Canadians upon the

question, then agitated, of an Anglo-German war. It was shortly before the 25th Anniversary of our Emperor's reign, and in this quarter of a century the economic development of Germany had indeed been wonderful. The yield per acre of our agricultural products is greater than that of your American farms and of the celebrated Canadian soil. German international commerce stood in the second place, following the English and preceding the American. Our mercantile marine embraced the largest ships in the world. Hamburg and Bremen were among the first ports on the globe. American merchants preferred to travel on German vessels when they crossed the ocean. Millions of our national wealth were employed in foreign lands. The deposits of the poorer classes in the German savings banks had reached the enormous figure of 20 milliards. Our national wealth had become greater than that of France and even of England. We were undergoing with gigantic strides an economical development that would open to us unsuspected possibilities in the future. In the year 1913, we were obliged to import a million foreign workmen merely to satisfy the needs of our industry and agriculture.

(To be continued.)

A SUPERFLUOUS QUESTION.

"In that new servant girl," said Mr. Testy, as he discovered the sugar in the salt shaker "it seems to me you have found the possessor of stupidity in its unadulterated double-distilled form. May I ask where you obtained her?"
"Why," replied Mrs. Testy, "at the intelligence office, of course." Judge.

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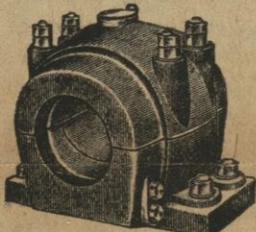
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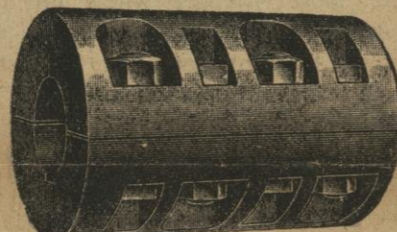
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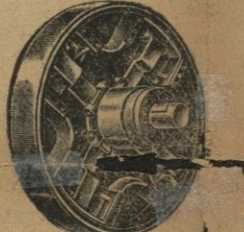
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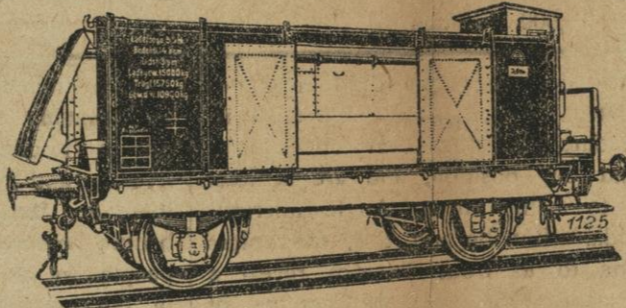
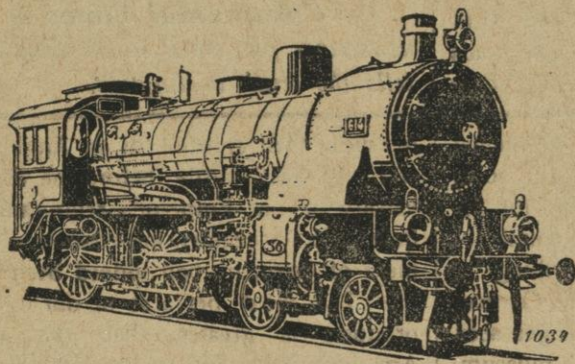


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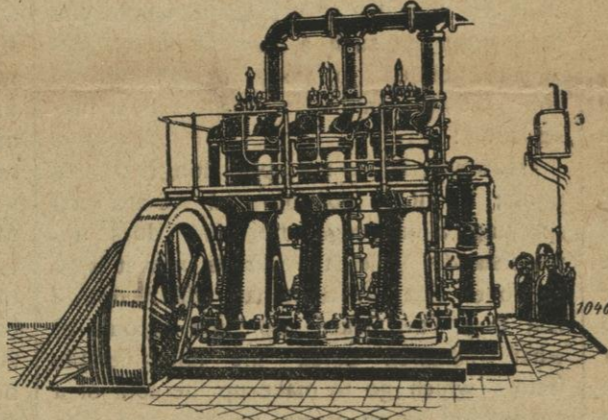
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