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Every
Monday
Wednesday
Friday

The Continental Times

Special War Edition

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1914. ROTTERDAM LUCERNE BERLIN GENEVA VIENNA ROME

No. 1062. Vol. XX. No. 70.

War News.

W.T.B. The French attacked the German lines in several places, but without success. Fighting continues in the Vosges. The Germans made 300 French prisoners at Steinbach. The German offensive in Poland is affected by bad weather.

W.T.B. Russian reports of December 11th said: "We continued our offensive South-East of Cracow, captured several German guns and machine-guns and made about 2000 prisoners." This statement is untrue. Not a single man and not a single gun or machine-gun of the German troops, fighting South-East of Cracow, has fallen into Russian hands. French reports, claiming the destruction of two German batteries near Vigneulles-Les-Hattonchâtel, of a bloc-house and several German trenches, are also invented.

Vienna. The pursuit of the Russians in Western Galicia continues. Austrian troops occupied Dukla. The Austrian forces in the Carpathians made 9000 Russian prisoners and captured 10 machine-guns. The offensive in Serbia was stopped before a superior hostile force at Valjevo. The right Austrian wing was taken back and Belgrade has been evacuated.

Vienna (Latest). The Russian retreat in Western Galicia has also weakened the enemy's front in Southern Poland. The number of Russian prisoners made by the Austrians in the last battle and during the pursuit following the battle, amounts to 31 000 men.

Bordeaux. The War Office has called up all recruits of the year 1915 to serve with the colours. All recruits of the two preceding years who were not definitely accepted yet for some reason or other, have also to report themselves. The total number of recruits for the army will be about 220 000. As there are no horses available, new cyclists units will be formed to do cavalry-service. Cavalry officers have been transferred to the infantry, to make up for the loss of officers of this arm. The Minister of War intends to make all able men between 18 and 52 liable for service.

Freiburg. French airmen threw bombs on Freiburg for the third time. Several women have been wounded.

London. Captain-Lieutenant Patterson has been taken prisoner, when trying to get near the cruiser *Königsberg* which lies bottled up near the estuary of the Rufiji River (German East Africa).

Meeting of Scandinavian Kings at Malmö.

Stockholm. Following an invitation by the King of Sweden, the Kings of Norway and Denmark will meet the former on Dec. 18th at Malmö. The three monarchs will be accompanied by their Foreign Ministers. The conference has for its object to establish the unanimity of the three states in their endeavour to keep absolute neutrality and to discuss ways and means of overcoming the economic difficulties to which the three countries were subjected in consequence of the war.

The Serbian Failure in Bosnia

Bucarest. When Serbian troops invaded Bosnia some time ago, every man was provided with two rifles of which he was ordered to give one to any native of Bosnia wishing to join the Serbians. The fact that no Bosnian could be made to accept a rifle, shows that the calculation of the Pan-Serbian was materially wrong. The immediate object of their invasion absolutely failed.

Aged Emperor's Health.

Vienna. Reports from Schoenbrunn state that the Austrian Emperor who is 84 years old is enjoying excellent health and working every day from five o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night, when he goes to bed.

He rises regularly every morning at halfpast three, and unless he has guests does not go into the dining-room at all, but takes his meals in his study.

There are very seldom any audiences except such as are granted to military functionaries. Even the Ministers come very infrequently.

Only the Minister of War, who brings full details of the latest developments at the front, and maps showing the changes in the position of the forces, is a fairly regular visitor.

How English Battle Reports are Manufactured.

The Amsterdam *Hanelsblad* had taken from the London *Daily Telegraph* a few days ago a report on the charge, made by African Chasseurs against the German lines. It has now been discovered that this report was an almost literal translation of a report about the charge of the same regiment at Gravelotte in 1870, contained in *Recit de guerre* by Ludovic Halévy.

Ireland in the War.

When England declared war on Germany on 4th August, Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, declared that "Ireland was the one bright spot" in the otherwise gloomy picture.

By this announcement, cabled all over the world, the British Government sought to impress foreign opinion by representing Ireland as absolutely loyal to English rule, and burning with a desire to fight for England in the wanton attack on Germany engineered by British commercial jealousy.

But what has been the action of the British Government in Ireland itself since this public profession of faith in Irish loyalty to England was made?

1. Failing to entrap the young men of Ireland into the British army to do the dirty work of England against a people who have never wronged Ireland, the British authorities took steps to force Irishmen into the army by reviving the disused Militia Ballot Act which can be applied only to Ireland and not to Great Britain.

Thousands of young men from the West of Ireland, rather than be compelled against their sense of patriotism and against their conscience to fight for England in a war solely of English manufacture, sold their holdings and emigrated to America. The *"Mayo News"* of 24th October, in denouncing the action of the Government and deploring the drain of Ireland's manhood wrote thus:

"Just for the moment the cause of Ireland has been pushed back, but it is not dead. On the contrary we believe the future is full of hope. Irish hypocrites and traitors who have now thrown off the mantle of Ireland to enwrap themselves in the scarlet of the empire, will in the end be a happy riddance. The cause of Irish nationality will be much better without them."

In consequence of Mr. Redmond's action in becoming a recruiting sergeant for the British army, he and his 25 nominees were expelled from the Provisional Committee of the Irish National Volunteers and the Government of the Volunteers restored to the sole control of their original founders, Professor Evin MacNeill, Sir Roger Casement, McO'Rahilly and the men who organized the movement for an armed and independent Ireland.

In America, Mr. Redmond has been denounced as a traitor to his country, the United Irish League of America dissolved, and the official organ of the Parliamentary Party, *The Irish World*, has repudiated Mr. Redmond and publicly affirmed its faith in the Irish-German Alliance designed to secure the complete freedom of Ireland.

Mr. Redmond has had to abandon his announced visit to America, and is now employed in Ireland as the Chief recruiting agent for the British army, endeavouring to get the remnant of the Irish race that famine, eviction, and emigration have spared, to lay down their lives in the trenches of France and Flanders, in order that England may destroy German commercial and industrial rivalry.

Meantime the British Government, aware that its "treaty" with Mr. Redmond is a fraud and that the spirit of Irish nationality has not been killed by the promise to sell Ireland "after the war", a small debating society on the banks of the Liffey to discuss the parish affairs of a limited part of Ireland, while Ulster shall be, irrevocably cut away from Ireland altogether, has not been idle.

British confidence in Irish "loyalty" is so deep that the British Government now deals with this "one bright spot" as if it were inhabited not by white men, but by negro slaves. Martial law rules Ireland—not an Irish Parliament. The coast of Ireland has been ringed round with mines. Every port is closed. No export or import trade of any kind exists save what England permits in her own interest and for her own purposes.

No foreigner is allowed to land in Ireland—and even Irish men from America are held up and refused admittance to their birth place unless they have a certificate of "good character" from an English official. Every Irish newspaper that presumes to tell its readers truth is rigorously suppressed—its machinery seized, its issues confiscated, its editors threatened with court martial.

No arms or ammunition of any kind are allowed to be imported into, or sold in all Ireland. While Irishmen are to be forced to bear arms for England in a foreign war, they are to be sent to jail or tried by court martial if they try to bear arms in Ireland for their own country. Factories and workshops are being shut down so that with no work

to do and starvation staring them in the face, these poor men shall be compelled to enlist.

Every letter going into or coming out of Ireland is opened by the Post Office so that the Government may know just what Irishmen think in their hearts and so learn who is "dangerous" and who must be watched and arrested for daring to love his country.

While England poses as fighting for "freedom" and the "small nationalities" she has locked Ireland up in jail and tells Irishmen that they shall get out only on one condition—viz. that they shoulder an English rifle and go to get shot by or to shoot young Germans who have never injured Ireland by thought, word or deed.

So much for the "one bright spot".

But this is not all. With an unholy inquisition established in Ireland, England, Protestant England, now turns to the Holy See, to Catholic Rome to aid her in her assault on Irish liberties. The plot against Ireland to day is a deeper and a darker one than even in the days of Parnell.

Him, whom they could not overthrow in open fight they also sought to assail in secret and by appeals to Rome. The Coercion Ministry of 1880 appointed secretly Sir George Errington as temporary envoy to the Vatican. The object was to induce the Holy Father to denounce the Irish leader and the Irish land agitation as "contrary to faith and morals."

In this base attempt the English Government of thirty years ago failed. The Pope did not intervene as they hoped against the Irish people or their fearless champion.

So Parnell had to be got rid of by other means; and when the forged letters of Pigott and the *Times* failed to secure his downfall, the Government had then to resort to fraud and failed next employed the Divorce Court—and won. Parnell was "thrown to the English wolves"—because he loved Ireland—not because he loved a woman. His sin with the woman was a personal sin, between himself and God—but his love for Ireland lay between him and the British Government, and so this brave and chivalrous Government, having failed with the Holy Father and with the *Times* conspiracy, won with the suborned and dastardly O'Shea—and struck down in his prime and sent to his grave the one great Irishman of the nineteenth century who made England tremble to her cowardly heart.

And now the same attempt is to be again repeated. Since Ireland remains at heart Ireland still, and will not be bullied or cajoled into the British army but remains true to her part and place her hopes in the young manhood of Ireland getting arms to fight for Ireland and in Ireland—the British Government, the chief enemy of the Papacy and the most anti-catholic Government in the world goes again on its knees to Rome. This time an envoy is openly accredited to the Vatican. They first tried to get the Holy See to accept a "temporary envoy" (like Sir George Errington to assassinate Parnell) during the period of the war; but on this offer being rejected, the British Government has swallowed the bitter pill and has announced the establishment of a permanent legation at the Vatican. The first envoy is the aged Sir Henry Howard—an antique specimen of British diplomacy well known in Vienna in by-gone ages, who has been taken out of the cupboard, dusted, carefully repaired and is now being despatched "with care" to Rome via Dublin and Armagh.

The object of the attempt is transparent. It is what is known in conjuring circles as the "Box Trick." You lock a man in a box. Everyone sees him go in; but when the box is opened the man is nowhere to be found. England in her difficulties with "the one bright spot" sends Sir Henry Howard, in a special case, to Rome; but when the war is over, the difficulties gone, and the one bright spot quite dark, the non-conformist conscience will insist on the box being opened. England, with Germany done for and Ireland settled once for all, will quickly settle the question of a permanent representative at Rome. When the box is opened "after the war" (like Home Rule!) there will be found no British envoy inside but only a little bundle of "property" clothes and a parcel of make-up paint.

The box trick will fail this time as it did in Parnell's time.

Sir H. Howard's mission to Rome will not last—but Irish nationality will live

for ever. There is nothing England would stick at in her effort to destroy Irish nationality and German rivalry. For the moment the gravest concern of England is to kill these two birds with one stone—to settle the "Irish Question," once for all, by killing off the youth of Ireland in a successful assault on Germany. The throats of two enemies are to be cut with one stroke of the same knife.

The "German menace" will be destroyed and chiefly by the strong hand of the "Irish danger."

German competition will be ended. German trade, shipping, colonies and navy will have become English property while the arm that strikes the blow will be that of the dreaded Irishman.

The German enemy will have been got down chiefly through the blood and valour of Irishmen, who when they have died by the thousand in the shambles of France and Flanders will have left their own country bled white and powerless at the mercy of England.

A corpse on the dissecting table will be handed over to Mr. Redmond to pronounce the funeral oration, before British statesmen finally cut it up in any fashion they choose, before burying the carcass for ever.

Such is the amiable intention. British diplomacy nourishes in the latest efforts to "ameliorate the unhappy condition of Ireland," by the establishment of diplomatic intercourse with the Vatican.

But just as the trick failed in the case of Sir George Errington and Parnell, so it will fail in the case of Sir Henry Howard and the Ireland of today. Rome has many Persicos—and the truth about Ireland will overcome the latest effort of British diplomacy.

The United States and the War.

There are three main questions arising out of the present war which especially concern the United States, and President Wilson in his message to Congress recently touched with his accustomed felicity and distinction on each one of them. The first is the problem of how to seize the commercial opportunities presented to the American people by the absorption of their European rivals in a struggle not for trade but for life and liberty. It is entirely proper and by no means against either the immediate or the ultimate interests of the warring nations that the United States should take this problem into consideration. For them it is essentially a question of transportation. They have the resources but not the means of distributing them. A system of Protection, carried to insensate extremes, has practically driven their mercantile marine off the high seas. What the President proposes is that the Government should itself open up new trade routes, especially with the countries in Central and South America, by means of Government owned and operated ships.

The second question which the war has forced Americans to ponder is the state of their national defences. They have been set a wondering how they would emerge from such an ordeal as Belgium has been called upon to endure. The President, rather, we suspect, to the dismay of American military experts, considers that there is no need for anxiety, that the United States is ready to defend itself to the utmost, and that no further military preparation is needed than the development and strengthening of the National Guard, who, roughly, correspond to the German Landwehr. He explicitly condemns the creation of a large reserve as feeder to the Regular forces, and places all his reliance in citizen volunteers. We question, however, whether the General Staff at Washington will share his views.

The third problem that engages American opinion is the problem of how best to use American influence to hasten peace. Mr. Wilson looks forward to an opportunity of mediation "such as has seldom been vouchsafed to any nation." Very much will depend on the choice of the proper moment and the proper instrument.

Archduke Frederick Made Field-Marshal.

Archduke Frederick, the Austro-Hungarian Commander-in-Chief has been created a Field-Marshal. This is the first appointment to this rank after more than two scores of years. Archduke Albrecht, the victor of Custozza, was the only Austrian general holding the rank of Field-Marshal, as the Emperor intended to grant it only in times of war. Forty-eight years of peace did not afford an opportunity of altering this decision. The bestowal of the dignity upon Archduke Frederick meets with general approval in the Austro-Hungarian Army.

American Defence.**The Naval Question.**

Washington. Mr. Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, speaking before the House Naval Committee expressed the opinion that if the United States was able to maintain peaceful relations with Europe before the present European war it would be still easier to do after it, when the belligerents would be exhausted and their resources greatly reduced. He admitted, as did Rear-Admiral Fletcher before him, the impracticability of trying to compete in naval equipment with the leading maritime nation.

"If," one of the members of the Committee asked, "war jumped on us in a month would you feel that our defence would be successful?"

Mr. Daniels replied that as far as transports and similar ships were concerned they could command them at any time, and that with a steady annual increase of the navy the country would be in a very good position.

This last statement of Mr. Daniels may have been intended to meet a sensational charge made by Mr. Gardner in a speech earlier in the day, in which he declared that if war broke out immediately the coast defences of the United States would not have enough ammunition for one hour's fighting.

No American Submarines for England.

Washington. The Secretary of State has published this declaration:

When the Foreign Office was informed that the Fore River Company intended to build a number of submarines for one of the allies, enquiries were made to elicit the facts. Mr. Schwab then called at the Foreign Office, declaring that he had secured the opinion of several authorities on International Law and of other legal authorities before accepting the order and that he was going to keep within the limits which American Neutrality demands. I told him that the President would consider the execution of the order a breach of neutrality, but I added, I would submit his explanations to the President and would give him a definite answer by Friday. I had a conference with the President, who asked me to inform Mr. Schwab, that the latter's explanations only tended to strengthen his previous opinion and that the submarines must not be built. A few minutes after my return from White House Mr. Schwab telephoned, saying that he would submit to the President's opinion in this matter and that I might declare that his firm would not build any submarines for any of the belligerents for delivery during the war.

(Signed) Bryan, Secretary of State.

The American Relief Committee in Belgium.

Rotterdam. The United States have hitherto sent about 30 000 Tons of food stuffs to Belgium. There is no doubt that thousands of Belgians would have died of starvation if these provisions had not arrived in time. The present demand is about 20 000 Tons weekly. The Report of the American Relief Committee states that the German authorities in Belgium are doing their best to help them. The Governor-General had half of the stocks of articles of food in possession of the military authorities handed over to the Committee, when he heard of the conditions prevailing amongst the population. This should be acknowledged all the more as he was not obliged to do so. The Germans have not levied any duty on the American imports of food and have not even charged railway-freight. The Germans are acting in a way deserving of every praise.

American Finance.**Anglo-French Credits.**

By our Financial Correspondent.

New York. It is generally understood in American financial circles that the "Gold Fund Committee," has completed arrangements with the banks of England and France to furnish them with immediate credit at any time, should it be deemed necessary. This has been done mainly with the idea of putting the committee in the way of an immediate supply of foreign exchange in case of any urgent necessity, such as excessive liquidation in the stock market.

All the important nations, with the exception of Great Britain and Germany have recently sounded American financial interests regarding the possibility of obtaining loans in this country, but the proposals have only in a few cases taken tangible shape, and there is little prospect of actual completion of the arrangements in the immediate future.

Austria-Hungary and the War.

By MAX NORDAU.

Austria-Hungary has fulfilled in the past an extremely important mission which gives her a claim upon the eternal gratitude of Europe. She once was the bulwark of Christianity. But this is not her only title to glory. Austria was also the tutor of the nationalities united under her rule. She brought western civilization to them and raised them to the standard of European culture. Austria-Hungary is not aggressive. She has yielded to the historical necessity, which has put an end to her position in Germany and Italy; she only wanted to live in peace. She has no leanings towards expansion and no lust for conquest. The annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was dictated by defensive necessities, for she could never assent to these provinces becoming subject to direct or indirect Russian influence. Russia is striving for the destruction of Austria-Hungary. She intends to prepare for her the same fate as befell Poland. Russia, in times of peace, tried to draw the Austrian-Ruthenians over to her own side, she ogled coquettishly with Czechs and Slovenes and incited the Servians against the Dual-Monarchy. The desire for national unity amongst the Austrian Servians is easy to understand. But every attempt to attain this ideal by force had to be met by Austria in the same way, if she did not want to commit suicide. Is there any great Power possessing the strength, the will and consequently the right, to live, that would have left unpunished an attack on its integrity? Serbia was certainly not aiming at Austria-Hungary's destruction. Serbia was only a tool in the hands of Russia. It was Russia, who set Serbia against her great and well-meaning neighbour. Russia always wanted to be in possession of the Balkans. She favoured the creation of autonomous States so as to prevent Austria from gaining a foothold there. Russia always tried to obtain some sort of Protectorate, open or secret, over these States in order to use them as a battering-ram against Austria-Hungary. The new dynasty in Serbia was most anxious to offer its services for this purpose. It undertook to carry out Russia's orders and these orders were to pierce to Austria's most vital parts. The Dual-Monarchy, always peacefully inclined, tried to come to an agreement with Russia. All differences were openly discussed with the enemy at Muerzsteg. Russia promised everything, but made up her mind to give nothing. Austria-Hungary met her obligations loyally. She knew that Russia was the instigator of the first Balkan-Alliance. But as Russia did not directly exploit the Balkan war for her own good Austria shut her eyes, refraining from intervention and thus avoiding a European conflagration. But Serbia, at the bidding of Russia, would not rest quiet and the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, prepared, as has been ascertained it was, by Servian conspirators, brought things to a climax. The most vital interests, the existence and honour of the Monarchy were at stake and made it her duty to defend herself. She had to punish Serbia, but she had no desire to destroy Serbia and meant to respect the territorial integrity of that country. Nothing was easier, than to localise the conflict. Russia, however, did not want to do so. She mobilized against Austria-Hungary, thereby bringing about the European catastrophe. What right had Russia to interfere in a matter which was no concern of hers? She invented the pretence of being the Protector of Serbia, as of all other Slavs. This Russian impertinence is a bold distortion of historical and political facts. Russia played the part of Protector of Serbia only for the purpose of delivering a blow against Austria-Hungary. If this world war was caused by Austria's action against Russia, the responsibility lies with Russia only, which by her mobilisation prepared an attack against the Monarchy. I have to blame the Austro-Hungarian Government, however, for one thing: it acted like the bull in a bull-fight, turning against the horse instead of attacking the rider. Serbia is the horse, Russia the rider. The Vienna Cabinet ought to have said to Petersburg: "For half a Century you have systematically prepared for our destruction. You have created enemies to us both at home and abroad. You have laid your hands on Finland, the Baltic Provinces, Poland, the Crimea, the Caucasus, Armenia, Bessarabia and part of Manchuria. We have let you do so without a word of protest. We have not expanded like you all this time; while other powers own Africa and Asia between themselves, we have not asked for anything. We are surrounded on three sides by countries, which have a prospering industry, with which we cannot easily compete. We are surrounded, on the other hand, by states which are as hostile towards us as you are. The Balkan states are our natural and legitimate markets and you want to shut us out from these countries. It is the only door of our house, which you want to close. Under the alias of Serbia you want to obtain access to the Adriatic in order to blockade the only ocean route open to us. You want us to die. Well, we shall defend our

life against you. If we are to die, we shall die fighting. The Balkan States must remain independent. This is a question of life or death to us, while to you it is only a whim, vanity and the monomania of an unsound ambition. We will fight for our existence and you will be responsible for this war which is only of your making, before the world and before History.

England Scorned by Knut Hamsun.

Famous Norwegian Author Defends Germany As Being Forced To Go To War.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Knut Hamsun, the famous Norwegian novelist, since the death of Ibsen and Björnson the greatest living Scandinavian Author. The letter was addressed to his American translator, C. C. Hyllested of Cohasset, and although not intended for publication we have obtained permission to publish it as giving an interesting and new view of the European conflict. "It is my opinion that America is wrong in its attitude of hostility towards Germany—an attitude which, according to such reports as reach us here in the far North, is growing more unreasonably bitter as the war progresses. You must remember that English diplomacy had entirely isolated Germany, who did not have a friend in Europe; and America should know, in common with the rest of the world, what English diplomacy means. It has fertilized the field of history with torn treaties until bayonets have sprung up like blades of grass. In view of Albion's proverbially perfidious past, does not England's loud-voiced indignation over the violation of Belgium's neutrality strike the average American as somewhat hypocritical? Does anybody in the United States seriously believe that England would have lifted a finger if France had crossed the Belgian Border without permission? This virtuously unselfish championing of a weak and oppressed nation is a pose which only English arrogance would have dared to assume, for only the British brand of ponderous piety could be tough-fibred enough to ignore the ghostly whispers from India and Egypt, the accusing echoes from Copenhagen's roadstead. Viewed from this distance, England appears in her familiar role as the only official representative of truth and righteousness on our globe. Her present statesmen are true disciples of Gladstone—that fireless, uncompromising warrior for God and humanity. It never would have entered his mind to make the slightest concession to error or heresy; he was merciless when right was on his side—he flaunted it, he harped on it, waved it aloft to the confusion and shame of his adversaries. But this did not prevent him from being in secret communication with traitor Carey, or from ordering the bombardment of defenceless Alexandria. And English statecraft is the same to-day. The present day English statesman is the same trumpeting herald of truth; his brain is congealed with platitudes, but his conscience is somewhat sluggish and coarsegrained. That two and two make four is to him the greatest truth in the world—to God and glory! And this championship of the indisputable he maintains with such an arrogant air that one is forced to rebel simply in order to save one's own consciousness of right and wrong from being levelled to banality. The truth is that Germany had been manoeuvred into a position where her very existence demanded war; and what does one not do, when one's existence is threatened? Surely no one can believe that Germany deliberately chose to face the world in arms. She was cornered; she had to fight or cravenly abdicate the position she had gained through forty years of peaceful industry. Well may Denmark remember 1807—well may Norway and Sweden tremble at the very thought of a possible Russian triumph. No Enthusiasm. (From "Daily Mail.") The foreigner at Victoria Station in these days when the boat-trains are leaving, filled mainly with officers and men of the glorious Army on their way back to the front, must think us a queer people. Both the 8.30 boat-train yesterday morning and the one o'clock train in the afternoon went away filled with khaki. And practically all the departing soldiers—officers, non-commissioned officers and men—belong to the band of heroes who have been out there in the thick of the fighting from the very beginning of the war. Yet, although yesterday considerable crowds gathered at Victoria to watch the trains move away, the heroes went off without a cheer. They just drove down to the station in taxicabs or strolled in on foot, accompanied by their relatives and friends, passed through the closely guarded barrier to the platform like ordinary passengers, and went away without a sign or a word of encouragement or gratitude from the crowd looking on.

Bernard Shaw on Belgium.

In "The Nation," Mr. Bernard Shaw publishes an "Open Letter" to the President of the United States of America appealing to him to invite the Neutral Powers to request Britain, France, and Germany, to withdraw from the soil of Belgium "and fight out their quarrel on their own territories." The war, he reminds us, is being waged formally between The German Kaiser, The German Tsar, The German King of the Belgians, The German King of England, The German Emperor of Austria and a gentleman who shares with you (President Wilson) the distinction of not being related to any of them, and is therefore describable monarchically as one Poincaré, a Frenchman." He does not ask for intervention, on behalf of the Allies, but purely on behalf of innocent Belgium. "No other question need be prejudged. If Germany maintains her claim to a right of way through Belgium on a matter which she believed (however erroneously) to be one of life and death to her as a nation, nobody, not even China, now pretends that such rights of way have not their place among those common human rights which are superior to the more artificial rights of nationality. I think, for example, that if Russia made a descent on your continent under circumstances which made it essential to the maintenance of your national freedom that you should move an army through Canada, you would ask our leave to do so, and take it by force if we did not grant it. You may reasonably suspect, even if all our statesmen raise a shriek of denial, that we should take a similar liberty under similar circumstances in the teeth of all the scraps of paper in our Foreign Office dustbin. "Whatever else the war and its horrors may have done or not done," Mr. Shaw continues, "you will agree with me that it has made an end of the dreams of military and naval steamrolling in which the whole wretched business began."

Kitchener Interview.

Mr. Irvin Cobb Affirms Its Authenticity. New York. Mr. Irvin Cobb insists that his account of his interview with Lord Kitchener is correct. "My published interview," he says, "gave accurately the sense, and for the most part the text, of what Lord Kitchener said. "I only reported, and cannot, of course, enter into a controversy with the head of the British War Office, but I've never written a 'fake' interview in my life. "I started my career as a reporter twenty-five years ago, and have never till now been accused of 'faking.' "The interview was arranged for me with the full understanding that I was to print it. "I took no notes during the interview, but I have a reasonably good memory, and I am certain that I made no errors in quoting what Lord Kitchener said. "Immediately after I had seen Lord Kitchener, friends of his who helped me to get the chance of seeing him, asked me to send them copies of what I had written. "On the evening of the day I obtained the interview, I detailed what Lord Kitchener had said to Mr. McCutcheon, of the 'Chicago Tribune,' and I have no doubt that his recollection of what I told him will coincide with what I wrote in the interview."

How Berlin Amuses Itself.

The great theatrical event of last week was the production of Hebbel's "Geno-veva" at the Deutsches Theater. One of the most beautiful legends known to the world; viz. the story of a pure woman whose virtue emerges victoriously from a lonely, unprotected forest life has been made by Hebbel the subject of a powerful, stirring drama. The statuesque title-part found a very dignified representative in Mary Dietrich. The play contains some rather sanguinary scenes which were rendered in perhaps a trifle too realistic a manner, otherwise the greatest credit was due to the performance. At the Kuenstler Theater an important change in the cast of "Luther" has to be recorded, Wlach taking the part of Dr. Johannes, making of it a success that may well compare with the one previously scored by Schildkraut. The intellectual play continues to draw large audiences nightly. Florizel von Reuter's benefit concert for the widowed mothers of those fallen on the battlefield was what it amply deserved to be: a great success. Every item of the classical selection was listened to in rapt silence, and the beautiful playing rewarded with ample applause. At the Lessing Theatre under the clever direction of Mr. Barnowsky, a revival of Ludwig Fulda's "Jugendfreunde" was received last night with the greatest enthusiasm. The cast was excellently chosen. If Berlin pays homage to the dramatic muse as fervently as ever the same observation applies to Vienna. A great artistic sensation has been caused by the Burgtheaters' production of Kleist's remarkable classic entitled "Die Hermannsschlacht."

President Wilson's Message.

Chance to Mediate. — United States to be no Armed Camp. — Great Shipping Project. Washington. President Wilson delivered his annual Presidential Message to Congress in which he dealt in eloquent yet restrained language with the difficulties which the war has created for the United States. The war, he said, had interrupted the means of trade and the processes of production in Europe, and the time was near when several countries of Europe would need the help and the manifold services of the United States as never before. "Speaking plainly," said President Wilson, "we have grossly erred in the way we have stunted and hindered the development of a merchant marine. Now when we need ships we have not got them. Therefore we propose another way of providing means of transportation. American routes of trade must be opened by many ships, with regular sailings and moderate charges, before the streams of merchandise will flow freely and profitably. Hence the pending Shipping Bill, which I earnestly hope both Houses will adopt." The President urged a larger measure of self-government for the Philippines, the surveying and charting of the Alaskan coastline, and lastly discussed the subject of national defence. "We have," he said, "always found means to defend ourselves against attack, and shall find means whenever it may be necessary. If asked, 'Are you ready to defend yourselves?' we reply 'Most assuredly, to the utmost.' Yet we shall not turn America into an armed camp. It will be the right American policy to provide a system by which every citizen volunteering may be made familiar with the use of modern arms and the rudiments of drill and manoeuvre. The National Guard should be developed and strengthened. More than this would merely mean that we had lost our self-possession and been thrown off our balance by a war with which we have nothing to do. A powerful Navy we have always regarded as our proper and natural means of defence, but who shall tell us now what sort of Navy to build? "The country has been misinformed. We have not been negligent of national defence. We shall profit by the lesson of every new experience, every new circumstance, and what is needed will be adequately done." President Wilson, referring directly to the war, said: "We are the champions of peace and concord, and should be very jealous of this distinction—just now particularly—because it is our dearest hope that this character and reputation will presently, in God's providence, bring us an opportunity such as has seldom been vouchsafed to any nation—an opportunity to counsel and obtain peace in the world and the reconciliation and healing settlement of many matters that have cooled and interrupted the friendship of nations."

America and Belligerents.

A Special Commission. From our Own Correspondent. Washington. At a Pan-American Union meeting a resolution was adopted naming a special commission of nine members to study the effect of the military operations of the European belligerents in the waters adjacent to the countries of the Union. The question of asking belligerents to keep their warships out of waters of American neutral countries came up, but was labelled "without definite action." The feeling of the Union was favourable to some action being taken to prevent belligerents from seeking havens in the harbours of countries which are members of the Union. The Commission appointed consists of Mr. Bryan, the Argentine, Brazilian, and Chilean Ambassadors, and the Ministers of Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, Honduras, and Cuba. The Commission is to begin to study the conditions at once. Mr. Bryan said they would study the position of neutral countries, and of all matters of common interest to all American countries. The United States Government received from Mr. Page to-day the British regulations under which the wool embargo will be lifted. Mr. Bryan has indicated that the regulations are not satisfactory. Mr. Bryan has received also a note stating how American shipping can avoid interference by British warships. Mr. Bryan indicated that this was not satisfactory. Count Bernstorff gave out a statement to-day charging the British with buying dum-dum bullets in the United States, and said that a protest had been filed with Mr. Bryan.

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Dancing lessons 10-12 Rhythmical Gymnastics. Sabine Norn, Joachimsthalstr. 9, 1. floor. Tel. Stpl. 1785.

Vegetarian Restaurants in Berlin. Arthur Kämmerer's Kronen Strasse 47 Vegetarian Restaurant First Floor.

Freya, Vegetarian Restaurant Charlottenburg, Bismarckstrasse 8, close to Knie

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