

**THIS WORLD WAR AND OUR PART IN IT.**

(Continued from page one)

only 302 survived and 462 of the passengers. One hundred and fourteen Americans perished, men, women and children.

This stupid and barbarous slaughter outraged the moral sense of the world. Whereupon Germany "assumed no responsibility," decorated the commander of the undersea craft, and no doubt in ghouliah glee cabled to Washington the sardonic message: "The German government desires to express its deepest sympathy at the loss of lives on board the Lusitania." In July the American steamer Leelanaw was sunk by a German submarine, and in August the Arabic carrying 180 passengers of whom 2 were Americans. Again, with fawning deceit, came Germany's tender of "sincerest sympathies to the American government." In December, 1915 off the coast of Crete the Persia was sunk, and Robert R. McNeely, of North Carolina, consul at Aden, and about 200 others were drowned. In the history of naval warfare such piracy had never been practiced by any nation pretending to be civilized.

Meanwhile Dr. Bernhard Dernberg, the special emissary of Berlin to instruct the American people in the superiority of German "kultur," undertook to change American opinion on the origin of the war, and to lessen the hatred inspired by the invasion of Belgium, and its horrors. This man wisely returned to the "fatherland." Then came thick and fast discoveries of German's dark and direful plots; passport frauds, followed by perjury and conviction; an active campaign for an embargo on arms and munitions; incendiary fires; explosions in industrial plants; bombs on vessels in port or at sea; and strikes among seamen and workers in munition plants. Bernstorff ambassador and spy, Papen military attache, Albert, German financial agent, tried to subsidize American publications, while the dull and America and the globe offered to the wage of their hostility to our country. Each of them merely "one of a feather." Did not von Tirpitz admit to Ambassador Gerard that Germany must hold Flanders as a base operation against Great Britain and America? Did not Bernstorff with "polished villainy" ask from his government \$50,000 with which to bribe an organization to influence the congress? Did not Count Luxburg, German Charge to Argentina, implore his government to sink the ships of the country to which he was accredited "without a trace being left?" And did not the kaiser confide to his kinsman Czar Nicholas as disclosed in the famous "Willy-Nicky," correspondence his purpose to do for Denmark years ago what he has done for Belgium? Slight wonder, then, that President Wilson, in answer to the Pope's peace letter, should say in substance, "There can be no treaty of peace with the Hohenzollerns, because the Hohenzollerns' oath is vanity, delusion, and hypocrisy."

Germany's ambition, then, is to be achieved by "diplomacy" and sheer force. Incidental to force is frightfulness—the frightfulness and barbarity of the Hun. The Hun, its exemplar, the German army, scorning oath and treaty invading peaceful Belgium. The invasion made by decree of the visionary kaiser, opened the way to all manner of brutality, ravishing, looting, maiming, burning, devastation, deportation, old men shot, women bound to a body of death, boys mutilated, girls subjected to unspeakable tortures. Compared with other atrocities, the shooting of Edith Cavill was merciful. With regard to these atrocities, let us pass the Bryce report—no doubt worthy of all acceptance—as of English origin, and have respect to the statement of a distinguished American minister of the gospel, Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis. He has recently made a tour of regions of France evacuated by the Germans. He says there can no longer be any doubt of the fact that the German armies have been guilty of the blackest crimes charged against them. He has brought from France photographs, affidavits, and copies of official records as the evidence of Ger-

man brutalities. "For three years," he says, "German-Americans have protested that the stories of German atrocities were to be disbelieved as English inventions, Belgium lies, and French hypocrisies, but that day has gone forever. When the representatives of the nations assemble for the final settlement, then will be laid before the representatives of Germany affidavits, photographs, and other legal proof that makes German atrocities far better established than the scalping of the Sioux Indians on the western frontiers, the murders of the Black Hole of Calcutta, or the crimes of the Spanish Inquisition. On a battle line 300 miles long, to every village thru which retreating Germans passed accredited men hurried to make the record against the day of judgement."

I cannot understand why any American should be indifferent in this war,—why there should be any anti-war sentiment. But there is indifference, and there is sentiment against the war. There are those who say, "This is the rich man's war and the poor man's fight." This is the stock phrase of the pacifist, the silent ally of Germany. It is fallacious—it is false. The average exemption among those who are financially independent is less than it is among those who are not so well-to-do. In actual service there is the rich man's boy beside the poor man's son. In this war hereditary caste is arrayed against popular rights, and the poor man would be utterly helpless in the Kaiser's grip.

In effect he further says: "The photographs of dead and mutilated girls children, and old men tell no lies." When the German army in Lorraine was defeated by one-half its number it fell southward, passing thru French towns and villages where there were no Frenchmen, no guns, and where no shots were fired. Going from one ruined town to another, he talked with the women and children, and compared photography and records with the statements of the wretched survivors who lived in cellars. In one village standing beside their graves, he studied lined up and shot because there were no young soldiers to kill: heard the story of a woman whose boy, fourteen years of age, was hanged to a tree in the garden, freed by his mother, and then saturated with petrol and set on fire by a German brute who shrieked with laughter as the burning boy staggered to his doom, while a German officer—a fiend in uniform—held at his back the maddened mother's arms; saw the picture of thirty aged men lying as they had fallen, shot to their death, and of chaste women stripped and slain; stood before the ruined belfry into which the Germans had lifted machine guns, warning the soldiers of France that an attack on the belfry endangered the safety of 275 French women and children who had been herded in the church below; saw the photograph of aged priests whose bodies had been staked to the ground listened to the story concerning young girls literally crucified and delirious women with breasts destroyed; and saw twelve bullet marks against the stone wall where a mother aged 23, with a babe on her breast, and her sister and sister-in-law aged 16 and 17 were shot by German soldiers. Dr. Hillis brought back copies of German soldiers diaries. This is one: "Our soldiers are so excited we are like wild beasts. Destroyed eight houses with their inmates. Bayoneted two men with their wives and a girl of eighteen. The little one almost unnerved me, so innocent was her expression." This is another—the diary of Eithel Anders: "In Vendre all the inhabitants without exception we brought out and shot. This shooting was heartbreaking, as they all knelt down and prayed. It was real sport, yet it was terrible to watch."

Why are we at war with Germany? Because Germany is dominated by Prussia, and Prussia by her "war lords;" because in war they have no conscience, no sense of honor; because in making war they bow down to the satyrs and worship Moloch and deity Hercules; because with the instinct and passions of the primitive man they are running amok up and down the earth; because with ranking hate and insane jealousy they covet dominion over France, Great Britain, and

America; because they have made war upon our ships, our rights, our civilization and our existence. The invasion of Belgium was a step to the invasion of the United States. We are fighting to save America, to preserve our liberty, to maintain our government, to justify our right to live. We are fighting for our land, and our institutions—for our laws, our churches, schools, and homes; to save our boys from extermination, our girls from the harem, and our women from the polluting touch of Attila's savage hordes. We are fighting because we have a nation's right to live, and Germany's mad autocrat shall not take this right away. We are waging a war of self-defense against the senseless onslaught of a bigoted paranoiac. Am I my brother's keeper? We are fighting, too for bleeding Belgium and stricken France, and sturdy old England. We are fighting for liberty of the world; and all the peoples who are free should fight this good fight until the rattle of the German sabre, the pomp and flourish of the German soldier, the bombastic egotism of the war lords, the swaggering of the Crown Prince, and the grandiloquent assumption of the Kaiser be shorn of their power to convulse the world, and the pride of Prussia be laid in the dust.

Then there are those who say, "If our country were invaded we should be willing to fight." surely these people know not what they say. Have they heard of Prussian vandalism, rapine, plunder and murder in France and Belgium? Do they wish their fathers literally nailed to the tree, their mothers debauched, their brothers maimed and shot and burned, their sisters deported—their infants tossed at the bayonet's point from the pillage home to the blood-sodden street, their dwellings razed, and the graves of their dead desecrated? If they do, let them wait with stolid indifference the furious coming of the legions of Prussia.

There are still other classes: Those who are the "dupes" of their own ambitions or prejudices; the anti-war agitators seeking to attain their own special ends; the unconscious "fools" secret disciples of Dernberg and Zimmermann who are devoid of the courage to say in public what they think in private. In this hour of world's crises, when the allied champions of civil liberty are trying to break the autocratic shackles of the middle ages and to set men free—when the peoples of the earth are coming out of gret tribulation—he who obstructs or retards the emancipation of humanity, whoever he be whatever his place, is a foe to his home, a disgrace to his rank, and a traitor to his country.

To this spirit of rebellion, wherever it exists, what is the answer? Loyalty and service—loyalty to your country in this crucial hour, and willing service. The patriot strives for the power that brings liberty and the ability to serve. The disloyal man scorns in his heart the thought of allegiance and in the guise of fealty betrays his country. The one is the man of courage and heroism—zealous for the welfare of his country and the people it protects; the other, "the monarch of the remorseless day; the one is a benefactor; the other a curse; the one like Lafayette, who would guide his country into the light of hope, and cheer and trust; the other, like Napoleon into the darkness of despair? Does the spirit of Lafayette inspire the Allies? Will the ambition of Napoleon destroy the Kaiser? Contrasting the character of these two men, Sergeant Smith Prentiss teaches an appropriate lesson: "Their names excite no kindred emotions; their fates no kindred sympathies. Napoleon—the child of destiny—the thunderbolt of war—the victor in a hundred battles—the dispenser of thrones and dominions \* \* \* died, and a few old warriors—the scattered relics of Marengo and of Austerlitz bewailed their chief. \* \* \* Lafayette—the volunteer of freedom—the advocate of human rights—the defender of civil liberty—the patriot and the philanthropist—the beloved of the good and the free \* \* \* also died," and the tears of a civilized world attested how deep was the mourning for his loss. Such is, and always will be, the difference in feeling toward a benefactor and a conqueror of the human race."

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shall be purged, the wheat garnered, the chaff burnt. What say you in this hour of the "acid test?" What is your creed? Where do you stand? Are you a patriot or a "slacker?" By their fruits ye shall know them. As a man thinketh in his heart so is he. Do you ask when the end shall come, and what it shall be? It shall be the downfall of international out-laws, and it shall come in the fullness of time by the will of God.

A German officer was wounded and captured by the Allies. He awaited death for weeks. While French women cared for the dying man he sent for the village priest and told him that the Hindenburg line was nearly complete, that the order to retreat had been given, that the home of these aged women who had cared for him so tenderly should be burned, and not one church, house, barn, vineyard or orchard should be left. Then as he passed into the valley of the shadow a righteous wrath burned in his heart and flamed in his eye, and he exclaimed: "Curses be upon this army! Curses upon our Kaiser and his war staff! Ten thousand curses upon my country! Either God is dead or Germany is doomed!"

God is not dead—and Germany is doomed. And when Germany meets her doom a brighter day shall dawn upon the earth, for the light of truth and masks of brutes force, and set the world free—free from the thralldom of self-constituted masters, and free from Prussian autocracy and tyranny. There shall indeed be a new earth, for old things shall have passed away. By our works let us justify our faith.

**Places of Amusement May be told to Close.**

Washington, Dec. 17.—All theaters and other places of amusement and industries not absolutely essential for war purposes in North Carolina and other states of the union are liable to be closed within a day of two until after the holidays on account of the shortage of coal.

Federal Fuel Administrator Garfield in response to suggestions from several state fuel administrators that such places be closed until after the Christmas holidays, stated that they could use their own judgement in the matter and that they had his authority to take such drastic steps of they deemed it advisable. He informed the fuel administrators of the several states that the interests of the consumers of coal should first be looked after and that if it became necessary to close all other forms of industry in order to accomplish, this, such action could be taken with his entire approval.

The coal shortage in nearly every section of the country is becoming more and more acute resulting in intense suffering among the people. It is realized by the federal fuel administrator that something must be done to alleviate this condition of affairs and he has put it up to every state fuel administrator to take hold of the situation and deal with it as he sees fit.

North Carolina, according to reports coming to Washington, is in a serious condition so far as coal is concerned. City Manager Murphy, of High Point, wired Senator Overman to help him get coal today and hardly a day passes that some North Carolina City does not appeal for aid.

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