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OWNERS: Walter B. Sullivan, Curtis B. Johnson, Walter B. Sullivan, President.

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Editorial and Magazine Page

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THE ENDING OF THE WAR

President Wilson very safely takes the ground that Germany's acceptance of the armistice conditions terminates the war and that there will be no more fighting. The terms drafted by the Allied Council stripped Germany of everything warlike. They even confined her soldiers to a restricted territory of their own country.

This war which Germany precipitated on France in 1870 was as inexcusable as was the war which she precipitated on the world in 1914. There had been a diplomatic meeting between Napoleon III and Bismarck in connection with the cessation of a small bit of southern Germany to France, in which Napoleon had passed a written proposal to Bismarck.

Those who might have feared that the armistice terms would not be sufficiently binding must now find their fears relieved. No surrender on the field could have been of a more abject nature. Nothing was left to the suggestion of Germany. It was a case of having to "sign here."

THE KAISER'S PUNISHMENT.

The deposed Emperor William, it seems, had fixed on the British as the most likely friend upon whose mercy to throw himself and was endeavoring to reach their lines to give himself up as a prisoner of war, when the pursuing Germans turned him in the direction of Holland for refuge from their wrath.

THE RETURN OF PEACE.

Another blessed relief comes in the abandonment of the War Department's plans for the further mobilization of new troops at the camps. The anticipated disruption of business affairs in consequence of the calling of the November draft is thereby avoided and 300,000 men who had prepared to leave their homes and businesses will remain at their usual avocations.

It is the Big Croak we may now be expecting to hear above the shoutings and tumult of a world wild with the joy in its new freedom.

The only white thing about Germany was the flag she last waved.

A SHORT STORY OF THE WAR

The war historians will naturally refer to the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the heir apparent to the Austrian throne, and his wife, in a little Bohemian town on a memorable day in June, 1914, as the cause of the mighty war just ended, and they will as naturally make record of a mistake. It was the excuse for the war, not the cause. The incident afforded Germany an opening to resume a war that was interrupted with the defeat of the French Army in 1871.

Germany swept over Belgium and across France like a mighty tidal wave of destruction, and this sweep developed the new and barbarous agency of gas. The way in front of the advancing German troops was cleared by the poisoning of the air so that no soldier could exist in it. The British and Belgians and French were pushed back not by bullet or shell or bayonet, but by a new and invisible agency of which the world had never known.

Germany knew that neither England nor France was prepared for war, and it was her plan to get at France by a quick rush through Belgium, bring France to terms, then hurry back and meet the Russian Army as it made its way to the German border.

It was when the big German cannon began roaring at the modern forts protecting the Belgian border that the world waked to a realization of the fact that Germany had been spending all these years in preparation, while other countries were sleeping in fancied safety, with never a suspicion of the breaking of the storm of war.

figured out with mathematical accuracy—and on the first round these Belgian forts were blown up like tooth-stools.

Then another thing was revealed to the country. The German Government, in anticipation of the coming of the day when it would launch this destroying avalanche of war upon an unsuspecting world, had established lockers in the armories and arsenals which dotted its Empire, and in these lockers for years had been hanging a complete uniform, with gun and equipment for each man of military age in Germany and for every subject of the German Government living in another country.

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In the sixth month after the United States got into the war, Germany had been brought to her knees and the war was over. America had sent across an Army the like of which Germany had never dreamed and the Americans brought along with them a few surprises which Germany had not believed possible.

Germany's well-laid plans to make swift and complete conquest of France and Russia and Italy and Great Britain were counteracted by the most magnificent display of bravery and gallantry by the defending armies of which there is any note in history.

Italy, held firm and it was this matchless exhibition of determination and courage which made the winning of the war ultimately possible. These Allied Nations held the enemy until America could come and give the finishing touches.

Up to June of this year, the Allied forces were prosecuting a defensive system of warfare. It was in that month when Pershing, with only a portion of his Army at hand, asked permission to strike in on what had been regarded as the really "impregnable" portion of the German line—the salient which dented in the Allied lines at Chateau-Thierry.

And it was from this very incident that The Observer took counsel of itself and publicly established its contention that the war would be brought to an end in 1918. For, out of Pershing's capture of Chateau-Thierry, there came adoption by the Allied commanders of the new policy of a progressive offensive.

From the day of that performance, the Germans have been on the losing side. They had scored their last advance in the direction of Paris and the Channel ports and every step they made at any point of the line from the North Sea to the Swiss border was backward in the direction of the German frontier.

The story of the German war is the story of the most barbarous atrocities against humanity in the history of wars. On land and sea, murder and destruction were the main characteristics. The pillage of Belgium, the atrocious treatment of the women and children, were parallel transgressions to the offenses against civilization on the seas, although the women and children involved in the submarine murders escaped with the lighter fate in that the Huns had no opportunity to desecrate their bodies.

humblest satrap, are to be delivered to the Allied Powers to deal with.

And at the same time, there are others who were acting the part of secret enemies and whose activities involved the Allied Governments in much unnecessary trouble and anxiety, whose bringing to the bar of outraged justice is to be expected. One of the items in Germany's long years of preparation for involving the Nations in bloody war which we have not included in the account, was the placing in the United States and other countries years back of a perfected system of espionage.

The German people we are going to feed and clothe until the time of their rehabilitation, for that becomes a civilized Nation. The incidents of the revolution which overthrew the German throne gives token of the determination of the German people to rid themselves from the serfdom which they have endured under German militarism.

The matter of indemnities and reparation and restoration will probably find adjustment between the Supreme War Council of the Entente Nations and the new German Government at Versailles, and in that event might be seen a case of poetic historic justice, for it was at Versailles that the German conquerors fastened the infamous terms upon the French Government.

The arrangements for armistice are but preliminary to the drafting of terms of surrender. The Allied War Council may not get through the winding up task before the expiration of several weeks. The conditions upon which armistice has been granted afford an intelligent index to the character of the terms of surrender which will be stripped from Germany and she will be made helpless ever again to wage war, and into the peace compact all Nations of the earth will be made partners, to the end that the peace which is to be established will endure through all ages and to the protection of all Nations.

A large Army must be maintained in Germany and other Central countries for an indefinite time, but in the course of adjustment of the military affairs some men will be released for the return home, and we shall shortly see the inbound ships discharging troops who have served their country and who are now welcomed into the peace and happiness and liberty they and their comrades secured for the world.

The war is over! It is a great day in the history of the world when this can be said. Well may the people rejoice with a great rejoicing, for the world will know no more forever the scenes through which it has been passing for over four years of apprehension, of agony and of terror. The last war has been fought and the last human sacrifice has been offered up to militarism.

General Crowder makes the fact plain that while the recently drafted men are to be relieved of military training and service, there will be no indemnity for the deserters, and that means those who have by hook or crook avoided the draft law. They will still be leading the lives of the practically outlawed.

GOOD AMERICANS OF ALL.

We believe the American heart will be in accord with the sentiments President Wilson expressed in behalf of the people of Germany. He had always maintained that we were not at war with the German people, but with their military rulers, whose word was their law, because of long years under the mistaken ideas of the rule of might. It will be undoubtedly revealed that the people of that upturned country have been suffering privations of the direst sort and that it will become the duty of the American Government to extend the same aid to them that has been volunteered in the case of Austria-Hungary.

ITALY'S SCORE.

Premier Orlando and General Cadorna, who are looking after Italy's interests in the negotiations, will very likely give guarantee that the Italian possessions so long held under Austrian dominion, will be "liberated" to Italy. The Provinces of Trentino and Istria will revert to Italian ownership, as will Alsace-Lorraine again come under the home Government of France.

CHARLOTTE'S REJOICING.

Charlotte got up out of bed promptly and willingly when the token was proclaimed by bell and whistle at 3 o'clock Monday morning, and only a portion of the town had gone back to bed at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. It was a great celebration this city staged. There was never one quite like it, for in celebration of the event the entire population of Charlotte, from toddling childhood to tottering old age, took part.

A FORGOTTEN VILLAIN.

There is intimation that Villa, the almost forgotten Mexican villain, has cut the cable and may be up to some new trick, though that this may mean trouble with Mexico is quite improbable. If that estimable gentleman will only wait a few days on forthcoming peace developments in Europe, he may come to the conclusion that the most advisable proceeding for him is to find his hole and crawl into it.

THANKS FOR THE SHIPS.

With the new turn-over of German ships the Allies will have quite an abundant supply of German bottoms. We suppose the United States will get her proportionate share, though it may be that our possessions of long ago may be taken into account in the division. These are the interned ships of the German Nation found at the various ports in this country when the war broke out and which were held under the laws of neutrality.

WE ARE TAKING PRIDE AND GRATIFICATION.

We are taking pride and gratification in the fact that it fell to the lot of the American soldiers to fire the last shots at the German Army, and by the same token may they be "first at Berlin."

REDUCTION OF THE TAX BILL.

Discussion was sprung in the Senate yesterday on the matter of trimming Chairman Kitchin's war revenue bill down to a coming-of-peace basis. The Republican leaders were prompt to strike the "popular attitude" in advocacy of an immediate reduction, but as a matter of course that could not be done until Secretary McAdoo might be able to revise his figures on the basis of new plans of the War Department in the matter of bringing the soldiers home and the elimination of such expenses as might be made possible in the reduction of the military establishment of the Nation.

CHARLOTTE BOYS' MONUMENT.

It will be seen in this morning's Observer that a movement has been launched to erect a monument to Charlotte boys who lost their lives in the war. The initial subscription list for this cause is one which is likely to grow with delightful rapidity, for the people of Charlotte will welcome the opportunity which is presented them to join in doing honor to our soldier dead. The Observer may promise now that the monument which is under consideration will develop into a credit to the patriotic sentiment of the city. It will be a shaft of noble proportions and one the city will take pride in pointing out to visitors and in their own contemplations for ages to come.

A PATHETIC APPEAL.

As the Allied Nations turned hopefully to Wilson when the stress of war was greatest, so beaten Turkey and Bulgaria and Austria and Hungary turned to him for his protecting influences. And now we see the new rulers in Germany appealing with pathetic earnestness to the American President to intervene to the amelioration of the deplorable conditions existing in interior Germany. The people of the United States are going to have revealed to them as the facts come out a more dreadful picture of human misery and suffering than they have imagined possible to exist behind the back of the late Kaiser.

THE U-BOATS.

The giving up of the submarines demanded by the Allies may be productive of some entertaining revelations. Perhaps we may come to know what happened to a number of the Kaiser's pirates of the sea that came over to America and whose activities ceased suddenly and mysteriously. We believe some of the subs the Allies have called for have been peacefully resting on the sands under the Atlantic from Maine to Florida. Germany may have to report to the diving bell to produce the full quota of U-boats listed in the armistice specifications.

A NIGHT OF BLESSED RELIEF.

It was with a feeling of blessed relief that Americans could turn in to their rest the first night after peace was assured. Not for four long years has head been laid upon pillow without thoughts of the war to trouble. The American people no doubt retired to their rest feeling as if some over-bearing burden had been lifted from their shoulders and there was no vision of bloody war to vex them. For many it was the first night of peaceful and untroubled sleep they had been vouchsafed since the first shipload of Americans sailed for France.

NO KICK FROM PENROSE.

Senator Penrose, Roosevelt's side partner, makes the evidently reluctant admission that the terms laid down to Germany and made of acceptance by "practically in effect" bringing Germany to "unconditional surrender" and disarm her "so that she could not renew the war if she wanted to." For Mr. Penrose that is wanting a great deal and it will be taken as assurance by the country that enough was done to Germany on the first round to encourage belief in an ultimate job of the most satisfactory nature.

Holland is said to be embarrassed at the presence within her borders of the former Kaiser, but her embarrassment is likely to be short-lived. The Allied Nations may relieve her of it all in due time.

Never mind about the comfortable enunciation of the Kaiser in Holland. He will be produced when the Allies dictate that they are ready to deal with His Majesty.

As Deacon Ashcraft of the Monroe Enquirer would say, it was a case of Hellshollern for the Dutch border.

DELAY FOR EVACUATION PROLONGED BY 24 HOURS

London, Nov. 11.—(British Wireless Service).—The following message was sent by wireless by the German plenipotentiaries: "To the German high command to be communicated to all authorities interested. "Radio received. Armistice was signed at 5 o'clock in the morning French time. It comes into force at 11 o'clock in the morning. French time. Delay for evacuation prolonged by 24 hours for the left bank of the Rhine beside the five days; therefore, 31 days in all. Modifications of the text with that brought by (courier) Heilford will be transmitted by radio. (Signed) "ERZBERGER."

DUTCH OFFICIALS GO TO MEET THE KAISER

Amsterdam, Nov. 11. (By the Associated Press).—Officials of the Dutch government and the German minister at The Hague have gone to Eindhoven, on the Dutch frontier, to meet the former German emperor.