

AN INDECTMENT AGAINST GERMANY

Her Many Violations of the Covenants of The Hague Convention.

Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Sept. 6.—The story of three years of German violation of the covenants of the Hague convention, during the Teutonic occupancy of Belgium since the world war began, was told briefly today by Gaston de Leval, of the Bar of Brussels, to members of the American Bar Association, in convention here.

Many articles of the Hague convention, when tested by the facts in Belgium with the invaders applying their own interpretations, "proved almost valueless," Mr. Leval said.

The imposing of excessive fines, the punishment by death and imprisonment of Belgian men and women and children unwarrantably accused of treason and lesser crimes, and the deportation of his compatriots into "slavery" were discussed by Mr. de Leval from the legal viewpoint.

Notwithstanding "all the sufferings and tyranny to which the Belgian population has been subjected," the speaker asserted, the people are as patriotic now as when in the early period of the war they stemmed the German flood at Liege.

"No matter how much the Germans have advertised their victories and how powerfully their military system has impressed the Belgian population," he said, "that population is just as hopeful as during the first days that the cause of civilization will triumph, and that tyranny will be crushed, because they know that right is right, and that right is the only might, and that the Lord has said 'Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.'"

Mr. de Leval told how the Germans tried to make capital of the quarrels which, before the war, had taken place between the Flemish and Walloon elements of Belgium—the ones descendants of German tribes and the others descendants of the Romans.

"Since the very beginning they (the Germans) cajoled the Flemish population," he said. "They tried to make it believe that Germany was helping their aspirations to free themselves of the troublesome Walloons. They told them that, owing to the German efforts, these Walloon and French elements were to be set aside and the Flemish population emerge freer, freer, with its own language in the foreground."

"But the people did not listen to these siren songs. So, the Germans added compulsion to persuasion, and by their new law made one country of the Walloons and one country of the Flemish, hoping, of course, that after the war the Flemish population at any rate would be a stepping stone for Germany to further conquest."

"But this separation is only on paper, and is not and will never be completely obtained. All the chiefs of Belgian departments have resigned rather than carry out such instructions, and the Germans, who had, when they came into Belgium, promised that all agents of the Belgian government continuing their duties would always be free if they so desired, to leave their posts, are now sending to German prisons the chiefs of those departments who have carried out what their conscience told them was their duty."

Mr. de Leval paid tribute to America's aid to his country, and especially to Brand Whitlock, former minister to Belgium. "His name," he said, "will go down in history," adding "I know that in no other country of the world, so much as in America, in this country of freedom and justice, do the sufferings of the Belgians arouse sympathy. You have saved Belgium from starvation, and till the end of all time there will be in each end of all time a memorial put up to remind future generations that if the Belgian race has not died out, honor for its preservation is due to the citizens of free and generous America."

Mr. de Leval paid a tribute also to Cardinal Mercier, who, he said, "stood in the country like a living flag of Belgium, like a religious king, and from all the world he received the homage due to his courage and genius." The speaker said that one place which remained sacred from invasion was the church, to which "the arm of the German law did not

"What is an 'absolute necessity'?" Mr. de Leval continued. "Unfortunately, the Hague convention gives no definition and the speeches of its members throw little light on the subject.

"The Germans have given to 'absolute necessity' a wonderful extension. If a law is required by which a machine can be taken out of Belgium to be used by a German manufacturer for no matter what kind of work useful to the German Empire, it is soon found an 'absolute necessity' to empty a Belgian to replenish a German factory. If a German politician thinks that a certain rule imposed on Belgium will have some political importance in Germany in a quarter of a century, that rule will be established in Belgium by 'absolute necessity.' If Belgium courts seem too fair by the Germans to be relied upon when a German interest is involved, it will be an 'absolute necessity' to modify the rules of those courts and to bring before a special court, 'made in Germany,' all questions in which such interest is concerned.

"We must never forget, and the Brussels bar repeated it time and again to the German commanders, we must never forget that generally speaking the writers of the 19th century have followed Montesquieu's and Rousseau's teachings, which denied the lawfulness of the right of conquest. It has been generally admitted, and the Hague convention affirms it, that conquest by itself is merely an act of might and gives no permanent right to the conqueror over the occupied territory, unless a peace treaty confirm it. But of course, when the legitimate ruler of the country can no longer enforce his own enactments in his State and a foreign army occupies it, circumstances arise where it is necessary to modify or even to suppress the existing legislation and replace it by a more adequate rule. The Hague convention says regarding this:

"Art. XLIII. The authority of legal power having passed de facto into the hands of the occupant, the latter shall take all steps in his power to re-establish and insure, as far as possible, public order and safety, while respecting, unless absolutely prevented, the laws in force in the country."

"All this reads very well in books, but when tested by the facts in Belgium, the Hague convention—at any rate in this matter—proved almost valueless. It is very nice to say that the occupant shall not modify the existing law of the occupied territory except in case of absolute necessity. But, as I have already asked, what is absolute necessity? It may be moral—or rather immoral—it may be a legal or illegal, it may be an economic necessity; it may be a political or a military necessity. Who is to decide? Who is to be the judge of this perplexing issue? Should the case be decided, like an ordinary case, between the government and the citizens, by the courts of the country? Or should the military authority submit to no judge at all, and simply say 'it is quite enough if I say that there is such a necessity?'"

"Impotent Hague conventions" Mr. de Leval exclaimed. "If the gentlemen who sat around the diplomatic tables at The Hague, when drafting the rules by which the civilized nations bound themselves to be governed in war, could hear all the sarcasm, all the blame, that was laid by suffering populations on them for what seemed to be so carelessly drafted rules, they would indeed be unhappy. During the early days of the war, Mr. de Leval declared, apparently there was no rule. "There was," he said, "just the fancy—and most often a cruel fancy—of the German soldier that ruled."

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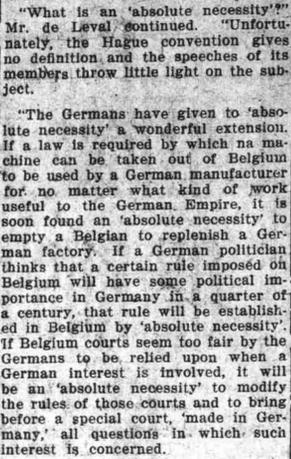
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Mr. Marvin Underwood



Who has been elected as general counsel of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Co. Mr. Underwood retires from the position as assistant attorney general for the United States, which position he has held for the past three and a half years. While assistant attorney general Mr. Underwood had charge of the Adamson law case.

COAL MINERS ASK MORE PAY

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 6.—The coal operators of the central competitive field, comprising the districts of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania, have been invited to confer here today with officials of the United Mine Workers of America on the latter's demand for a substantial increase in pay. The union officials, in deciding to present their demands at this time, disclaim any intention of "throwing a monkey wrench" into the price-fixing plans of the government. They are of the opinion that the present time is most opportune, so that the government may take the wage problem into consideration when fixing the price on the product of the mines.

According to William Green, international secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, the men are of the opinion that they should receive an increase in mining prices so that their earnings would keep pace with the constantly increasing cost of the necessities of life. They look to the coming fall and winter, he says, with keen apprehension. It is more than taxing their earning capacity to supply themselves with the necessities of life.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Having qualified as Executor of the estate of Florence H. Kidder, deceased, I hereby notify all parties owing said estate to make immediate payment and all parties holding claims against said estate will present same to the undersigned executor within one year from the date hereof, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

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OUT AND IN-DOOR MAN ARE ON EVEN

"No Man is Safe in Health," Says Peplac Expert in Interesting Talk.

"It doesn't make much difference whether a man's occupation keeps him in the open or in an office chair, if he is afflicted with stomach troubles," said the Peerless Tonic Expert, in one of his interesting talks at the Bellman Drug store.

"The modern break-neck speed of living—hurriedly eaten meals and the stress of making money—upsets nature's plan and demands that something take the place of ordinary recreation required by nature," he continued.

"Often the symptoms of disease—bad breath, belching, dizzy spells, spots floating before the eyes, heartburn and a dull, droopy, tired feeling, especially upon arising in the morning—escape recognition until real danger comes.

"The system needs a tonic and, to my mind, Peplac is the tonic that will set the stomach right. The fact that the many Wilmington men and women who have already put Peplac to the test come out and say that Peplac does all that is claimed for it is strong proof of my convictions."

Learn more about Peplac from your neighbor who knows or see the Peplac Expert at Bellamy's. Peplac also explained at Elvington's, Hardin's, Payne's, Green's, Bunting's, Pentress', Jarman & Futrell and the Hanover Drug stores.

If you live outside of Wilmington ask your druggist.—Adv.

MEMORIAL TO COURTS FOR SHORTER OPINIONS

(By Associated Press.) Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Sept. 5.—The presentation of a memorial to courts requesting a "conscious effort at the shortening of opinions," was recommended today to the American Bar Association by the Committee on Reports and Digests.

Other reports included the presentation of a comprehensive model code of insurance laws, suggested for adoption by Congress in the District of Columbia; endorsement of the contention of the United States that Germany has violated international law by its methods of warfare, and condemnation of socialism.

The committee to which was referred the question of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court reported that a conference was had with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and that the court was of the opinion that it would be able to cope with the increase in the number of cases brought before it by delivering fewer opinions and making them more concise. As the court, the committee states, would be averse to an increase in the number of judges, the committee recommended that no further steps be taken.

The Frisco system is the first railroad to employ women as train auditors. Several Ohio cities are to vote on municipal woman suffrage next November.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss. Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE. FRANK J. CHENEY.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Send for testimonials, free. F. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by all druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

THEATRE

"SKINNER'S BUBBLE."

Henry Irving Dodge wrote "Skinner's Dress Suit," and he has recently contributed to the screen a worthy successor in "Skinner's Bubble," which Essanay has made into a magnificent six-reel production under the same title, starring the popular favorite Bryant Washburn, with "Honey" Hazel Daly supporting him, one of the prettiest girls in movieland, and this tremendous spectacle is tomorrow's super-attraction at the Grand.

When William Manning Skinner chooses Napoleon as his exemplar, to the supplanting of George Washington, he launched himself and his beloved wife, "Honey," on a sea of troubles, and barely escaped wrecking his career and fortune. "Skinner's Bubble" shows this in such a masterful way that sympathy, though part of the time uppermost, is quenched by the desire to indulge in heartless merriment at Skinner's expense.

We hold that Skinner deserves it, for nothing else than his lightly forgetting the moving play made by his faithful little partner, when he first makes known his intention to give up the home where they had been so happy and move to new and modern apartments in the city, which would better become his station as junior partner of the firm of McLaughlin, Perkins & Skinner.

"Give this all up!" cries Honey, with a sob in her heart. "Why, it is built upon love, and with love. Oh dear, you can't be serious." And then when she convinces him for the first time that a single reverse would ruin him, he promises to give up the plan though determined in his heart to have his own way. And this he does, even in more Napoleonic fashion than Honey had dreamed of; for he severs his connection with McLaughlin and Perkins and opens offices in the city under his own name. And more, he establishes Honey and himself in an expensive, modern home where he has his valet and Honey her maid, with an obsequious butler and a be-buttled door boy, and other servants to boot on the home pay roll.

From this time forward the spectacle seldom has a sober face. What with the office boy and the stenographer at Skinner's headquarters, dead nothing to do, and the head of the firm showing his compassion by frequently declaring half holidays, and adding to this the tyranny of the servants at home, who never permit Skinner and Honey to be alone a moment, the atmosphere is constantly charged with merriment.

At this time LaFayette was 18, and he lost no time in going to Paris to meet the American commissioners. Baron de Kalb introduced the young man to Silas Deane, and to him he made his offer of his sword and his private fortune to the cause of the Americans.

Owing to his position as a nobleman, LaFayette made but a single proviso to his offer. He was to receive the commission of a general officer. It was to be honorary and he was to receive no emolument, and he was to be allowed to return to France if either his family or his King called him.

Deane immediately accepted LaFayette and drew up a contract which he said he hoped Congress would ratify, in which the simple conditions of the young man's service were enumerated. LaFayette immediately purchased and equipped a ship, and with a letter from Franklin to Congress left for the American shores, having torn himself from his beautiful young bride.

LaFayette received his first experience under fire in this country at the

High Heels Put Corns on Toes

Who cares? Corns or calluses lift off without any pain.

Because style dictates that women crowd their feet into high heeled footwear, they suffer from corns, then they cut and trim at these painful pests which merely makes the corn grow hard. This suicidal habit may cause lockjaw and women are warned to stop it.

A few drops of freestone applied directly upon a sore corn or tender callus gives quick relief and soon the entire corn or callus, root and all, lifts off without pain. Ask the drug store man for a tiny bottle of freestone, which costs but a few cents, but is sufficient to remove every hard or soft corn or callus from one's feet.

Freestone dries in a moment and simply shrives up the corn or callus without even irritating the surrounding skin.

Women! Keep a bottle of freestone handy on the dresser and never let a corn ache twice.—Adv.

Grand TOMORROW

Essanay Presents "The Skinner of The Movies" Bryant Washburn With Hazel "Honey" Daly, in "SKINNER'S BUBBLE"

From the Story by Henry Irving Dodge, Author of "Skinner's Dress Suit" and "Skinner's Baby"

A SIX REEL SUPER PRODUCTION Today—Wallace Reid in "The Squaw Man's Son" Sequel to "The Squaw Man."

"RESTIVO"

Accordianist Marvel, in Another and Bigger New Act—Request at Box Office any Selection You Wish Him to Play.

"Restivo" at 3:30, 5:00, 8:00, 9:30. Shows at 11, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:00, 9:30

Matinee—5c, 10c. Night—15c.

Royal

Refined Musical Comedy. NEW BILL TODAY CHARLES BREWER'S FADS & FOLLIES OF 1917.

A High Class Tabloid Musical Comedy Company of Eleven Artists, Featuring "PEGGY" JONES World's Champion One-Legged Dancer.

LAMONT SISTERS Singing and Dancing Souhaittes

A Roaring Vogue Comedy Screen Today.

Matinee, 3:00 and 1:00. Nights, 7:30, 9:00—15c and 25c.

LAFAYETTE DAY WIDELY OBSERVED

New York, Sept. 6.—France and the United States, close friends since the birth of the American republic and warm allies in the present war, are to be brought still closer today by an international celebration of the birthday anniversary of the Marquis de LaFayette, the great French patriot, soldier and statesman who gave invaluable aid to the young republic in the war of the American Revolution.

Today's observance is expected to mark the future establishment of a new national holiday that will be celebrated simultaneously in both of the republics. In France the anniversary also will commemorate the battle of the Marne, the historic conflict which turned the tide of the German invasion away from Paris.

In this country the movement to make the day a national holiday is being fostered by the LaFayette Day National Committee, which includes among its members Theodore Roosevelt, Charles W. Elliot, Lyron T. Herlick and numerous other eminent men. In issuing the call for today's observance the committee says: "By honoring LaFayette upon his anniversary, a date made doubly memorable by the battle of the Marne, we shall be giving expression to the sentiment of fraternal regard for our sister republic, our ally of old and of today."

New York's contribution to the celebration of the double anniversary consisted of interesting exercises held this afternoon at the City Hall. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, former United States minister to The Hague, delivered the principal oration, and Dr. John H. Finly, State commissioner of education, read a poem written for