

German Lies

Sir Edward Grey Replies

LAST month, Sir Edward Grey made a further reply to the allegations of the German Chancellor. The latter asked, "Does anyone believe that England would have interfered to protect Belgian freedom against France?" Sir Edward replies that the French Government was asked if it would respect Belgian neutrality and the assurance was given. He declares that England made no difference in this respect between Germany and France. Moreover, he points out that in 1870, Prince Bismarck approached the British Government on this subject, and the British reply was the same in 1870 as in 1914.

The closing paragraphs from Sir Edward's official reply are quoted in full:

"The Imperial Chancellor refers to the dealings of Great Britain with the Boer Republics, and suggests that she has been false therein to the cause of freedom. Without going into controversies now happily passed, we may recall what General Botha said in the South African Parliament a few days ago when expressing his conviction of the righteousness of Britain's cause and explaining the firm resolve of the South African Union to aid her in every possible way.

"Great Britain had given them a Constitution under which they could create a great nationality and had ever since regarded them as a free people and as a Sister State. Although there might be many who in the past had been hostile towards the British flag, he could vouch for it that they would ten times rather be under the British than under the German flag."

"The German Chancellor is equally unfortunate in his reference to the 'Colonial Empire.' So far from British policy having been 'recklessly egotistic,' it has resulted in a great rally of affection and common interest by all the British Dominions and Dependencies, among which there is not one which is not aiding Britain by soldiers or other contributions, or both, in this war.

"With regard to the matter of Treaty obligations generally, the German Chancellor excuses the breach of Belgian neutrality by military necessity—at the same time making a virtue of having respected the neutrality of Holland and Switzerland and saying that it does not enter his head to touch the neutrality of the Scandinavian countries. A virtue which admittedly is only practised in the absence of temptation from self-interest and military advantage does not seem greatly worth vaunting. To the Chancellor's concluding statement that 'to the German sword' is entrusted 'the care of freedom for European peoples and States,' the treatment of Belgium is a sufficient answer."

De Bunsen's Verdict

British Ambassador to Vienna Gives Some New Facts

SIR MAURICE DE BUNSEN, late British Ambassador to Berlin, has published his version of what happened in the Austrian capital. He declares that every Ambassador was kept in ignorance of the true import of the note to Serbia on July 23rd. The Russian Ambassador knew so little about it that on July 20th, he left Vienna on a fortnight's leave of absence. De Bunsen himself learned of it from private sources on July 15th.

Above all, the Ambassador declares that it was neither desired nor expected that Serbia would accept the Note. On July 24th, the German Ambassador frankly admitted this, and expressed his conviction that Russia would stand aside. Indeed, Russia and Austria were proceeding to discuss the matter and an arrangement seemed almost in sight. The Ambassador proceeds:

"Unfortunately these conversations at St. Petersburg and Vienna were cut short by the transfer of the dispute to the more dangerous ground of a direct conflict between Germany and Russia. Germany intervened on July 31 by means of her double ultimatums to St. Petersburg and Paris. The ultimatums were of a kind to which only one answer is possible, and Germany declared war on Russia on August 1, and on France on August 3. A few days' delay might in all probability have saved Europe from one of the greatest calamities in history."

Regarding the British declaration of war on Germany, the Ambassador says that few details of the great events of those days transpired and that the declaration of Italian neutrality was bitterly felt in Vienna, but scarcely mentioned in the newspapers. Count Berchtold received the Ambassador's request for his passports "with the courtesy which never leaves him," and deplored the unhappy complications which were drawing such good friends as Austria and England into war.

Dr. Bunsen's view of the matter is further confirmed by the personal telegrams between Emperor William, the Kaiser and King George, recently published. The war could have been avoided had the

Austrian note to Serbia not contained a 48-hour time limit and had Emperor William been less abrupt with his ultimatums to Russia and France.

Seventy-five Million a Week

What the British Navy is Saving the British People

MR. ARCHIBALD HURD, special naval writer on the London Daily Telegraph, says that the British navy is saving a vast amount of money for the British people. If the fleet had been defeated, foodstuffs would have gone up fifty per cent. in Great Britain. Each person in Britain consumes eight shillings' worth of food per week. This would mean that the food would have gone up to twelve shillings. Therefore the saving is four shillings per head. For 45,000,000, this is a saving of \$45,000,000 a week.

Then there is the saving in clothes, manufactured goods, petrol, and raw material for British factories. This will increase the saving to \$60,000,000 a week.

His final fifteen million is the saving to the outer portions of the Empire. His remarks here must be quoted in full:

"Even this calculation takes no account of what it is paying to the fifteen millions of our kith and kin in Canada, the Commonwealth, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, and the Crown Colonies, not to mention the vast population of India. The weekly sum which the fleet is just now putting in the pockets of the inhabitants of the British Empire—apart from India—cannot be less than, on the very lowest basis of calculation, about £15,000,000."

Seventy-five million a week is some saving, and the anti-navy element in Canada might seriously consider Mr. Hurd's arguments.

The Sack of Louvain

Official Report of the Belgian Commission of Enquiry

ABELGIAN commission is making official reports to the Belgian Government on the atrocities committed by the Germans. This commission consists of five leading Belgian citizens, whose veracity and judgment cannot be disputed.

The story of the German treatment of women is too vile to be printed in the Canadian Courier, but those interested will find that the newspaper correspondents have not overstated the horrors. Some other paragraphs may be quoted:

"At Sempst, a neighbouring village, were found the bodies of two men, partially carbonized. One of them had his legs cut off at the knees; the other had the arms and legs cut off. A workman, whose burnt body has been seen by several witnesses, had been struck several times with bayonets, and then, while still alive, the Germans had poured petroleum over him, and thrown him into a house to which they set fire. A woman who came out of her house was killed in the same way. A witness, whose evidence has been taken by a reliable British subject, declares that he saw, on August 26th, not far from Malines, during the last Belgian attack, an old man tied by the arms to one of the rafters in the ceiling of his farm. The body was completely carbonized, but the head, arms, and feet were unburnt. Further on, a child of about 15 was tied up, the hands behind the back, and the body was completely torn open with bayonet wounds. Numerous corpses of peasants lay on the ground in positions of supplication, their arms lifted and their hands clasped.

"The Belgian Consul in Uganda, who is now a volunteer in the Belgian army, reports that wherever the Germans passed the country has been devastated. The few inhabitants who remain in the villages tell of the atrocities committed by the enemy. Thus, at Wackerzeel, seven Germans are said to have successively violated a woman, and then to have killed her. In the same village they stripped a young boy to the waist, threatened him with death, holding a revolver to his chest, pricked him with lances, and then chased him into a field and shot at him, without, however, hitting him. Everywhere there is ruin and devastation. At Buecken many inhabitants were killed, including the priest, who was over 80 years old.

"Between Impde and Wolverthem, two wounded Belgian soldiers lay near a house which was on fire. The Germans threw these two unfortunate men into the flames."

The actual sack of Louvain was begun at nightfall on August 26th. The Germans had occupied it for seven days, but on the seventh day, some Germans retreated panic-stricken into the town. The German garrison thought they were the enemy and fired on them. To cover up the mistake, the citizens were blamed, and the town set on fire.

"Wherever the fire had not spread, the German soldiers entered the houses and threw fire grenades,

with which some of them seem to be provided. The greater part of the town of Louvain was thus a prey to the flames, particularly the quarters of the upper town, comprising the modern buildings, the ancient cathedral of St. Pierre, the University buildings, together with the University Library, its manuscripts and collections, and the Municipal Theatre.

"The Commission considers it its duty to insist, in the midst of all these horrors, on the crime committed against civilization by the deliberate destruction of an academic library, which was one of the treasures of Europe.

"The corpses of many civilians encumbered the streets and squares. On the road from Tirlemont to Louvain alone a witness counted more than fifty. On the doorsteps of houses could be seen carbonized bodies of inhabitants, who, hiding in their cellars, were driven out by the fire, tried to escape and fell into the flames. The suburbs of Louvain suffered the same fate. We can affirm that the houses in all the districts between Louvain and Malines, and most of the suburbs of Louvain itself, have practically been destroyed."

War and Culture

Frederic Harrison's Compliments to the Kaiser

FREDERIC HARRISON, who is a noted problem writer in England, sends some terse Kaiserian compliments to the London Times. He says:

"We know that nine-tenths of the German people adopt the infernal code that 'might is right.' Under this inverted doctrine of right and wrong the German millions are now committing enormities as horrible as those of Dahomey and African savages of old. Let us hear no more whining about 'German culture.' The whole Junker caste and the Hohenzollern dynasty are the head and front of these infamies. Be it understood that when the Allies have finally crushed this monstrous brood, the Kaiser shall be submitted to the degradation inflicted on poor Dreyfus. In presence of Allied troops let his bloodstained sword be broken on his craven back if he lives through it, St. Helena or the Devil's Island might be his prison and his grave."

This is strong medicine, and will not suit those who believe that the Kaiser has been driven into this war by the momentum of the machine which he himself did so much to create. It is not necessary to blame the Kaiser for everything. The war lords in Germany have been numerous; and the Kaiser is only their chief. Apropos of German culture in this war, a Canadian University President was coming home across the Atlantic in company with a well-known professor of Chicago, who some time during the summer before the outbreak of war was having dinner with a company of distinguished Germans of whom the Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg was one of the most eminent. He reports the Chancellor as saying:

"Culture has her headquarters in Germany. There is a smattering of it in France, a veneer of culture in the front ranks of the Russian barbarism, a tincture of it in England—but none at all in the United States."

The Dum-Dum Calumny

SIR EDWARD GREY'S official denial of German charges is most explicit. Here it is:

"His Majesty's Government declare publicly and officially that the statement made by the German General Staff to the effect that dum-dum bullets have been found on French and English prisoners is entirely untrue. Neither the British nor the French army has in its possession, or has issued, any but the approved patterns of rifle and revolver ammunition which do not infringe in any respect the provisions of The Hague Convention.

"(Signed) GREY,
"Foreign Office, London."

Battle Pictures

HERR THEODORE ROCHOLL, a well-known German battle-painter of Dusseldorf, was commissioned some little time ago by the Kaiser to go to the battle front in France and make studies for painting some great battle scenes which are intended to hang in the art galleries of Berlin. The only difficulty about it now is—which of the Allies will claim Herr Rocholl's pictures? Perhaps they will be equally divided. Perhaps, also, Herr Rocholl will make a portrait of the Kaiser at the last great settlement, wherever it happens to be. At the same time—probably the Czar has commissioned a Slav painter to be in Berlin when he rides his white horse at the head of his Cossacks up the Unter der Linden, as he promises to do. Art and war have always been mixed up very intimately.