FACTS ABOUT THE WAR

A BULLETIN OF INFORMATION PUBLISHED BY THE PARIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

German Turths—Once again, from the German standpoint, Truth assumes another and a different garb. In his speech to the Reichstag on August 19th last, Mr. V. Bethmann-Hollweg, the Chancellor of the Empire, charged England with being the instigator of a world-wide aggression against peaceful Germany. But, just a year ago, on August 4th, 1914, the same Chancellor expressed widely different views; he explained that "England, with the co-operation of Germany, was endeavoring to intervene between Vienna and St. Petersbourg, for the maintenance of peace;" he denounced the treacherous attack made by Russia, and sought to obtain credence for the story of the violation of German territory by France, openly promising England, in exchange for her neutrality, to make amends for the "wrongs," which had been inflicted upon Belgium and Luxemburg. "Side by side with England we have unceasingly exercised a mediating influence," said the German Imperial Chancellor, as recorded in the White Book (page 11), at that time. In the account he gives to-day, of the Anglo-German negotiations in 1912, after Lord Haldane's mission to Berlin with a view to paving the way to an understanding with regard to armaments, Mr. V. Bethmann-Hollweg shows no more respect for historical truth; he upbraids England, who declared she was willing to bind herself not to attack Germany without provocation, for having declined to adopt the principle of a kindly unconditional neutrality. The truth is, that at that very time, the German Government was desirous of ensuring England's neutrality during the continental conflict which it was premeditating. England, on the other hand, aware of the snare that was laid for her, realized that by maintaining her liberty of action she could more efficaciously serve the cause of peace.

If the Chancellor so disfigures the facts for the requirements of his case, it is because, after one year of war, the German people are growing alarmed at the enormous sacrifices still demanded of them. In order to sustain their spirits and energy, and induce them to bear the crushing burdens of the war, their Chancellor depicts an innocent Germania, the victim of an odious aggression, and defending, along with her existence, the freedom of the seas and of nations. He does not openly side with the annexionists of the most uncompromising parties in their demands, but he declares his intention to continue the war until Europe again lives in security, thanks to a Germany, strong, inviolate, whose boundaries are enlarged by conquests "which will allow of her being predominant at the peaceful concourse of great and small nations assembled for the good of civilization in general." This somewhat vague form of expressing the conditions of future peace becomes clear, and its true meaning is shown, when associated with the Chancellor's avowal that he had "from henceforth lost all that sentimentality" which the National-Liberals and Conservatives, the realists of Pangermanism and economic Imperialism, formerly taxed him with. "Let us keep in mind from the present time, said the Vossische Zeitung, that in the final settlement, opinions must not be biassed by any sentimental considerations whatever. We have nothing to study but our own interests, and these are identical with the interests of humanity at large. As we are the paramount race our duty is to guide the course of humanity. To spare the nations who are inferior to ourselves would be to fail in our mission." Such is "the Truth" as apprehended by Germany. One can easily understand why the Vaderland of Amsterdam reminds Mr V. Bethmann-Hollweg that the violation of Belgian neutrality, and the torpedoeing of neutral vessels by German submarines, afford the small States little reason for anticipating great benefits from the "peaceful concourse" of nations, to be held under the protection of the Kaiser!

The economic and financial situation in Germany and France — At this same sitting of the Reichstag on August 19th, Mr. Helfferich, the Secretary of State for Finance, made certain declarations, which, in spite of their designed optimism, did not prevent the precarious situation of German finances from becoming known. The government, after having already obtained a vote for supplies to the amount of 20 milliard marks, finds itself obliged to float another loan of 10 milliards. And Mr. Helfferick seized this opportunity for drawing a comparison between the financial situations of Germany and of France: Germany, he said, has managed to raise a loan of 13 milliards in Treasury Bonds, whereas France was only able to raise 2 milliards and covered the remainder of her expenses caused by the war, by short time loans.—In point of fact, it is true that France first had recourse to the Bank of France and then to the National Defence Bills and Bonds of three months to ten years, reserving the option of having recourse at a later period to a loan in Consols. This system of short time loans has up to the present time, proved entirely satisfactory and advantageous. The latest balance-sheets of the Bank of France show that, for many weeks past, this country's National Debt has not increased, whilst the credit of her account has risen. The investments made in Bills and Bonds entirely cover the expenses incurred by the war. But is it necessary to remind Mr. Helfferich that Germany, besides her debt in consolidated funds has also a short time debt, for there is, in fact, a difference of about 10 milliard francs between the total amount of her war expenses and that of her loans! Half of this sum was borrowed from the Reichsbank; and the currency of the Reichsbank and Loan-Office Notes has increased to nearly 6 milliards and a half, so that this currency (which only doubled in France during the same lapse of time) has increased fourfold in Germany since the beginning of the war. If France, owing to the very considerable purchases she is daily obliged to make in other countries for her National Defence, sees her rate of exchange on foreign markets rising after one year of war, in any case she knows that the cause of this rise is only temporary. And the quick returns of metallic securities into the coffers of the Bank of France, the gradual revival of business, and of economic activity, already afford her the assurance of being enabled to discharge, by mere equivalents, the debts she may have contracted abroad, during the struggle. With regard to Germany, Mr. Helfferich finds that he himself is obliged to acknowledge that, although Germany has only been able to purchase but very little abroad since the outset of the war, her rate of exchange has been continually depreciating, which is the natural consequence of the already involved situation of the German market, with regard to other countries. After the war is over, the day will come when Germany will no longer be able to turn to such good account as formerly the contrivances she has developed unduly, in proportion to the amount of her acquired wealth; she will then see her credit and her financial power seriously affected by a war she had determined upon, and which she has waged in such a manner as to incur the reproaches and contempt of all civilized nations.

Turkish Cruelty in Armenia—By wholesale murder, the Turks have responded to the Declaration of the Allies on May 24th, holding the members of the government of the Ottoman Empire responsible for the cruelties to which, for several months past, the Armenian populations of Asia Minor had been subjected. The Turks have undertaken to exterminate an entire race, to clear Armenia of her inhabitants, and to install the Arabs of Mesopotamia in their place. The Journal de Geneve of August 25th gives heartrending particulars on this score, saying: "The extermination of the Armenians is being carried out by massacre, abjuration and transportation. The same pitiless measures are repeated in every town." During the Turkish invasion of Transcaucasia, 300 women were carried off, and 2000 Armenians massacred. In the region of Alashkert all males between the ages of 11 and 60 years were exterminated. All the inhabitants of Marsovan, Sivas, Erzerum, Erzingian Harpout, Zeitun, and the Armenians in Trebizond, have been evacuated towards the interior of the country, into the marshy and unhealthy regions of Deir-El-Zor, or even into Mesopotamia. These hundreds of refugees were escorted by 34,000 criminals, convicted for breaches of common law, whom the Turkish Government had let out of the prisons, and enrolled for this purpose. The old men, women and children, who succumbed from fatigue on the way, were mercilessly slain. Nine thousand human beings, driven like herds of cattle from the regions of Bitlis towards the shores of the river Tigris, suffered the same fate. At Mardin, in Upper Mesopotamia, the Armenian Catholic Bishop was massacred with the Christian population. At Shabinbarahisar, where some attempt was made at resistance, the town was burnt as well as the surrounding villages, while the entire region was covered with dead bodies. These wholesale massacres exceed even all the horrors committed by the Red Sultan." This martyrdom of a whole race constitutes another claim to the independence which the Armenians have gallantly won, by the stubborn resistance of their race and their civilization, struggling against a bloodthirsty domination. But while waiting for justice to be done, the world must know that these nameless horrors are perpetrated by the Allies of Germany, and at the instigation of even those who laid waste Belgium and the North of France. This is what Germany and her Allies mean by Kultur!

The war from September 1st to 15th—On the Western Front, very sharp artillery firing has been going on. On September 8th, in the Argonne, the enemy made another attempt to break through our lines, after a heavy bombardment, and the frequent use of asphyxiating shells. Very severe fighting took place in the western side of the forest, without, however, making any important change on either of the respective fronts. In the Vosges on September 9th, the Germans vainly endeavored to retake the positions they had lost on the left bank of the Fecht, from Lingekopf as far as Barrenkopf. On the same day, our trenches on the Hartmannswillerkopf summit were also attacked. The enemy was at first successful in getting a footing there, but on the 8th at night, a sharp counter-attack enabled us to regain the lost trenches and drive the Germans back to their lines.

On the Eastern Front the Austro-German offensive continues: but we have reason to believe that the rapidity of the enemy's advance, which, since the end of July has been from 2 to 4 versts a day, on an average, is gradually becoming slower. The early Autumn, thick traffic, and the work of destruction performed by the Russians, have all contributed to put the roads of Poland in a deplorable state, thus rendering the movements of heavy artillery a very difficult matter. The Czar has assumed the supreme command of his armies. On September 7th, the Russian troops in Galicia defeated the Austro-Germans near Tarnopol; the enemy's losses were heavy both in killed and wounded. 17,000 prisoners were taken and about thirty guns. The Russian armies have left the perilous position they had occupied on the advanced scene of action along the Vistula, where they ran the risk of being surrounded by the enemy. They are now resuming the offensive, partially, at different points of the front, and may look forward to the future hopefully and with assurance.

On the Italian Front, the duel of artillery firing is going on in the Valleys of Camonica and of the Visio in the basin of Plazzo, and in Cadore. The struggle continues on the Isonzo, and on the Carso where our Allies are gaining ground by degrees.

Chatham Boy Honored by King

Fred Heckbert Chosen From Among Many as Member of Guard of Honor

Mr. Fred Heckbert, who went to England with the Second Canadian Contingent, was recently honored by being chosen for the Guard of Honor for King George. The soldiers were inspected by the King and Kitchener and out of the large number they chose the 24th Battalion, from which they seletced one hundred men, Fred Heckbert among the number. King George and Kitchener were mounted and the guards lined up fifty on each side of the road. Each of the hundred men was over six feet tall and with their shining uniforms presented a pleasing appearance.

Mr. Heckbert is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Heckbert, of Chatham, and about a year ago was a member of J. D. Kennedy's tailoring staff. His brother Carl is also serving the colors and is at present in Halifax. Chatham and Newcastle friends of Mr. Heckbert will be pleased to hear of this honor being bestowed upon him.

A Good Omen For Regiment

"All Fowler" Spells 104th, But "Mersereau" Spells 105—Good Number New Battalion.

The St. John Standard, in an article in its issue of last Thursday on the popularity of Col. George W. Fowler, of the 104th Battalion, gives a tabulated form, as below, and says it is thought to be a good omen and should make the men of the 104th feel proud because they belong to the new unit.

In Sussex they say it is "All Fowler." Now by forming these two words as below and assigning to each letter the number representing its position in the alphabet, the total is 104, the number of Col. Fowler's battalion. Thus:

A	1
L	12
L	12
F	6
O	15
W	23
L	12
E	5
R	18
Total	104

This is somewhat of a co-incidence, but so is the following, relating to the new North Shore battalion, which is to be commandered by Col. George W. Mersereau. By taking the word Mersereau in a similar way, we find the total 105, and would suggest that the new North Shore Battalion be called the 105th. As:

M	13
E	5
R	18
S	19
E	5
R	18
E	5
A	1
U	21
	105

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Did Edith Cavell Die In Vain?

Analogies Between John Brown, Anti-Slavery Advocate and Edith Cavell

The British Weekly draws some analogies between the execution of Capt. John Brown, the anti-slavery advocate in Virginia and Edith Cavell. It says.

When the men of Virginia hanged the old New England farmer, they had 3,000 troops to guard the ground, and none dispited it. Slavery seemed to be at the very summit of its triumph. The negroes had no champion. There was not a minister of religion in that whole region to say that John Brown should live. And yet within a few months the storm began to mutter and to break. Soon the nation was involved in the Civil War which ended in the destruction of slavery. Slavery, in fact, was doomed when John Brown stooped down to kiss that thick-lipped child.

And as John Brown did not die in vain, so Edith Cavell has not died in vain.

In the preceding part of the article before drawing the analogy, the writer in The British Weekly says:—We shall not attempt to describe the death of Edith Cavell, or the feelings with which the news of that death have been received by all Britons and throughout the world. This is one of the foul deeds which strike the watchers dumb. One journalist says very truly and very eloquently:—"In no country of the world to-day could the thing have been done which Germany has done, and nothing done since the war began has revealed with equal vividness the awful danger to civilization and humanity which the success of German plans would have meant." That terrible scene in a German prison where, at dead of night, a German officer, in fulfilment of Prussian law, shot a fainting woman through the head, acts like a red flash of revelation, of the possibilities of another world—the world to be unfolded to all of us should Germany triumph. "It is because of these things," says an American writer, "that prayer goes up in all peaceful countries that her enemies may triumph, to the end that such ruthless rule may not be established in power upon earth." We refresh ourselves, however, with the story of her holy and prayerful end, as told by the British chaplain in Brussels who was with her on the night before the execution. This report is henceforth one of the priceless documents of humanity. Mr. Gahan says:

"To my astonishment and relief I found my friend perfectly calm and resigned. But this could not lessen the tenderness and intensity of feeling on either part during that last interview of almost an hour. Her first words to me were upon a matter concerning herself personally, but the solemn asseveration which accompanied them was made expressedly in the light of God and Eternity. She then added that she wished all her friends to know that she willingly gave her life for her country, and said: "I have no fear or shrinking. I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me. I thank God for this ten weeks' quiet before the end. Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty. This time of rest has been a great mercy. They have all been very kind to me here. But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and Eternity, I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred nor bitterness towards anyone." We partook of the Holy Communion together, and she received the Gospel message of consolation with all her heart. At the close of the little service I began to repeat the words, "Abide with me,' and she joined softly in the end. We sat quietly talking till it was time for me to go. She gave me parting messages for relations and friends. She spoke of her soul's needs at the moment, and she received the assurance of God's Word as only the Christian can do. Then I said 'Good-bye,' and she smiled and said, 'We shall meet again.'"

Did Edith Cavell die in vain?

Deserters Will Be Sent to Front

Colonel Thompson, A. A. G., Says it is Up to Officials to Round Them Up,

"Deserters from the ranks of the battalions being mobilized in Canada will be the first men to get to the firing line. We have not started to enforce the order under which deserters in war times are summarily shot, but we won't pick out the safe places at the front for any of these deserters," said Lieut. Col. Thompson, of Division Military Headquarters at Halifax.

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Grim Tale of Fight For Life

When Italian Steamer Anacona Was Sunk by Austrian Submarine

London, Nov. 11—The Italian steamer Anacona was not sunk without warning, according to information from survivors landed at Malta, sent by Reuter's correspondent.

The Austrian submarine which overhauled her after a long stern chase, gave the commander a brief respite to permit the removal of passengers, but the indescribable panic which began among the immigrants on board, so soon as the underwater craft was sighted, was responsible for the loss of many lives, in a rush for safety, men, women and children overwhelmed the boats several of which were overturned before they could be lowered.

Many of the occupants fell into the sea and were drowned. Passengers agree, the correspondent says, that shots fired around the steamer by the submarine apparently to hasten the loading of the boats, added to the panic.

Scenes of Horror

The Reuter despatch which contains the first connected story of the sinking of the Ancona on Monday afternoon twenty hours after she had left Messina, Sicily, follows:

"We left Naples with a fairly large number of passengers intending to sail direct to New York, but soon after leaving port received a wireless message directing us to stop at Messina for more passengers and cargo. The people on board were mostly Greeks and Italians, with large families on their way to the United States to settle there. The majority therefore were women and children.

"We left Messina at 5 p. m. The captain, having been warned of the presence of enemy submarines, took all possible precautions.

"At exactly one o'clock on Monday afternoon we sighted an enemy submarine at a great distance. She came to the surface and made at full speed in our direction, firing as she did so, a shot which went wide across our bow. We took this to be a warning to halt.

"Immediately there was the wildest panic aboard, not only among the women and children, but among the men as well. Women screamed and children clung desperately to their mother's skirts. Meanwhile the submarine continued to shell us, gaining rapidly. The fifth shot carried away the chart house.

"The engines were then stopped and the Ancona came slowly to a standstill. The submarine, which we could see plainly was an Austrian, came alongside. We heard the commander talking to our captain. In a somewhat curt manner we were told that the Austrian had given us a few minutes to abandon the ship. Meanwhile the submarine withdrew a little distance.

Needless Shots Add to Panic

"We turned to the boats, which began to be lowered without loss of time, but the passengers were in a pandemonium. Men, women and children seemed to lose their heads completely. The submarine, presumably to accelerate our departure continued to fire around the vessel. There was a rush for the first boats lowered and in the confusion these were overturned before they were free from the davits, the occupants falling into the water. Many were drowned before our eyes.

"The shrieks of women, children and struggling men, rent the air, but it seemed no help could be given. Everyone was trying to act for himself. The heart-rending screams were punctuated with shot after shot delivered almost mechanically from the deck of the submarine, adding to the panic aboard. Had it not been for those shots it might have been possible to restore a semblance of order. The conduct of the submarine was incomprehensible.

"Not one shot was directed at the ship, but were fired all around the vessel, as if to create as much terror as possible. About eight boats got away clear, some with a fair complement aboard, others half empty. All drifted away from each other."

Serious Charge is Made by the Ancona's Captain

London, Nov. 11—A Stefani News Agency despatch fro Tunis says:

"The commander of the Ancona, who reached here on Thursday, declares the submarine gave his vessel no signal to stop. The first sign of the presence of the submarine was shells from a distance of five miles, which grazed the steamer. The Ancona stopped dead.

"Subsequently shells hit the boats which were being made ready for launching, and many passengers were killed or wounded on the deck and in the boats. Some of the passengers, who had been thrown into the water, approached the submarine but were repelled and derided.

"Finally shells and torpedoes were fired at the Ancona from a distance of 300 yards."

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