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PROPRIETORS AND PUBLISHERS.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 1915

The German-Americans have been making themselves quite conspicuous of late by their efforts to turn the tide of American sympathy and action in favor of Germany. In fact they have proved themselves more German than American in their aims and ideals. A number assembled in Washington have favored the creation of a new political party, and have laid down several "planks" with a view to influence the present action of the Government and to indicate the stand they will take at the next general election. Two of their present demands are, "A free and open sea for the commerce of the United States,"—which really means a free and open sea by which Germany may supply herself with food and other essentials to the prosecution of the war;—and "The enactment of legislation prohibiting the exportation of munitions of war,"—which means the stopping of supplies from neutral countries to the allies, a practice in strict accordance with long established international law, and acted upon with great advantage in the Civil War. The New York Herald, referring to this movement remarks, "If those German-Americans who met in Washington on Saturday, have any friends gifted with the saving grace of common sense, such friends should lose no time in dissuading them from their foolish, futile and dangerous purpose to line-up the so-called German vote, and use it as a club in American politics."

On the other hand, a strong and persistent endeavor is being made by leading periodicals and individuals to urge the American Government to speak out against the disregard of treaties and violation of rules and conventions to which Germany set her hand and seal by her authorized representatives, together with those of the United States and other countries. Mr. Roosevelt speaks with no uncertain sound upon what he believes to be the duty of the Government under the present circumstances. Referring to the Hague Conferences, held during his Presidency, he says that all the nations engaged in the present war affixed their signatures to the regulations there adopted, although one or two qualified their acceptance or declined their signatures to certain articles. The representatives of the United States, under his direction also affixed their signatures. He urges that the United States as well as the other nations should live up to the obligations which they have voluntarily assumed. If one of these nations violates its obligations, the other signatory nations should bring a pressure to bear upon it which would be sufficient to enforce upon it obedience to its agreements.

Otherwise what would be the use of Hague Conferences; or what would be the use of any attempt to promote harmony and agreement among the nations! The undertaking of such obligations by any nation involves, in the opinion of Mr. Roosevelt, willingness to incur risk and to use effort in the endeavor to make the obligations effective. Otherwise, speaking for himself he says, he would not have consented to make the United States a party to such "a mischievous farce." The logic of the argument is indisputable. What will President Wilson and his Cabinet do?

The Montreal Wings publishes a Resolution introduced into the United States Congress by the Hon. Frank O. Smith, of Maryland, on Oct. 16, 1914, and which is still before the Congress. A similar resolution was previously introduced by Mr. Smith, and on Feb. 7, 1913, the Hon. John H. Steves of Texas, favored the same proposition. It is well remembered that when the boundary between Alaska and Canada was fixed, under the influence of Secretary Seward, a strip of land about ten miles wide on the Western Coast of British Columbia, with the neighboring islands, was ceded to the United States. This strip of land was called the Panhandle. It could be of little use to the United States, and the loss of it, preventing as it does easy access from Canadian territory to the sea, was loudly complained of as certain sooner or later to create friction between the two countries. The resolution referred to recommends the ceding of this Panhandle to Canada. The resolution is so admirable in its tone and its lessons that we copy it in its entirety.

"Whereas American meditation in the present war should be offered as there is a fair prospect of its being accepted, and meantime every effort should be made to prepare the way for successful meditation; and

"Whereas the war is due to the uncompromising attitude of European nations on certain burning questions which divide them; and

"Whereas these questions can only be settled by mutual concessions on the principle of 'Do unto others as you would they should do unto you'; and

"Whereas the most persuasive and most inoffensive way to advocate mutual concessions is by example; and

"Whereas our mediation will become a mere formality unless we prove that we ourselves are willing to make concessions, to do unto others as we would they should do unto us; and

"Whereas the narrow coast strip of southeastern Alaska, shutting off one-third of Western Canada from free access to the Pacific, has for years been a source of irritation to the Canadians and is bound to become more and more irritating as population and commerce increase in the country behind it; and

"Whereas this situation bears a close resemblance to the burning questions which have caused the present war; and

"Whereas a unique opportunity is thus presented to the United States to set before the eyes of the world the shining example of a Model Concession to Canada and thus to prove the sincerity and earnestness of our mediation, to make it more effective and impressive and a source of immortal honor to our country:

"Therefore be it

"Resolved, etc., That the President be, and he is hereby, requested to make an offer to the British and Canadian Governments to negotiate in regard to the transfer of southeastern Alaska to Canada by sale or exchange, or both."

It is to be hoped that Congress will adopt the resolution. If adopted and if a reasonable exchange or sale is effected, a long step will be taken in the way of extending the Hundred Years of Peace between the two countries whose language is the same, whose families have homes and occupations on both sides of the dividing lines, whose aims and ideals and weighty problems are so similar.

The opinion is expressed that the object of Germany in declaring the blockade of British waters is to provoke the United States to take sides openly with the Allies. If this is done, then Germany would have the opportunity to say that while she is confident of ultimate success over her present enemies, she cannot be supposed to be able to withstand the world; and by making overtures of peace, she would be able to secure a settlement more advantageous to herself than she could otherwise expect. If this is Germany's wish, it is not likely to be realized. It is not the desire of the allies to divide up Germany. Their aim is to destroy the spirit of militarism, which says that "Might is right," and "Necessity knows no law." The world will never enjoy a lasting peace while such maxims prevail.

Letter from Lieut. Governor Fraser's Neice

Miss Harriet Graham a Red Cross Nurse

Canadian No. 2 Stationary Hospital, France.

Dear Sir,

I'm sorry not to have gotten a letter off to you before this, but we have been on the jump, and have been awfully busy, and now I have my beds all turned down and am waiting for the ambulances to come in with their loads.

It is great, and we all love it. We have a dandy crowd of girls and a very nice crowd of officers, and our men are as willing as can be, though most of them are untrained; but when I see the poor souls scrubbing and doing all sorts of things they never did before, I can't but feel sorry for them. But I must start at the beginning of my story.

We have the most beautiful hospital you could imagine, and we are simply proud of ourselves, for the First Canadian Hospital to be in France.

We just commandeered a beautiful Summer hotel, turned it into it, and settled ourselves. Then we took a house belonging to Count Constantine, who married Miss Cutting, of New York, and who is in Serbia or some place on war business, for the nurses to live in, and another for the officers. They are all right together, so it makes it quite nice, and a comfortable bed to turn into at night when we get off duty. But our hospital is grand. There were big verandahs on three sides, which have been encased in glass, and make fine wards. I tell you, if you think house cleaning is hard work, and you know I do think it, I hope I don't have to clean another hotel; but we had some fun out of it too. Col. Shillington said he was going to name all the wards after the different provinces, so I said: "Well, please put Nova Scotia in the dining-room." The dining room, I must explain, is the biggest ward and right at the main entrance. "That's it," he said, "Sister Graham always wants Nova Scotia to have the biggest and best place right at the front; that is the place for Ontario, as most of the corps came from there." One of the other girls said: "But, British Columbia is the biggest Province." "Well," I said, "we will have to put the names in a hat and draw for it," and the fun of it is Nova Scotia has it—the prettiest ward, with seventy-five beds and the most important place. We all were extremely pleased. I'm going to send Dr. Nelly and see if he can get me a Nova Scotia flag for it. At present I am sitting in Quebec as they are going to receive tonight.

Pearl is on night duty, but it is not so awful, or at least has not been so far, as the nights we receive we all stay in and help. You know, they always come in at night. We have fifteen ambulances and they each carry four patients, and when they all make about three trips it makes quite a number of patients. I am not allowed to tell how many patients we have or how many we can take, but you can tell. Kif we can take twice as many as St. Luke's, and, of course, may have to take more than that at any time. Oh! my, but it is great. I just love it, even though it's ten o'clock now and I have been on all day, and they have not started to come in yet. I see where we don't get to bed tonight. By the time we get the poor souls into bed and half way clean, and a dressing done, it's morning before you know it, and the poor creatures, you would be sorry for them, they are so filthy, and many times just alive with vermin. Pearl said tonight: "Isn't it funny, in our hospitals we despised men who were dirty, and here the women they are, the better we like them." When they say, "Keep away from me, I'm so dirty, but I have been in the trenches, and I haven't had a bath for so many weeks," I just feel like saying, "I honor your dirt!"

I hear we are getting a consignment of Germans tonight. I wonder sometimes if it is a sin to feel so awful to our enemies. I don't know if there's much in the papers at home about them, and the awful things they do.

4 a. m.—The ambulance started to come just then, so I had to stop, and now must turn in, as 7 a. m. comes soon, and I will try and finish this tomorrow.

Dec. 4.—It is time again to go to bed, I suppose, but it seems to be the only time for letter writing, and I know how you all at home must look for a line, and then it seems so far to send a letter with nothing in it. When we get our hospital in better running order, we may have more time; though, of course, we are all dreading the Spring, and the diseases that must come in this war.

Our patients of last night are mostly happy today. I spend all the pennies I can find on cigarettes for them, poor boys, it seems to do more to quiet their nerves than anything else. I wish I could tell you one of their tales, but I'm afraid my letter would never go by the censor. One of my patients is just a lad of eighteen, and the nicest kind of a kid. He told me his two pals were shot and killed. I said: "Weren't you awfully afraid?" "Yes, sister," he said, "I was awfully afraid at first; there was just thirty yards between the German trenches and ours; but I soon got over it. You see, sister, it's like this, there is no use trying to dodge them, if the bullet's for you, you'll get it."

He then turned his arms round as long before he could get back. "Why," I said, "did you wait to go back?" He just looked at me and said: "Does anybody want to go to Hell, sister?" And, poor kid, he will have to go back, because he is not very badly injured. Some of the tales they tell are too awful, too terrible to write about. The "Jack Johnsons," as the Tommies call the German's big guns, are really devilish, and although we are as far from the firing as three-quarters of the way to Truro, still the guns can be heard quite distinctly at night. That will give you some idea what the noise must be close up, and is it any wonder that the poor boys' nerves are in most cases completely gone, but I must not write of such things.

Miss McDonald was here to see us, and we were so glad to have her. She is so nice, and I get fond of her all the time. If we are here, and if she can manage it and a few more "Pitts" she is coming to spend Christmas with us. I suppose it will be nearly Christmas before you get this, possibly after. Give me love and best wishes for Christmas and New Year's to all the friends. I received some Halifax papers last night from Mr. Nelly, one of which gave a list of the Picou County boys going in the next contingent. I was sorry not to see more familiar names from New Glasgow. I am afraid they don't realize what this war means. I tell you it's awful to think of when our boys come over, but I would be ashamed if Wendell was any place else but right where he is now. Well I must stop and turn in.

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