

BAYONETS AND BALLOTS AGAINST GERMAN 'KULTUR'

THE MURDER OF EDITH CAVELL

Official Story of Crime That Shocked the World

It is to Save Our Own Women From Those Murderers That Canada Fights and Votes Today

It was on October twenty-second, 1915, that the world, still sick and shuddering from the Lusitania horror, awoke to the realization that once again Germany had deliberately set aside all laws of peace or war, all considerations not only of chivalry, but of mere humanity, had in a word, again stepped beyond the pale of civilization. On that day the British Foreign Office made public the report of Brand Whitlock, United States Ambassador to Belgium on the "trial" and "execution" of Edith Cavell.

For days the world had waited for news of her. It had become generally known that a form of trial of some sort had either taken place or was about to take place. In some quarters fears were expressed as to her fate—in some quarters, but not in many. The idea that she would actually be put to death does not seem seriously to have occurred to anybody either in England or America. This is not surprising, for as we shall see, even neutral representatives within sight of the prison in which she lay did not conceive it possible that a prisoner—least of all a woman—accused of the military "crime" charged against Edith Cavell would suffer the extreme penalty.

What was the story of this woman's death that aroused the world to a white heat of righteous indignation? There have been many military executions of women before and some since which would generally known have caused no comment. What were the circumstances surrounding this case which made the names of the men responsible for her death ring round the world in a chorus of universal execration? It will be best to give them in the order of their occurrence.

WOULD NOT ESCAPE.

Edith Cavell was an Englishwoman, who for some time before the outbreak of the war was the head of a big nursing institution in Brussels. Before the Germans entered the city, she had plenty of time to escape, but she chose rather to remain at her post of duty. There was plenty for her to do. Wounded soldiers, French, Germans, and Belgians flooded the city and French, Germans and Belgians alike were received and cared for tenderly and impartially by her and by her assistants. After her death when the Germans, thoroughly startled by the general denunciations of their action sought by every possible means to belittle the name of the woman they had killed, the then German Foreign Secretary then declared that she gave her services only at a price beyond the reach of all save the rich. That was a lie and a very cheap lie even for the All-Highest's official mouthpiece as the evidence of many of the former's men can prove.

HER ARREST.

It was on August 12th that Edith Cavell was quietly arrested; so quietly that news of the arrest did not leak out till the last day of the month. Then Mr. Whitlock, who was looking after the interests of British subjects in Brussels, received a communication from the British Foreign Office asking him to look into her case. He wrote on that day to Baron von der Lancken, civil governor of Brussels, asking whether she was under arrest. The Governor did not even deign to reply, in itself a sufficiently serious breach of international etiquette. On September 10 Mr. Whitlock wrote again asking permission to take up the defence of Miss Cavell with the least possible delay. To this von der Lancken replied that the prisoner had admitted having concealed in her house various English and French soldiers as well as Belgians of military age, having provided them with funds and having facilitated their departure from Belgium. He added that her defence had been entrusted to an advocate by the name of Braun "who is in touch with the proper German authorities" and concluded that these German authorities refused to allow interviews of any kind with the accused person. Maître Gaston de Laval, counsel for the American Legation, was therefore never permitted to see her.

He did, however, manage to get an interview with Braun, only to learn that the latter had dropped out of the case and was replaced by one Kirschen. Kirschen in turn disclosed the appalling fact that lawyers defending prisoners before German military courts are not allowed to see their clients before the trial and are shown none of the documents of the prosecution. It was therefore manifestly impossible to prepare any defence save in the presence of the court and during the trial. Maître de Laval then expressed his intention of being present, whereupon Kirschen strongly urged him not to, on the ground that his presence would hurt prisoners rather than help her. He would send the names of a representative of the American Legation, even in a waiting room. Other Belgian lawyers who

had had experience of German military courts in operation, confirmed this almost unbelievable fact. Kirschen solemnly promised de Laval to keep him most fully posted in all the developments of the case.

THE TRIAL.

We come now to Thursday, October 7. The trial began that day and ended on the next. As to what evidence was brought out at the trial, or how the trial was conducted, we know nothing and probably never shall. We know, however, that she was accused of having sheltered and aided soldiers to escape. This she admitted very frankly, as did other persons tried with her. There was never any mention of espionage—it was not till many months afterwards and for the same reason which prompted the Kaiser's sneer noted above that Germans began to speak of the "Spy Cavell." She was a British subject and could not be tried by a German court on the charge of treason. As has been said, Miss Cavell admitted her "crimes" and even volunteered the information that some of the men so aided had written her from England thanking her for her assistance. This made the case worse for her. It laid her open to the "criminal" charge (in the military sense) of having aided soldiers to reach a country at war with Germany instead merely of a violation of the passport regulations into Holland. It would be interesting to know why her "counsel" Herr Kirschen, did not prevent her from prejudicing her case in this way.

The prosecutor asked that the death sentence be passed under paragraph 90 of the German Military Code, which condemns to death those guilty of "conducting soldiers to the enemy." Obviously only the most strained reading of the paragraph could make it apply to the prisoner's case. All this de Laval gathered only at second hand, and this brings us to Sunday night, October tenth.

REFUSED HER CHERGYMAN.

On October twelfth de Laval made two requests, one that he be allowed to see Miss Cavell, the other that she might have the services of Mr. Gahan, the English chaplain. Both of these requests were flatly refused, word coming that she might see any one of the three Protestant German chaplains instead. De Laval was further told that even if sentence of death were passed it could be confirmed only by the Military Governor, who was away from Berlin for two or three days. But sentence had not yet been pronounced it was most categorically stated, and probably no decision would be arrived at for two days. Once again a promise was given to de Laval and the United States Embassy and repeated half a dozen times that day that every move would be immediately reported.

At 5:30 that night de Laval got word that Edith Cavell was to be shot during the night. The Spanish Minister was hurriedly sought out and he, de Laval and Hugh Gibson, secretary of the American Legation, rushed to von der Lancken. He was spending the evening at a disreputable theatre and there was much difficulty in getting an order to disclose his whereabouts. It was not till 10:30 that the Civil Governor deigned to return accompanied by two members of his staff. Then began a night of earnest pleading and striving for the life of the little woman in prison. Lancken over and over again, protested his ignorance, begged his callers to go home and sleep "reasonably" over the matter and come again in the morning. It was only when the callers began to "rather insist" (in the diplomatic language of Gibson) that the irritated Governor agreed to telephone to the preceding judge of the court-martial. He came back with the news that Miss Cavell was to be shot during the night. There followed two hours of the most earnest entreaty and persuasion. Lancken could probably have done nothing himself, but he flatly refused to communicate with those who could. The arguments used by the callers were sufficiently blunt. They called a spade a spade more than once. Lancken swallowed it. One member of his staff regretted openly that there were not "two or three old English women to shoot." Finally, long after midnight, when it became apparent that nothing could be done, the three men left to break the news to the little knot of women who had worked with the prisoner and loved her. Gibson tramped the streets all night unable to sleep.

HER LAST MOMENTS.

Maître Reverend Mr. Gahan had gained permission to see the condemned woman. She was calm and faced the ordeal without a tremor, "a tiny thing that looked as though she could be blown away by a breeze." She had no complaint to make; if it were all to do over again she would do it. The most pathetic of all was her statement that she thanked God for the six weeks she had passed in prison—the nearest approach to rest she had known for years. The period, together with the Holy Communion, her last words to him were: "I realize that

IN THE TRAIL OF THE ZEPPELINS



"But mother has done nothing, has she, Daddy?"

patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards any one."

They shot her just before day-break. She was denied the support of her own clergyman at the end. The German chaplain who was with her then did not attempt to conceal his admiration. "She was courageous to the end," she said she was glad to die for her country. She died like a hero," he said. They refused to give her body to her friends. She is buried within the prison walls of St. Gilles.

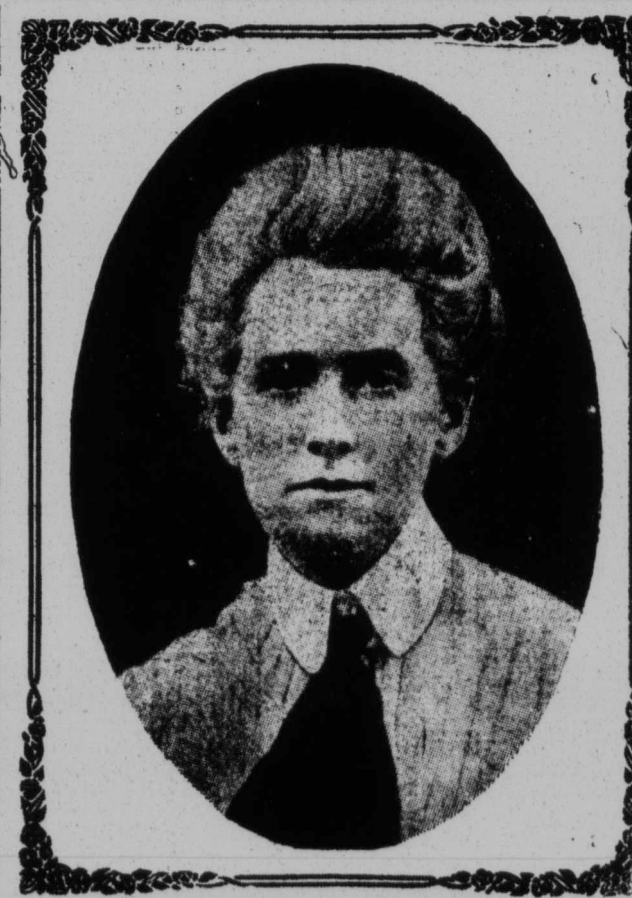
ALL RIGHTS DENIED

These are the bold facts of her trial and death. A greater and more studied outrage in the name of justice was never perpetrated. Every fundamental right of the individual was denied her. There was in the first place no reason for a court-martial for the German civil tribunals in Brussels were all in operation. We do not compel anyone to testify against himself. We inform a prisoner in advance of his trial of the charge on which he is held. We allow communication between prisoner and counsel, our trials are public and open. Most nauseating of all perhaps, Edith Cavell's judges did not pass sentence on her in court. At dead of night they stepped quietly into her cell and told her of her doom behind locked doors. At the supreme moment she was denied the simple privilege of one kindly face, one supporting friendly hand.

Later on when Germany realized that this shooting of one old English woman had stirred the world as no other single crime in a century, there was a frantic seeking of excuses. Herr Zimmermann, the Foreign Secretary himself led the van of the seekers. His discovery was that the judges had no discretion in the matter; that the military code had to be observed. But he made the bad mistake of admitting in the next breath that women who expected to be mothers were never subjected to the extreme penalty. Now the German military code makes no such exception. Evidently then the plea of no discretion was nothing at all. Not even the Kaiser himself could have pardoned Miss Cavell said von Lancken. When the Kaiser heard this von Lancken was called on for an explanation and was in very hot water for some days. As a matter of fact and as soon as he realized the very serious harm the shooting of Miss Cavell had done to the German cause he made haste to pardon every woman who had been tried with her and advertised the fact to the greatest possible extent, through the King of Spain. He no doubt realized that in this case as in the murder of the Duc d'Enghien by Napoleon a century earlier what had happened was "worse than a crime, it was a blunder."

WHAT END SERVED?

What end was served by this killing of Edith Cavell? Why was it necessary to rush through a farcical trial impose sentence in a cell with locked doors and hurry the friendless prisoner to death all within a few hours? Why was it necessary to add lying to murder in order, if possible to screen the whole bloody business from the eyes of a handful of helpless representatives of friendly powers. Why, when a German woman was caught red handed in actual espionage in England some time before she was given public trial before civil courts with every observance of British law? Why did she escape with a light prison sentence? The two cases are as far apart as the poles. The one was justice, flavored by mercy, the other brutal judicial murder. When Zimmerman expressed "pity that Miss Cavell had to be executed," Edith Cavell was as far above his pity as mercy was above the understanding of the henchmen of Brussels who did her to death.



EDITH CAVELL — MARTYR

FOOD PROFITS CUT; A GREAT BLOW FOR LOWER LIVING COSTS

The Union Government's action in taking control of the packing business is regarded as the hardest blow struck yet at the cost of living. The official announcement, issued at Ottawa on November 13, says:

"In carrying out the policy of the Union Government, as announced by the Prime Minister shortly after its formation, it has been decided to establish effective control over all packing houses in Canada.

"The control of profits shall be as follows:

- "1. No packer shall be entitled to a profit of more than two per cent of his total annual turnover, that is, his total sales during any one year.
- "2. If the two per cent, on annual turnover exceeds seven per cent of the actual capital invested in the business the profits shall be further restricted as follows:
 - "(a) Up to seven per cent, on capital the packer may retain the profits.
 - "(b) If the profits exceed seven per cent, and do not exceed fifteen per cent., one-half of the profits in excess of seven per cent shall belong to the packer and one-half to the Government.
 - "(c) All profits in excess of fifteen per cent. shall belong to the Government.

WILL THE CANADIAN WOMEN GIVE THEIR SOLDIERS COMFORTS—BUT NOT VICTORY?

There has been nothing more beautiful since the war began than the devotion of the women-folk of the soldiers to their men living in discomfort and danger. They have in the great majority of cases abandoned every other interest in life and given themselves up entirely to working for the boys at the front. They knit them warm socks for the wet trenches—they send them heavy sweaters to keep out the searching cold of a Flemish winter—they ship them all sorts of comfortable garments and familiar delicacies—they equip the hospitals in which they may chance any day to lie with everything thinkable to restore their strength and while away the tedious time.

Their minds can dwell upon nothing but their best beloved on the battlefield—how they can comfort them, sustain them, keep them in good health and good heart, and enable them to press on like good soldiers. Is it conceivable then that these same devoted women-folk of our magnificent men in the army will deliberately deny to these men the one thing they most covet? Is it conceivable that they will work night and day to give these soldier boys of theirs mere bodily comfort, and then will not spare half-an-hour to cast a vote which will give them what they value immeasurably more—the reinforcements which will bring VICTORY?

Touch the elbow of any Canadian soldier at the front and ask him what is the single, big, dazzling thing he wants out of all the best gifts the world can offer? Will he say "another pair of socks?" Will he say "a jar of jam?" It is too ridiculous to dwell on these trivialities, no matter how grateful and necessary they are. The all-engrossing, dominating, towering thought in the soldier's mind dwarfs everything else, is beating the Boches and saving civilization.

There ought to be no trouble in our visualizing this even away over here in peaceful Canada. Our boys are risking their lives in Europe; and we may be very sure that they are doing this for no slight object. All the comfort-bringing things we do for them only enable them to "carry on" and take this deadly risk for a longer time. The big thing is the risk—not the hardships or the sufferings. The big thing, in a word, is their being there at all. And why are they there? To win the war!—that and that alone.

What they want their women-folk to do for them above everything else, is to help them with the war. They enjoy comforts, but with every drop of blood in their veins they demand VICTORY. They will die willingly if they can be assured that those who come after them will persevere until they have won VICTORY. They themselves cannot win this VICTORY alone. They hoped to do so when they enlisted, but the fates have been against them. Russia has fallen into disorder and Italy has suffered a terrible check. More and more troops must now come if VICTORY is to be obtained. And that is what they supremely desire to be assured of to-day.

They look back to their women-folk in Canada to vote solidly for the steady stream of reinforcements which is to win the VICTORY, whether they happily live to see it or not. Their chances of living to see it will be greatly increased with every new regiment which the Canadian electors, men and women, vote to send over. Every new regiment not only brings the VICTORY nearer, but relieves the strain on the men now under arms. It brings three things, relief, hope and VICTORY; but the greatest of these is VICTORY.

It is impossible to believe that this appeal from the fathers, husbands, brothers and sons at the front will be disregarded by their sincerely loving and anxiously listening and devotedly laboring women-folk at home. They will vote as they have been working and longing and hoping. They will not give their beloved everything else, but deny them this one thing most desperately desired.

Borden's Military Service Act vs. Laurier's Militia Act

The Military Service Act of 1917 is much more lenient and sympathetic in its provisions than was the Military Act of 1906, as amended by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1904.

The old Act empowered the Government to send overseas when necessary for the defence of Canada all British subjects in Canada between the ages of eighteen and sixty years. The Military Service Act calls for but 100,000 men, between the ages of 20 and 34, raised not by the Government but by Parliament.

Injustice was inevitable under the old Militia Act, because the men were selected by the ballot, or blind chance. Under the new Act, the men are selected intelligently and sympathetically by civilian tribunals. Again, under the old Militia Act as left on the statute books by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the first class included men eighteen years of age. The present Act leaves such young men immune, starting to take soldiers only at the age of twenty.

All male British subjects in Canada between the ages of eighteen and sixty were liable for service under the Militia Act. Under the Military Act of 1917, only 100,000 of the men between 20 and 60 years of age are liable.

The old system enabled the existing Government to call out all these men at its pleasure, whereas the present Government had adopted the more democratic way of securing an Act of Parliament for each call.

The old Militia Act empowered military officers, in an emergency, to alter or destroy all buildings, lands, food, crops, fodder, stores, etc.; in fact, the entire possessions of the people. The new Military Service Act gives no such powers to the military, but puts the control of the measure in civilian hands. Exemption boards of private citizens, judges and the local police administer the Act.

Pay for the rank and file under the new Act is more than twice as high as was their pay as laid down by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1904.

Berlin, Ont. Pro-Germans Insult Borden

They Stand on the Laurier-Bourassa Platform

How Would The Kaiser Vote?

Kitchener, Ontario, until a few months ago, bore the name of Berlin. It is the centre of a district mainly settled by Germans. When the name of the town was changed a large section of the community made a brazenly violent protest.

On Saturday a howling mob in Kitchener (ex-Berlin) shouted down the Premier of Canada and refused to hear him discuss war issues. Reports say that about 30 per cent. of the audience were hostile.

Sir Robert Borden could ask for no better recommendation for himself and his war policy than this behaviour by the pro-German section of Kitchener (ex-Berlin).

It goes far toward answering the question that puts like a flash of lightning across all the minor issues of this campaign. "How would the Kaiser vote?"