

Lusitania Incident

How the 'Casket' Regards the Act

It is said that the Lusitania carried ammunition and copper for the Allies. Probably that is true; and, if true, it would have justified the Germans in capturing the ship and cargo, and possibly in sinking the ship and cargo. But the slaughter of the innocent and non-combatant passengers was an act such as hardly disgraced the careers of Morgan or Kidd, or that if any of the buccaneers of by-gone times. The pretence that the ship was running a blockade is mere nonsense. There is no German blockade of the British coasts, and there can be no pretence to one while less than one per cent. of the inward and outward bound shipping is touched by the Germans. No ship is bound to respect a mere shadow of a blockade, but only a real blockade, what international law calls an effective blockade. The Lusitania was therefore within her rights in pursuing her voyage; and no extraordinary punishment was due to her. She might according to the laws of war, properly have been captured or sunk, being a British ship, at least if she carried war supplies. But her passengers were entitled to their lives. They had a right to sail for England, because England is not effectively blockaded.

What we have written elsewhere in this issue on torpedoing of the Lusitania is written on the understanding that the ship was not warned to stop and put her passengers in the boats. Such a warning was required, not only by the laws of war, but by the ordinary principles of fair play and civilized action. If such a warning was given, and the ship's officers did not communicate it to the passengers, but persisted in trying to escape, it may be necessary to readjust our views to some extent. There is no question about the right of the Germans to prevent a shipload of ammunition and copper, such as the Lusitania carried from reaching Great Britain. The presence of non-combatant passengers on the ship alters the situation; but it is plain that all cargoes of ammunition might be protected by carrying them in passenger ships; and such a means of protection could hardly be recognized absolutely by any people at war. The Germans, therefore, had some rights in regard to the ship and cargo. The extent of such rights, and the extent to which they are modified by the presence of innocent passengers, we cannot at this moment state. A warning and a chance to escape in the boats would unquestionably be required; and if no such warning and chance were given, the case is one of wholesale and most brutal murder. On the other hand, the officers of a ship which carries a cargo of war supplies together with a large number of innocent passengers, have grave obligations, and are in a difficult position. If they should refuse to stop in the presence of a hostile warship, and particularly if they should neglect to tell the passengers of any chance offered for them to leave the ship, then certainly the case would be altered considerably. We make these comments because on carefully reading the late despatches, we cannot make out very well just what took place.

We see that Lord Mersey, who presided at the inquiry into the loss of the Empress of Ireland at Quebec last year, is to hold an inquiry. Certainly the warning issued by the Germans before the Lusitania left New York, that they intended to sink her and

that passengers would sail on her at their peril, was not enough to dispense with the necessity of a warning, and a chance to escape, to be given on the spot; particularly in view of the fact that the German so-called blockade has now lasted for three months and has been at all effective enough to call for general obedience by merchant ships. They might as well say that because a small band of sharpshooters succeeded in picking off an occasional passer-by, to or from a certain city, that that city was effectively invested or besieged. Obviously, that will not do at all. But, the question arises—and it is a difficult question—if passenger ships make a practice of carrying arms and ammunition for the use of one's opponents, and if they are intercepted, and a chance given them to stop and to put their passengers in the boats, and they do not accept the chance, but depend on their speed to get away, how far is the enemy bound to allow the cargoes of arms and ammunition to escape? This is a most interesting question, and we should be glad to know what the right solution of it is. "The Casket."

A Tea Party Behind Trenches in Poland

Vivid Description of the Splendid Organization of the German Hospital Service.

A vivid description of the efficient and business-like organization of the German hospital service in Poland is contained in an article copyrighted by the Chicago Tribune and written by James O'Donnell Bennett. The article in part follows:

"I don't care much about afternoon teas, but we had a tea party in Mława this afternoon which was unique as to some of its features and deserves a place in the social intelligence if not in the military."

"The host was the herr professor and Captain Georg Michaelis, doctor of medicine and philosophy and one of the heads of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin, at present serving with the rank and pay of captain, though he will be a colonel when the troops now concentrated in this region get formally organized into a corps."

"Among those present were a colonel, three lieutenants and a Berlin art critic, who has joined the K. F. A. K. and gets routed out of bed at 2 in the morning to go on blind hunts for detachments of wounded."

War and Bacilli.

"The tea table talk ran on war and bacilli, and the professor drew enthusiastic parallels between the so-called Prussian militarism and the human body's method of maintaining itself against the war of the bacilli."

"All this was too deep for me, but the three lieutenants followed the dashing recital of the battle of the bacilli with awed donnerwetters and agreed that it was great fighting."

"Besides inoculation and vaccination the purpose of this field laboratory is to hunt typhus and cholera bacilli in blood brought from suspected patients and to exercise a general supervision of the water distillation plants in Mława."

"On tables standing in front of the three high windows of the room were four microscopes, and under the barrel of each microscope was the glass slide that carried the suspected drop of blood or drop of water."

"Almost always suspicion proved justified, and a peep into the microscopes showed the bacilli flourishing happily."

"On the other side of the room the groves for the making of cultures and various other laboratory paraphernalia were set out on tables and trestles; and army chests, and these were, tended with much devotion by two pretty young ladies."

"They were dressed in white and made a picture you would not forget in a month's journey—their coloring delicate their professional manner

Big Mid-Week Programme at THE NICKEL

"THE EMPEROR'S SPY"

A strong social drama—a girl spy attempts to obtain information from a young army officer.

"BROKEN NOSE BAILEY"

Produced in 2 parts—a very thrilling and exciting detective story—you will remember Blue Pete's escape—this is by the same cast.

"The New York Police Carnival"

1,000 feet showing this great body of men with all their athletic champions—at drill—at sport—at duty—a wonderful picture.

"THE BAGGAGE SMASHER"

A Keystone comedy.

HOWARD STANLEY, Vocalist.

BURNARD SPENCER, Violinist.

"THE PEDDLER'S BAG"

A Biograph melo-drama.

MISS K. RING, Pianist.

JOSEPH ROSS, Realism.

COMING—next Wednesday—"THE MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY"—a continued story by Harold MacGrath—in 46 Reels—one episode or two reels will be shown each Wednesday and Thursday—see it from the start—it's absolutely great.

A Tremendous Hit

Kalem's Masterpiece in 5 parts:—

"THE BOER WAR"

THOUSANDS OF MEN AND HORSES—INFANTRY—CAVALRY—ARTILLERY—BEAUTIFUL STORY—WONDERFUL INCIDENTS—THRILLING ACTION.

THE UNIVERSAL VERDICT IS:—THE GREATEST WAR PICTURE EVER SEEN IN ST. JOHN'S.

Don't Miss **THE CASINO** To-Night
IT'S WELL WORTH WHILE.

Commencing next MONDAY AFTERNOON at 3 p.m., the one and only

QUO VADIS, in 8 Parts.

MATINEE EVERY DAY AT 3—TWO SHOWS EVERY NIGHT 7.15 and 9.15.

East
End

ROSSLEY'S THEATRES

West
End

St. John's leading Vaudeville and Moving Picture Theatre, with finest Orchestra. Mr. A. Crocker, leader.

Friday Big Fun Contest. Seats on Sale at The Rossley Theatre from 11 a.m. to-day and Friday.

BIG NOVELTY PROGRAMME.

Great Dramatic Sketch, "THE HEART OF A GIRL!"

By Mr. Ballard Brown and Miss Madge Locke.

GREAT MILITARY FEATURE, in 2 REELS, viz:

"THE ARMY SURGEON."

"A GLASS OF GOAT'S MILK," splendid comedy.

"SAMMY THE SOLE HEIR," comedy.

"DEADWOOD'S COACH," Western drama.

"RINKING MAD," one of the greatest laugh films ever seen.

Empire Day, The Hit of the Season, POTTED PANTOMINE.

THE CRESCENT PICTURE PALACE

Big Mid-Week Feature Programme

"THE SECRET FORMULA"

A great 2 reel Kalem feature—beautifully staged and acted.

"GHOSTS" OR WHO'S AFRAID—A Vitagraph comedy drama. "THE CONFISCATED COUNT"—A Kalem comedy. The Count's prospective mother-in-law protests against paying duty on the import of a foreign nobleman. "A SUBSTITUTE FOR PANTS"—A comedy drama with Ruth Roland. "HISTORIC TARRYTOWN"—A topical film showing the historic and beauty spots of Tarrytown.

M. J. DELMONICO—the man with the double voice—sings a new novelty song—"CALIFORNIA AND YOU."

SPECIAL PROGRAMME ON EMPIRE DAY—Mr. Delmonico will give a fifteen minute Vaudeville Act.

so deft and swift and their social manner so gracious.

"When it came time for the tea party the two assisting hostesses suspended the hunt for the cholera, typhus and dysentery germs, took a final look at the thermometers attached to the culture thingamajigs and slipped out of their white overdrresses."

"From various corners they brought good things to eat and drink—little packages of tea and tins of loaf sugar and condensed milk, and rum in a de-praved looking black bottle, and sweet biscuits that had been left over from the packages of liebesgabe which had been sent from Germany to give a touch of something special to the little parties given here behind the battle lines in celebration of the emperor's birthday."

"There was no table linen—only a bit of oilcloth—and the water had to be heated over a spirit lamp. The teacups did not match and the teapot was minus a handle, but all that made for joking that was well enough understood by the Germans, who spoke no English, and by the American who could only blunder in German."

Makes For Friendliness.

"There were not enough spoons, but one could borrow his neighbor's, and that made for friendliness in quite a wonderful way. So we managed famously, and the spirit of it all was charming, especially when the plant on a window ledge—which the girls had found, heaven knows where—was brought over and set in the middle of the table."

"While the typhus bacilli sported convulsively under the microscopes there was talk of many things, and the best talk I think was that of a young painter soldier from the north, who is just back with the troops after a siege of illness and who has authorized his friends at home in Bremen to hold an exhibition sale of some of his pictures so that he can make a contribution of money as well as a contribution of himself to his country in its need."

"He loved to talk about his regiment—all infantry volunteers from Bremen who had done their first fighting in September at Bailly or some such name—on the west front. He gave me some data as to the personnel of the particular 'Korporalschaft,' or corporal's squad of twenty-five men, to

which he belongs, and I thought the data would be hard to fit in with the 'Hun' and 'barbarian' myth which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and some other Englishmen of letters like to accept as gospel."

"Here are some of the twenty-five men who marched out of Bremen in that corporal'schaft:

"One painter, one composer, one sculptor, two theological students, five law students, two poets, one letter carrier (oldish), one architect, two medical students, one physician."

"All those seventeen were privates. "The occupation of the other seven men of the squad my painter friend could not remember, but he thought they were mostly young business men."

"Now comes the terrible part. Of the twenty-five, fifteen have died on the field of honor. Of the remaining ten, four are sick, three are recovering from wounds, and three are at the front."

First Time Under Fire.

"At Bailly this regiment came for the first time under fire, and the painter, though he loved to talk of that day, could not do it without choking up."

"We did not know how we would

stand when we went into the fight," he said. "We could not be sure. But, oh, we did stand! It was bean-ti-ful how we stood! And we were victorious too. One cannot say how beautiful it was! Two of my korporalschaft fell in that fight. Two weeks later we lost four more, but since then—ah, so many more!"

THE REFORMER

You cannot make the reformer more lonely than he always has been. Again, and yet again, men will ask him to cease being true to type for a little while to give them a respite from his intensity, his fierce handling of the sore spots in human consciousness. But he gives them no rest. He has no gentle speeches, no playful interludes; he has driven himself hard at the flinty opposition, till he has become stern and solitary. One thing he sees, one thing he does. Sometimes with over emphasis, sometimes with heat and rage; sometimes wearily and unwisely, but still he drives on, as if himself driven by overmastering command. Men grow tired of him, for the novelty of his onslaught soon stales, and

they turn to a blither champion. If for a time they speak well of him, he quickly sats their teeth on edge by smiting their dearest traditions. To carry through to the end an unflinching, sturdy attack on privilege, an established power in any of its worldly manifestations means that the fighter is seamed and scarred and broken before he has half finished his fight. The forces he has challenged will surely reach some personal weakness, and reveal an infirmity of temper in a youthful slip. At this they will direct their attack till they force from his the cry of pain. It may be that the world shall read "his victory in children's eyes." But he will not live to see that day. What he will live to see is more hate, more scorn. Sometimes he will wonder if all the anxious striving is quite worth while. He will wonder if the long future is a safe custodian for the precious element in his individual life, which might have gladdened others and enriched his own career. —"Catholic Record."

It is said that from B. C. 1496 to A. D. 1861 Europe had 227 years of peace and 3116 years of war.

SALT :- SALT

Steamer Now Discharging
Selling at LOWEST Prices

Fishermen's Union Trading Co.
Limited

SCHOONERS WANTED !

We require Twenty Schooners to
Freight SALT to the North.

Apply Immediately

Fishermen's Union Trading Co.
Limited.