

Like Sunday School Teachers Are the Huns and Vandals Beside the Germans

Dr. Charles T. Baylis Tells Story of Belgian
Atrocities—Awful Scenes of Devastation

BRINGING photographs and affidavits by diplomatic representatives and by others to prove his assertion that the treatment of Belgians by the Germans will take place as the most inhuman act in the history of the world, Dr. Charles T. Baylis, of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, returned from that country yesterday on board the Cunard Line. Dr. Baylis' home is in Brooklyn.

Accompanied by F. H. Gaylor of Virginia, and E. D. Curtis of Cambridge, Mass., American Rhodes scholars at Oxford University, Dr. Baylis made a one thousand mile tour of the stricken country by automobile.

"If the lid is ever lifted and the true stories of the appalling atrocities and outrages are ever told, the Germans will make the Huns and Vandals look like Sunday school teachers," he said. "I have brought with me the most amazing series of affidavits and pictures ever taken and I have seen in Belgium such suffering and woe as is inconceivable.

"For six weeks I went through the country and everywhere I faced such desolation that I was a nervous wreck when I returned to London. The affidavits which I took were all from men of unimpeachable reputations. Diplomats, burgomasters, clergy of every degree, all told me the same stories and backed them up with optical proof.

"I spent a day with Cardinal Mercier of Mechlin, who was surprised by the Germans because of his pastoral letter. With tears streaming down his face he repeated to me experiences through which he had passed. He told me of girls and women he had visited in a clerical capacity and of outrages he had witnessed.

Though the Germans have persecuted him they have not broken his indomitable spirit. He related to me such horrible things that I could easily understand the ineffable woe which is stamped on the faces of the starving, ragged women and children who clamor everywhere for food.

Tells of Ruined Towns.

"I heard the story of the looting and burning of Louvain from Mer de Becher, president of the American College there. With hands tightly gripped together he told me that the

Germans entered Louvain four days before its destruction and that from the moment they entered until they left, after destroying the town to hide evidences of their crime, they committed such outrages that they defied belief.

"I was at Namur, Liege, Dinant, Charleroi, and the other ruined towns. We have heard of them but we have not heard of the hundreds of smaller cities which met a like fate. At Ghent and Namur I heard the far off thunder of guns and saw hordes of Germans. They are madly throwing up enormous breastworks and defences, for they foresee a desperate struggle within a few weeks.

"I saw hundreds of thousands of Lord Kitchener's new army passing through France. Grim, determined young men, in the pink of condition, they swung along toward Belgium. Army officers with whom I talked told me that almost at any moment they expected orders to advance in the most terrible assault of the war. They are confident that when the great advance is under way the Germans will be pushed back forever."

Holland, Dr. Baylis said, is on the verge of war. The country has 450,000 men under arms and they are growing more and more restive. The constant influx of refugees from Belgium and their pitiable condition, he said, were stirring the Dutch people until the government feared they would demand war.

Was Six Weeks on the German Cruiser Kronprinz—Says the Germans Were Playing a Game of Bluff

London, March 22.—The Daily Chronicle tells the story of six weeks' adventure as a prisoner of war on board the German commerce raider Kronprinz Wilhelm as related yesterday by a member of the crew, J. H. Allan, of the steamship Potaro, who arrived at Liverpool on the sailing ship Desado.

The Potaro left Liverpool on Christmas Day for Montevideo, and on January 8th the crew sighted a four-funneled cruiser, which they believed to be British. She came up to the ship and fired two shots across her bow, and the ship then discovered it was the Kronprinz. Time was given to them in which to get their effects together and then all of the crew were taken aboard the raider and the Potaro sailed away with a prize crew on board. On January 14th the Nelson liner Highland Brae was similarly treated. The crew and passengers, including a number of women and children and a prize crew were put aboard.

A Game of Bluff

Later the same day the three-masted schooner Wilfred M. was held up and the crew were transferred. The Kronprinz rammed her twice, but she was not sunk and the Germans left her with her

will place at the disposal of the American commission. They were smuggled out of Belgium through the aid of certain officials there. Dr. Baylis is anxious to start on a lecture tour for the benefit of the Belgians, to expose, he said, the greatest inhumanity in all the history of the world.

Among the passengers was W. P. McLure, textile manufacturer, with offices at No. 1183 Broadway. He went to Europe six weeks ago on board the Lusitania and obtained orders in France and Britain for a large quantity of uniforms, subject to quick delivery. He said the general impression among army officials was that the war would be ended decisively in favor of the Allies by August.

"There is a vast amount of specialized exports from this country to Europe," he said. "They are mostly war supplies of different kinds. General business, however, is bad."

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after part still afloat. A few days after this the collier Holgar, of Bremen, came alongside and transferred to the Kronprinz the crew of the Hemisphere, which was attacked on December 28th.

A week later the four-masted Norwegian bark Schmanda, laden with 3,400 tons of wheat from Queenstown transferred and the Kronprinz fired 16 rounds into her wooden hull at a distance of between 200 and 300 yards. Allan said:

"They could not sink the ship by gunfire, and they had in the end to send a number of men on board to scuttle her. My opinion is that the Germans were playing a game of bluff with their guns. They could not sink anything at point-blank range."

After being six weeks on board the Kronprinz, the crew of the Potaro were transferred to the Holgar and taken to Buenos Aires. Altogether, the Kronprinz had on board prisoners from five ships, numbering 222. Allan continued:

Five Members Executed

"They gave us good food. The captain seemed to be a considerable man. I know who would have come off best had there been a fight. Whenever a ship came alongside we were sent below. We did not know what was happening nor could we tell what perils we were facing. We might have been suffocated there or blown up while the German crew were being taken prisoners by the English, who would never suppose us to be on this ship.

"There were sentries over us night and day, while the Germans were continually searching our kit for dum-dum bullets.

"Five members of the German crew were executed for disobeying orders, but the most remarkable incident of all was when we were captured and transferred. Among the crew which went to take possession of our ship was a man whose face I remembered well. I had sailed with him under the British flag to all parts of the world, and here he was, after war was declared, sailing under the enemy, taking British steamers prisoners. That, in my opinion, is how the Germans get their information."

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Holland Protests Against Blockade

The Hague, March 23.—The Dutch government's protest to England regarding the blockade of Germany was couched in most emphatic language, it was learned here today.

The Netherlands government

stated without qualification that Holland would not agree that her merchantmen should not carry German merchandise. To acquiesce in this demand by the allies would be to cripple seriously Dutch commerce, it was pointed out.

The Dutch government called England's attention to the fact that her attempt to regulate Dutch

commerce with Germany, without being able to interpose an actual blockade, was without precedent.

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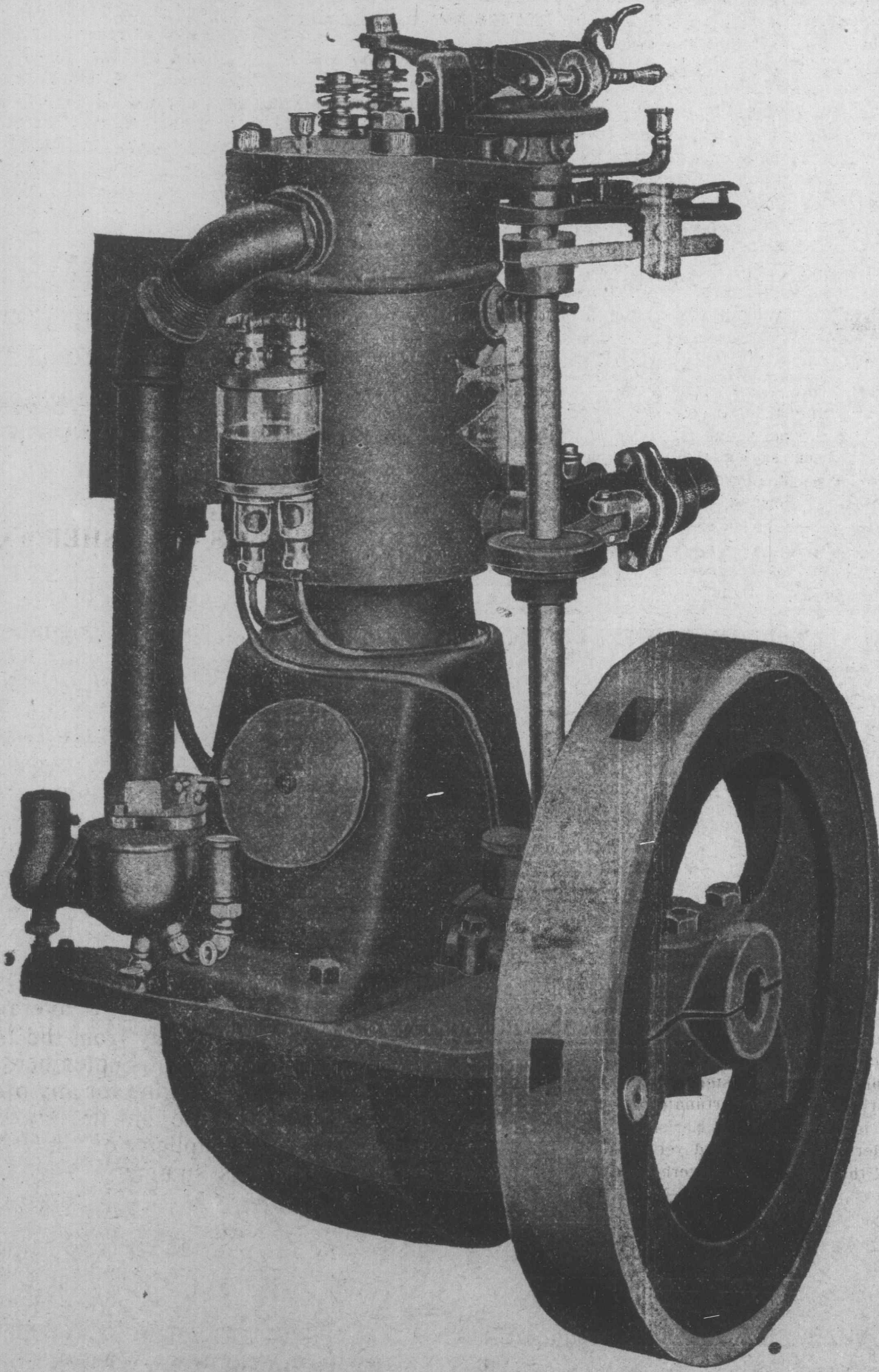
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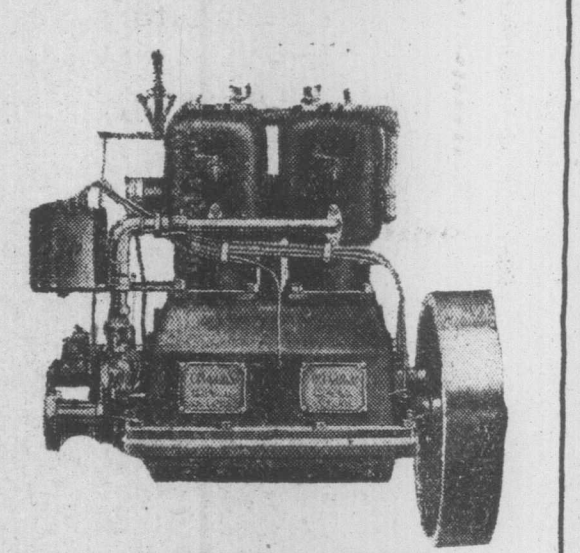
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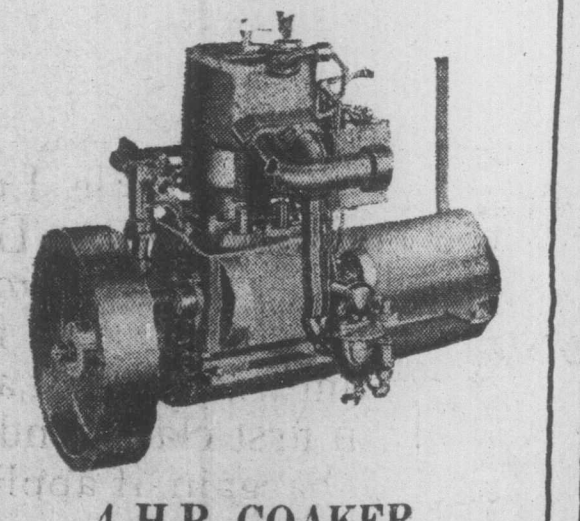
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