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## ALLIES FIGHT TO END ALL WAR SAYS SIR E. GREY, BRITISH SECT'Y OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**But Peace Will Not Come Till Wrongs Done  
Are Redressed and All Nations Are Freed;  
He Has a Vision of a World League with  
Power to Prevent National Aggression.**

CHICAGO, May 13.—Edward Price Bell cables to The Chicago Daily News an interview with Sir Edward Grey. The British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is quoted as follows:

"Prussian tyranny over Western Europe, including these islands, our people will not stand. The pledges given by Mr. Asquith as regards the restoration of Belgium and Serbia shall be kept. We have signed a pact to make peace only in concert with our allies. This pact, I need not say, we shall honour strictly and to the end."

"What we and our allies are fighting for is a free Europe. We want Europe free not only from the domination of one nationality by another, but from hectoring diplomacy and the peril of war; free from the constant rattling of the sword in the scabbard, and from the perpetual talk of shining armor and war lords."

"In fact, we feel that we are fighting for equal rights, for law, justice, and peace, and for civilization throughout the world, as against brute force, which knows no restraint and no mercy."

"What do you mean by the destruction of Prussian militarism?" was asked.

"What Prussia proposes as we understand her," replied Sir Edward, "is Prussian supremacy. She proposes a Europe modeled and ruled by Prussia. She is to dispose of the liberties of her neighbours and of us all."

"We say that life on these terms is intolerable. This also is what France, Italy and Russia say. We are not only fighting Prussia's attempt to do in this instance to all Europe what she did to non-Prussian Germany, but we are fighting the German idea of the wholesomeness, almost desirability, of ever recurrent war. Prussia under Bismarck deliberately and admittedly made three wars."

"We want settled peace throughout Europe which will be a guaranty against aggressive war. Germany's philosophy is that settled peace spells disintegration, degeneracy, and the human character. Such philosophy, if it is to survive as a practical force, means eternal apprehension and unrest. It means increasing armaments. It means arresting the development of mankind along the lines of culture and humanity."

#### Fighting the Idea of War.

"We are fighting this idea. We do not believe in war as the preferable method of settling disputes between nations. When nations cannot see eye to eye; when they quarrel; when there is a threat of war, we believe that the controversy should be settled by methods other than those of war."

"Such other methods are always successful when there is a good-will and no aggressive spirit. We believe in negotiation. We have faith in international conferences. We proposed a conference before this war broke out. We urged Germany to agree to a conference. Germany declined to do so."

"Then I requested Germany to select some form of mediation—some method of her own for a peaceful settlement. She would not come forward with any such suggestion. Then the Emperor of Russia proposed to Germany to send the dispute to the tribunal at The Hague. There was no response."

"Our proposal of a conference was rejected by Germany. Russia, France and Italy all accepted it. Our proposal that Germany suggest some means of peaceful settlement met with no success, nor did the Czar's proposal. No impartial judgment of any kind was to be permitted to enter. It was a case of Europe submitting to the Teutonic will or going to the war."

"If the conference in London in the Balkan crisis of 1912-13 had been worked to the disadvantage of Germany or her allies, the German reluctance for a conference in 1914 would have been intelligible, but no more convincing pledge of fair play and a single-minded desire for a fair settlement than the conduct of that conference in London has ever been given."

"And in 1914, after Serbia had accepted nine-tenths of Austria's demands, a settlement of the outstanding questions would have been easy. Russia ordered no general mobilization till Germany had refused the conference and till German prepara-

tions for war were far ahead of Russia's. Germany declared war on Russia when Austria was showing every disposition to come to terms, and Germany was in fact at war with Russia four or five days before Austria was, though the quarrel at that time was one that primarily concerned Austria and not Germany."

#### Could Have Averted Conflict.

After a moment's reflection, Sir Edward continued: "These two methods of settling international disputes—the methods of negotiation and the method of war—I ask you to consider in the light of this struggle. Do we not see the disaster of the war method conclusively shown?"

"How much better would have been a conference or a reference to The Hague in 1914 than what has happened since industry and commerce have been dislocated, the burdens of life heavily increased, millions of men slain, maimed, or blinded; international hatred deepened and intensified and the very fabric of civilization menaced? These have come from the war method."

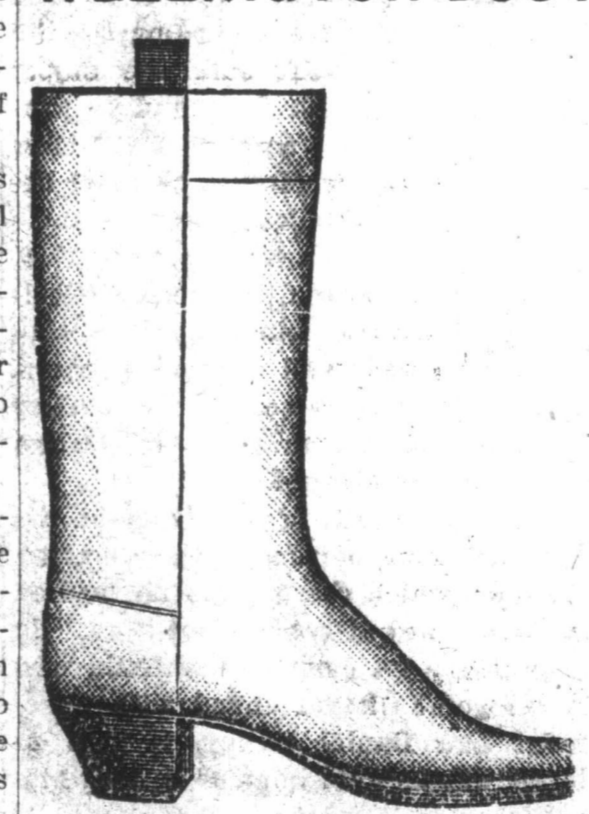
"The conference we proposed, or The Hague reference proposed by the Czar would have settled the quarrel in a little time. I think a conference would have settled it in a week, and all these calamities would have been averted. Moreover—a thing of vast importance—we should have gone a long way toward laying the foundations of international peace."

"Do you think the neutrals ever will be able to help toward peace," he was asked.

"The injustice done by the war has got to be set right. The Allies can tolerate no peace that leaves the wrongs of this war unredressed. When persons come to me with pacific counsels I think they should tell me what sort of peace they have in mind. They should let me know on what side they stand, for the opponents do not agree. If they think, for example that Belgium was innocent of offense that she should be set up again by those who threw her down, then it seems to me that they should say so. Peace counsels that are purely abstract and make no attempt to discriminate between the rights and wrongs of this war are ineffective if not irrelevant."

Sir Edward was reminded that desire for conquest, lust for revenge, and jealousy of an economic competitor in the world market were suggested by Chancellor von Bethmann:

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Hollweg as the three driving forces of the "coalition against Germany before the war."

**Denies Anti-German Coalition**  
"There was no coalition against Germany before the war," answered Sir Edward. "Germany knew there was no coalition against her. We had assured her in the most formal and categorical way that in no circumstances should we be a party to any aggression against her. She wanted us to pledge ourselves to unconditional neutrality, wanted us to declare that no matter what she did on the Continent, we should not interfere."

"It is true that she always referred to a possible war being forced on her. The trouble was that she gave us no test of a war forced on her. She remained free to claim that any war was forced on her. Now she claims that this war was forced on her. I need hardly remind you that Italy, the third member of the Triple Alliance, at the outset definitely refused to accept that view of it."

"No one thought of attacking Germany. There was not a measure taken by any power that was not purely defensive. The German preparations were for attack and were far ahead of the others on the continent."

"You have observed the German Chancellor's recent reference to Belgium as a bulwark," the interviewer suggested.

"Belgium was a bulwark," answered Sir Edward. "Defensive of Germany, of France and of European peace. This bulwark, until Germany decided to make war, was in no danger from any quarter. In April, 1913, we had given a renewed assurance to Belgium to respect her neutrality. When war threatened, we asked France if she would adhere to her pledge to respect the neutrality of Belgium and she said 'yes.' We asked Germany the same question and she declined to answer. Immediately afterward, in scorn of her signature, she assaulted and destroyed the bulwark."

"Von Bethmann Hollweg acknowledged the wrong, pleading that necessity knows no law, and promised that as soon as Germany's military aims were realized she would restore Belgium. Now he says there can be no status quo ante either in the east or the west. In other words, Belgium's independence is gone as Serbia's and Montenegro's independence is gone unless the Allies set it up again."

#### Nations Must Have Real Freedom

"To all this we say to Germany: 'Recognize the principle urged by lovers of freedom everywhere and give to the nationalities of Europe real freedom, not the so-called freedom doloed out to subject peoples by Prussian tyranny, and make reparation as far as it can be made for the wrong done.'"

"Should you mind indicating the object of Britain's reappraisals in recent years?" Sir Edward was asked.

"Good relations and an end to quarrels with other powers. Going far back we had working relations with the Triple Alliance, but we were habitually in friction with France or Russia. Again and again it brought us to 'he verge of war, and so we decided to come to an arrangement' with France and then with Russia, not with any hostile intent, towards Germany or any other power but wholly to pave the way to permanent peace. So, instead of preparing for war," as Germany asserts without a vestige of truth in support of the assertion, we were endeavoring to avoid war, and not to make it."

#### Wants Peace That Does Justice

"German statesmen assert that England is the only real obstacle to peace," the interviewer remarked.

"Nobody wants peace more than we want it, but we want a peace that does justice and a peace that re-establishes respect for the public law of the world."

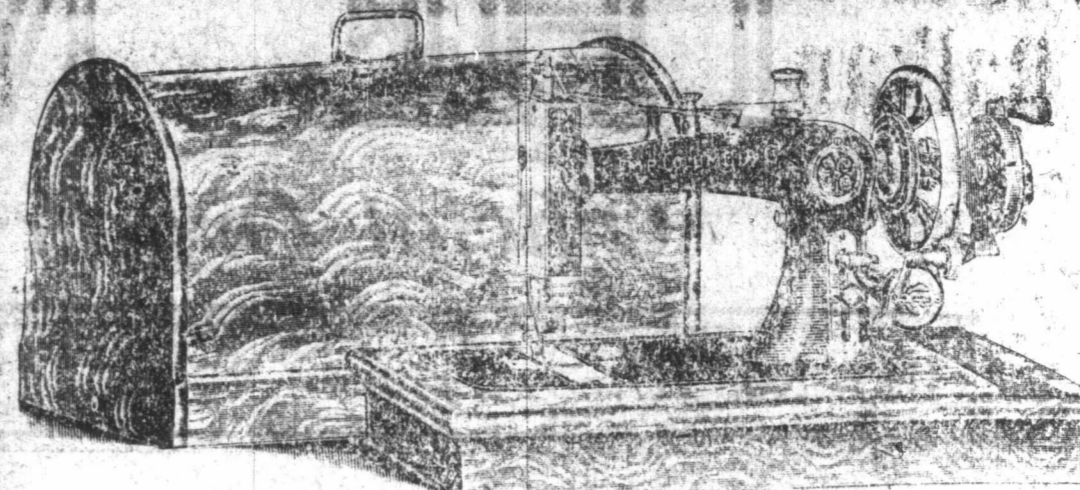
"Presumably Germany would like the neutrals to think that we are applying pressure to keep France, Russia, and Italy in this war. We are not. France, Russia, and Italy need no urging to keep them in the war. They know they are in it to preserve everything that is precious to nationality. It is this knowledge which makes them determined and unconquerable."

"It is impossible for me to express to you our admiration for the achievements of our associates in this struggle. And as is the measure of our admiration, so also will be the measure of our contribution to the common cause."

"There are two statements that come from German sources: One is that we are preventing the allies from making peace; this goes to the address of the neutrals. The other is that we are advocating a separate peace with the Allies. Each statement is absolutely untrue."

"You have noted that Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg affirms that Britain wants to destroy united and free Germany."

(Continued on page 3)



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