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ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1915.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H. M. The King.
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

ITALY ON THE BRINK?

Conflicting reports were received yesterday regarding the probable attitude of Italy. One which gained circulation during the afternoon stated that Austria had yielded to all demands and that the Italian government was satisfied with the concessions made. Later advices, however, did not appear to encourage the view that Italy would not participate. It was believed that an actual declaration of war would be only a matter of a few days while the Canadian Press correspondent on the Italian frontier was even more pessimistic reporting a general opinion among the Austrian troops that war would be declared within a few hours.

Italy has made all preparations for war and already has done more toward the mobilization of her fighting forces than France or Russia had done in July last when Germany by her ultimatum lighted the match which kindled the world conflict. However, there has been a great change in the German disposition in the past few months. Prior to the outbreak of war the Kaiser hurled defiance on all hands but now even he must realize that further additions to the ranks of his European enemies is to be avoided at any cost; consequently it is not impossible that in order to keep Italy neutral Austria, under German advice, may yield to demands which at any other time would in themselves be regarded as furnishing a casus belli. Italy and Austria have not ceased to negotiate but while they are talking they expect to fight with each other and have prepared for the conflict.

Italy may decide to accept the Austrian concessions and hold her peace but if she does she will risk the loss of the territory so gained whenever Germany and Austria feel they have grown sufficiently strong to take it back again. A definite announcement of policy from Rome will be eagerly awaited and in the meantime the average man will find it difficult to believe that the Italian people can gain more from the peace gift of Austria and Germany than by actively allying themselves with the combination of powers which must be victorious in this struggle and in a position to dictate terms and make concessions after the fighting is over.

THE WAR ZONES.

The magnitude of the present war is so great that when one speaks of the war zone it is necessary to specify which zone is meant. As a matter of fact there are virtually seven separate wars being conducted today by the British Empire, and in seven different zones of war British troops are engaged under the colors.

Of course the chief of these operations is in Belgium and Northern France, and were it not for the colossal nature of the campaign there scarcely any of the others would be worthy of more than passing mention. Hundreds of thousands of British troops representing every quarter of the Empire are engaged in the herculean task of meeting the legions of Prussian might and they are doing their duty well.

The British forces landed on the peninsula of the Dardanelles are conducting the second most serious operation. Thousands of British and colonial troops are already there and are meeting in battle great bodies of well-armed and equipped Turks directed and organized by German officers. Already the fighting has been severe and is likely to be more intense as the undertaking develops.

In South Africa General Botha, the one time Boer, is leading British and African troops against the German enemy and already his campaign has been markedly successful. At the outset he was faced by an attack against British South Africa and a revolution within the borders of that State, but he has been able to turn both into an attack upon German territory and German forces. The capture of German Africa is already a certainty and its future will likely depend upon the outcome of the greater struggle in Europe.

Other battles are being fought in German East Africa, in Afghanistan against marauding tribesmen, in Per-

sia against the Turks, and in Egypt with the troops of the Sultan. In addition to this Great Britain has to maintain the supremacy of the seas, so it can be seen that the Empire is bearing its full share in this war of the worlds.

THE AMERICAN PRESS

If the American newspapers had the voice in determining the policy of the American government there is no doubt the next twenty-four hours would see action of the most drastic nature against Germany in reprisal for the sinking of the Lusitania and the taking of scores of American lives. Without exception the more influential papers demand that President Wilson shall at once announce a course which will ensure speedy and ample satisfaction.

It has been suggested by the Louisville Courier Journal that the American government should seize all German shipping now in American ports as a measure of tangible satisfaction for the property damage done and that in the more important matter of reparation for the lives sacrificed satisfaction should be demanded without delay. There is little disposition on the part of the press to attempt to force the President's hand. The New York Herald, to be sure, carries scattered throughout its pages and printed in capital letters these words, "WHAT A PITY THEODORE ROOSEVELT IS NOT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TODAY," and, beneath, the following question: "WHAT IS PRESIDENT WILSON GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"

In an editorial, dealing with the innocent victims of the disaster, the Herald says, in part:

"On the shame of it. To no country had they done any wrong. By no possibility could it be urged that it was to the interest of the nation of submarine piracy, robbing them of no military advantage could be gained. They were as much entitled to a safe conduct through the war-zone by Germany as by Great Britain. They received it from neither, but from the former they received their death stroke.

"On the cold villainy of it. Noting in the code of law between nations justified the dastard blow. Their country had served notice on the world that American lives must be respected. But the nation that only invokes law when it suits its purpose decreed that they should go down to death. And now the reckoning."

In another article on the attitude of German-Americans, the Herald says:

"The hyphen was submerged with the Lusitania. Henceforth there can be but one class of AMERICAN-AMERICANS.

"The Herald believes that a very large percentage of naturalized citizens of German birth or descent refuse to sympathize with the crime against the country of their adoption. It believes that a comparatively small number are making the ribald and heartless noise of acclaim over the slaughter of men, women and children on the Lusitania. The citizen of German descent who repudiates that crime of the century is not a GERMAN-AMERICAN at all. He is an American. The citizen of German descent who glorifies in the exploit is not an American—he is a GERMAN, and GERMAN he will remain. No person who condones the horror of Kinsale can claim the slightest connection with true American thought.

"So it is well, right now, to ask the question—Under which flag? This affair may well take us into war. There can be no divided allegiance. The naturalized citizen of German birth or parentage who sympathizes with the Kaiser is a traitor to the United States.

"Under which flag?"

It should not be forgotten that the New York Herald has been a consistent opponent of President Wilson's administration and it is possible that in this case it has not hesitated to attempt to create political capital out of what may look like indecision on the part of the President. But admitting these tendencies, the wide circulation and influence of the Herald cannot be overlooked and its opinion is certain to have much weight.

There will not be a general disposition, however, to agree with the Herald that it would be better if Mr. Roosevelt were the occupant of the presidential chair. The strenuous expression of opinion in many respects, a most re-

markable man but his warmest admirers do not claim for him the cool, calm discernment possessed by Mr. Wilson. A clear head and steady hand at the helm of the American ship of state is needed in the present crisis and Mr. Wilson supplies these qualities whatever he may lack in so-called "red-bloodedness." Instead of being a pity it is rather a matter of thankfulness that Mr. Roosevelt is not president of the United States today for while Mr. Wilson may be deliberate in reaching his decision there will be general confidence that he will act wisely and in a manner befitting the dignity of the American people.

The notice which the Herald serves on German-Americans is certainly timely; the only wonder is that some such expression had not been made before. Men like Bernstein, Dernberg, Ridder and their followers have it in their power to create much trouble in a country where the sympathies of the people are divided as is the case of the United States toward the nations engaged in war. In the light of the Lusitania horror there can be, as the Herald puts it, only room for Americans who do not sympathize with the Kaiser and his inhuman methods of warfare, and whatever the United States government may do there can be no doubt that sympathy for Germany would be mightily unpopular south of the international boundary line just now.

A Massacre On The High Seas

The torpedoing of the Lusitania was not battle—it was massacre. To destroy an enemy ship, an unarmed merchant vessel of great value and power, is an act of war; to sink her in such a manner as to send hundreds of her passengers, among them many neutrals, to their death, is morally murder, and no technical military plea will avail to procure any other verdict at the bar of civilized opinion. Had the German submarine allowed the Lusitania's captain time enough to get his crew and passengers into the boats, he would have been acting within the rules of international law, and under the dictates of that law of humanity which Germany has so frequently violated in the course of this contest which has added new terrors to law. The Lusitania was unquestionably "good prize" to any hostile craft that could overtake her, but she was also an unarmed liner with two thousand human beings on board.

In all the annals of modern war there is no other occurrence so closely answering the definition of an atrocity on the sea. Semmes was not considered scrupulous as a commerce raider, but when he captured the crowded passenger steamer Ariel he did not sink her. He paroled all the combatants, married her and on board an obligation payable after the establishment of the independence of the Southern Confederacy. Semmes grew up when the traditions of all navies taught humanity towards non-combatants and a chivalrous regard for women and children.

To find a parallel to the torpedoing of the Lusitania we must go back to those dark ages when the garrison and inhabitants of a captured city were indiscriminately put to the sword. Even after the sack of Louvain the world was not prepared for the Lusitania tragedy. Its cruelty is matched only by its impolicy. It has turned the sentiment of millions heretofore neutral or indifferent to an antipathy to Germany, its government and its cause. In company with the indignation the tragedy inspires goes the popular conviction that such a desperate deed could only be inspired by a consciousness of desperate circumstances. Germany has committed an irreparable blunder in committing an act unsanctioned by even the most drastic interpretation of the laws of war.

To Americans today the tragedy presents grave possibilities in our international relations. Regarded from the standpoint of international law the sinking of the Paluba with the incidental death of an American citizen is on a par with the destruction of the Lusitania, even if more Americans perished in the latter tragedy. The principle is the same, but peoples are often aroused to the existence of a principle when its violation is associated with numbers than when a single victim, or even a few victims, give it a place in public controversy. Inasmuch as the sinking of the Lusitania came after a succession of protests by our Government against the "war zone" which included a warning that it would hold Germany to a strict accountability for the loss of American lives it is evident that the United States must make the torpedoing of the great Canadian liner a vigorous reassertion of its position.

The incident is exceptional not only to our experience, but to the experience of the world. It may well demand an exceptional form of communication, requiring great deliberation in its composition. President Wilson's reply to Bernstein's lecture on neutrality gives us ground for belief that we have in the White House one equal to the forcible assertion of our claim in behalf of Americans at sea even when they are on board belligerent merchant vessels. The President is entitled to time, and to immunity from popular pressure. At the present moment American indignation is at the boiling point, and the lapses of time while it may modify expressions is not likely to affect the intensity of the moral reprobation of a deed of unparalleled savagery. Should the President withhold his official utterances for the immediate present he can count on American public support if, taking matters into his own hands,

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE

I went around to the tailors to get my pants today, and when I came home with them they was awl mused and full of mud stains. You don't expect me to believe by any stretch of the imagination that that my trousers were carrying there, do you, sed pop.

Yes sir, I sed.

Then I give you just 3 minutes to state your side of the case before I decide against you, sed pop, quick, how did it happen.

Well, I was running home with them, I sed, and I passed sum of the fellows, and you no skinny Martins brother Al, don't you?

No, I can't say he is nimbler in my skill of acquaintances, sed pop. Well, anyhow, I sed, his legs is lawnsir than wat Skinnys is, even, so his fatbird is going to get him a pair of lawns pants to ware awn Sundays. Very intristing, im sure, sed pop, I believe I'll rite to the society editors about it.

They don't care how his legs look awn week days, I sed.

Yure 3 minits are pritty neerly up, sed pop.

So sum of the fellows wuntid to see how he wood look in lawns pants, I sed, and they asked me to let him put yures on and I sed, No, they was jest pressed, I sed, and they kept awn coaxing me and I kept awn saying No and they kopp awn coaxing me.

And you let that skinny boys brother put awn my newly pressed trousers, did you? sed pop.

And ware did he retire to make the change, to the guttur, sed pop, and I sed, No sir, we pushed him thare aftir he had them awn.

Follo me, sed pop.

Wich I did.

he, in calling Germany to account, reverts to the diplomatic strain that was familiar to the country when it had at the head of the State Department men to whom the law of nations was not a closed book and the routine of international relations a puzzle. The great Secretaries of State wrote and spoke like diplomats under responsibility; they wrote and spoke like Americans under conviction of the justice of America's cause and course. Standing in the shadow of this solemn Saturday, the President must sadly realize that the day for plattitudinous preachments has gone by.—Boston Transcript Editorial.

Canada at San Francisco

It is the commonly expressed opinion of visitors to the Panama-Pacific international exposition at San Francisco that the display made by the Dominion of Canada in all lines is equal to that of any country other than the United States. No doubt the costly undertaking in which Canada engaged to insure proper representation at this great fair was prompted largely by neighborly sentiment. This is fully appreciated by American visitors, but a majority of them, judging from accounts published, are unable to see, in justice to itself, how Canada could have done less. No such exhibit could be made by Canada if the country were lacking in the energy, enterprise and culture which it lavishly displays so bountifully. It would have been a grave error at this time had it for any reason failed to make them know through this legitimate vehicle.

Nothing said here should lessen, nor is there any intention to lessen, the neighborly obligation involved in Canada's contribution to the success of an enterprise to which the indorse-

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