

### A GERMAN SOCIALIST'S VIEW OF WAR PROSPECTS

Extracts from a personal letter written to a friend in New York by A. Seudekum, a noted German Socialist, in Brussels last September. We, here have no cause for pessimism; the victorious campaign in Russia, still incomplete, has secured our country and that of our ally for a long time against any further Russian attack.

At the present time, it is still beyond our power to estimate the extent and consequences of the internal occurrences in Russia which we are following up with the greatest interest.

The war has turned almost automatically to those regions for whose control the great powers went to war, the Balkan states, Asia Minor and Egypt.

We may not here how strategy is subordinated to political influences. At the beginning of the war, the Russians, making a move false strategically, but correct politically, fell upon Austria, not because this was the point of least resistance in a military sense, but because the tendency of the war was admitted toward the destruction of the Hapsburg monarchy and the establishment of Russian overlordship in the Balkans.

From the Russian standpoint, the outcome would probably have been more favorable, and for us Germans certainly more dangerous, if the full force of the Russian offensive had been directed against Prussia and had sought the decision there.

The vulnerable point. Our direct participation in Balkan affairs brings us near a decisive point and the opportunity to attack our opponents where they are really vulnerable, especially Britain. But the conditions are infinitely more favorable to us now than they were a few months ago. I heard yesterday from a man who is in a position to know that, regardless of ill reports, we need no longer fear any intervention on the part of Roumania. Our left flank would then be covered during our advance toward Bulgaria, and we could therefore with comparatively slight losses effect a junction with Turkey, as well as an advance toward the Suez canal, with the ensuing result of forcing Britain out of India.

That would be the time when peace negotiations might seriously be considered.

This whole calculation has but one weak spot: that is the attitude of the United States.

It is not merely a hollow phrase, but incontrovertible truth, that all circles of the German people sincerely mourned for the American lives lost in the ship catastrophe; but we can-

not get over the fact that the drowned Americans deliberately took upon themselves a hazard against which they had been warned in time, while thousands of our splendid fellows have been slain by American ammunition, and that this war would have been decided in Germany's favour by this time if Wilson and his munition manufacturers had not kept her enemy supplied with arms and ammunition.

During these months I have regretted exceedingly that there were no means of getting into personal touch with the United States. Otherwise I should have managed to get permission from my government and would have gone as a stump-speaker, with a soap box, from street corner to street corner and from town to town throughout the States in order to draw the attention of the people to the facts of the case.

How the great drama of events has progressed since my last letter to you you will have seen from the news. I can only say that our nation, with truly wonderful loyalty and courage, is taking upon itself the sacrifices of a second winter's campaign in the confident hope that things must turn out for the best.

No one is troubling over the light sayings of the gentlemen in Paris and London. We all smile over the brilliant idea of Briand, who pictures our victorious Serbian campaign as a sign of German weakness and despair. I am near enough to the Balkan situation to understand the full significance of our breaking through to the south-east, and I have an opportunity to look ahead and note the good perspective that has opened to us in that direction.

These gentlemen of the other side will experience things that will cause their boastful words about our campaign in the Balkans to stick in their throats.

With all our sorrow, with all our misfortune, my dear friend, it is a real joy to live through these days as a German.

### Must Have the Mail and Advocate

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir—I have great pleasure in renewing my subscription to **The Mail and Advocate**, the only paper. Enclosed find \$2.00. Wishing you success in your undertakings.

Yours truly, M. G. Spaniard's Bay, Dec. 29, 1915.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

### Acknowledgment of Help for a Disabled Toiler

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir—I beg to ask would you be good enough to allow me space in your esteemed paper to write a short item in reference to Mr. George Peddle of Chance Cove, Trinity Bay, who being unable to work, has spent five months at the Hospital suffering from an incurable disease from the leg. He has a wife and four children to support.

While talking to the men of Badger the matter I raised the splendid sum of \$9.20, which Mr. George Peddle was delighted to receive. Thanking the people of Badger and Chance Cove very much for their kindness, also thanking you, Mr. Editor, for allowing me space.

Yours respectfully, ADAM CLARK. The following are the names of the fund contributors. William Clark \$1.00, William Smith 1.00, George Smith 1.00, John Langdown .50, Isaac Percey .50, Ella Little .50, Abraham Smith .50, Thomas C. Smith .50, Peter Piercy .50, Adam Clark .50, James Herdle .30, John W. Hynes .30, James Nicklocken .20, Bertie Ford .20, Robert Wooldrige .20, Jefferson Lacey .20, John Byrne .20, Arthur Saunders .20, Leslie Rice .20, George Sharp .10, James Cole .10, George Smith .10, Charles Spurrel .10, Mark Mahoney .10, John Ford .10, John Piercy .10. \$9.20

### Bonavista Council Elects New Officers

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir—The annual meeting of Bonavista Local Council, F. P. U., was held on December 23rd. The following officers, were elected for the ensuing year: Chairman—James Brown. Deputy Chairman—Ronald Templeman. Secretary—Donald Groves.

### PROGRAMME FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AT THE NICKEL.

ON THE VERY PINNACLE OF POPULARITY. "The Exploits of Elaine" 8th Episode, "The Hidden Voice." THE PUBLIC is worked up over ELAINE—The picture stand the ACID TEST—a wonderful mind that unites with surprising scientific knowledge a diabolic malignance—THAT'S "THE CLUTCHING HAND." ARNOLD DALY—PEARL WHITE—SHELDON LEWIS—ARE THREE REASONS WHY IT'S THE BIGGEST AND ABSOLUTE BEST SERIAL EVER PRODUCED. "THE SNOW-BURNER"—A powerful 3 part melo-drama. "THE FABLE OF THE GALLOPING PILGRIM"—Who kept on galloping. "DAUGHTER OF KINGS"—A delightful comedy-drama. "CROSSED LOVE AND SWORDS"—A Keystone riot. FRIDAY—CHARLIE CHAPLIN AND MABEL NORMAND—THE BEST ALWAYS.

### Unsatisfactory Mail Service in Bonne Bay

(Editor Mail and Advocate) Dear Sir—You would place me under obligation to you if you would kindly insert the following in your esteemed paper. As I write, the Christmas bells are tolling out their songs of gladness to the frosty air, but to many hearts in Bonne Bay the gladness is darkness, by what I can rightly call a "righteous indignation." The people of Bonne Bay are by nature quiet and long-suffering, and that is the reason why our cry has not gone-but before.

But to-day we have reached the very limit of our forbearance and endurance, and at last are driven to ask you to let the public of St. John's know how undeservedly we are treated.

The cause of our grievance is the abominable mail service which we are forced to accept at the hands of our present government. It is by no means my desire to say one hard word about such a lot of honorable men! But I verily believe if one of their party were living here for the past few months, stronger language than ever I would dare put forth, would express the same feelings of outrage, which I am now trying to give vent to.

Now, Sir, to the point—I am sure you will agree with us that its jolly hard lines to be almost smothered in the smoke of a daily mail train, and never catch the glimpse of the blessed article. Well, how do we get our mails? Ah, there's the sore spot, and its terribly raw.

We hear the feeble howl of the S.S. Home every 14 or 18 days and that tells us that the mail is coming. The Portia every fifteen days from St. John's, and she gives us better satisfaction than the Home, although her route is as about twice as long. The big mail for Bonne Bay arrives at Humbermouth every Wednesday afternoon, so I am informed. The Home is supposed to bring it here on Thursday, if she comes Sunday or Monday the Postmaster kindly assures it all the same. The Home got here last Tuesday, Dec. 28th. If she had remained but one day more we would have received our Xmas mail which was eagerly awaited by all. However, the Portia got here this morning and brought our Christmas mail.

Now Sir, was it not reasonable to expect that the post official would afford to accept at the hands of our present government. It is by no means my desire to say one hard word about such a lot of honorable men! But I verily believe if one of their party were living here for the past few months, stronger language than ever I would dare put forth, would express the same feelings of outrage, which I am now trying to give vent to.

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But alas. Another nail to the coffin of our hopes, we will get our Xmas letters and kind wishes when Xmas is over and gone.

Yours etc. N. J. JANES. Bonne Bay, Dec. 25, 1915.

Treasurer—Spurgeon Templeman. Door Guard—Henry Groves. All members of the Road Board elected here are members of our Council, past chairman and past deputy chairman included in the number. Yours truly, J. B. Bonavista, Dec. 27, 1915.

MEAG YOUR CHRISTMAS ORDERS will receive prompt attention if you send them to us. It's the same any time, whether you are alone or have a large family, we are always ready to serve you courteously and carefully, paying careful attention to every detail of your order. We extend Christmas Greetings to all our patrons and an invitation to come here during the New Year for CHOICE MEATS. M. CONNOLLY Duckworth Street.

J.J. St. John FLOUR, PORK, BEEF & OIL, Likely to go high. We can save you To arrive— FIVE ROSES QUAKER VERBENA ROBIN HOOD Very Choice Ribbed PORK. Small HOCKS. Choicest SPARE RIBS. Best PLATE and N. Y. BEEF. Everybody is talking of our ECLIPSE TEA, 45c. lb as good as most 60c. Silver-Ware ready to be delivered, so bring along your Coupons from Monday, 27th inst. J. J. St. John Duckworth St & LeMarchant Rd

FOR SALE! SCHOONER "BRITISH EMPIRE" 36 tons, 12 years old; well found in running Tackling and ground Tackling, with or without Banking Gear. Apply to C.K. Kennedy, Holyrood or R. Templeton, St. John's

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### THE CRESCENT PICTURE PALACE.

Presents To-day Katherine Lasalle, the Famous Broadway Star as "HINDA" in Lawrence Marston's Celebrated Drama, "AN INNOCENT SINNER" Produced in Three Reels. "INDISCRETION" A Great Lubin Drama, Featuring Edgar Jones and Louise Huff. "MIXED FLATS" A Very Laughable Comedy.

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### WILLS HIS V. C. TO HIS REGIMENT DEATH SHIP EASTLAND HAS BEEN SOLD.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The late Capt. Francis Grenfell of the Ninth Lancers the first officers in the present war to win the Victoria Cross, was so grateful to his men that in his will, just admitted to probate, he leaves them all his medals. Capt. Grenfell, who was a well known polo player, left unsettled property of the gross value of \$202,848. His will reads: "I give to my regiment, to whom the honor of my gaining the Victoria Cross was entirely due, thanks to the splendid discipline and traditions which exist in this magnificent regiment, all my medals, including the V.C. "My pony, Pearl of Price, which was ridden by my brother, Capt. Riverdale Grenfell, all through the retreat from Mons and by myself on all other occasions, I give to Mrs. Duggan of Birfield, Old Windsor." CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—The lake steamer Eastland was sold at auction to-day for \$46,000 to the Illinois Naval Reserve and will be used as a training ship. The fund for its purchase was subscribed by public spirited citizens. The auction, conducted before Judge Landis in the United States District Court, brought out only two bidders, the Naval Reserve and O. A. Gilbert, representing the Continental Steamship Company of New York. The Eastland, which turned over in the Chicago River last summer, with a loss of more than 800 lives, was owned by the Chicago-St. Joseph Steamship Company, which went into the hands of a receiver after the disaster. Its value when new was estimated at \$250,000.

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