

RECRUITING SPEECH BY LIEUT.-COL. GEO. H. BRADBURY, M.P.

If the German doctrine prevailed, business would be at a standstill all over the world, for three-fourths of the business of the world is done on faith, that is, on credit, by the exchange of paper. Adopt the German doctrine and no man would be expected to keep his promise or to pay his promissory notes or to fulfil his contracts when it was against his interest to do so.

We may thank God that Great Britain and her allies have not fallen to that depth, but are staking their very existence for the purpose of discharging an honorable obligation entered into with a small nation almost a century ago.

The distinguishing difference between the German ideal and the British ideal is that in the German ideal honor counts for nothing. If by dishonorable action you can add power to your state, the German ideal justifies any act, no matter how dishonorable. But with Great Britain this stands today as her motto, as it has stood all the days of her existence. Honor must be, and has been, the distinguishing characteristic of the British nation; good faith must be kept, and when Great Britain pledges her honor with the long traditions of history behind her it would be a sad day, not only for England, but it would be a sad day for the wide world, if the lesson had been taught by Great Britain that honor could be subordinated to selfish ends, security on the one hand or power on the other.

Britain has always stood for the inviolability and respect of smaller nations. Look at history. How often she has spent her blood and treasure battling for the weaker and oppressed in Europe, yes, and in almost every quarter of the globe. **This is one fine golden thread that runs through the whole warp of English history and English tradition.** And so, when England's honor was bound up in the pledge she gave to Belgium that her territory should be inviolate, and when Germany, on the 29th day of July, 1914, made the cold-blooded and dishonorable proposition to Great Britain that if she would stand aside and allow Germany to deal with Belgium and with France, England could have Germany's goodwill and co-operation.

That proposition attacked centuries of English honor and English traditions. Sir Edward Grey hurled the offer back, as it deserved to be. Honor forbade Britain to keep out of the war. What more? Self interest in its widest and greatest sense forbade that course.

Great Britain is not only the government of forty-five million in her own islands; she is a mother and protector and trustee for hundreds of millions of divers humanity all through the wide world, that live under her flag and depend upon her protection.

Sitting, then, on the island of her own North Sea home, she has to look not only after the interests of forty-five millions there, but she has to think of the interest of her colonies—Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, and other dependencies—national wards in other parts of the world. She has to ask herself: "What should I do at this juncture of circumstances, as a trustee of British civilization throughout the world?"

There was only one possible answer to that. Accede to Germany's demand, stand aside with folded arms, let the German army hew and hack its way through Belgium? No, never! Honor, friendship and self interest all demanded Britain's co-operation with Belgium. And Belgium knew that Britain would not desert her. She had faith that if she stood in the way and claimed her own, and if over Belgium bodies and ruined homes and desecrated hearths, Germany hewed and hacked its way into France the time would come when Great Britain and her allies that stood with her would see these ruined homes were rebuilt and Belgium restored to her destined place.

So in that respect Great Britain had to do what she did. But, suppose for a moment that she sacrificed her honor and sacrificed Belgium and France and Russia, her friends, by simply refusing to interfere, and allowed Germany to destroy, as she would have done, these nations. What would have happened?

The German fleet would have dominated the seas; it would have ravished every port and entry on the French coast. The German fleet could have easily controlled or dominated the seas. It would have blockaded the French ports, and its armies would have taken Paris in a very short time. Germany would have advanced her frontier right up to the North Sea and created ports and submarine bases almost at England's door, and would have been a standing menace to Great Britain ever after.

And just as soon as Germany had finished with France and Russia, and with a mighty, victorious army resting within a few hours of the English coast, Great Britain would have had to meet this monster single handed.

So, you see, Great Britain, in justice to British civilization, could not have allowed Germany to overrun Belgium and France without going to their aid.

No, for when Britain dies, British civilization goes to the wall. When Britain's great roads, the highway of the sea, are blocked, or liable to be blocked, by any hostile power on earth as far as naval strength is concerned, British supremacy is in danger as her food supplies, her communications, her own existence and the existence of the

Empire depend absolutely upon her command of the seas.

Then, how foolish, how utterly suicidal, would have been the policy which would have said to England: "Stand there until every friend you have in the world is lucked to pieces. Stand there until their possessions have been taken by your great enemy in every portion of the world and fortified. Stand there until the German fleet gets its basis in every water and fortifies itself there. Then face the contest and on unequal ground and on unequal terms." It would have been tempting fate. It would have been playing false with humanity and with God for any decision like that to have been taken by the British Empire under the circumstances.

Have you followed the history of the Prussian junker? Have you followed the Prussian tyrant and his doings?

We are not fighting the German and Austrian people. These people are under the heel of the military class, and it will be a day of rejoicing for the German and Austrian peasant, artisan and trader when this military autocracy is broken.

You know its pretensions. They give themselves the airs of demigods; they walk on the pavements. Civilians and their wives and children are swept into the gutter; they have no right in the way of these autocrats. Men, women and children, like nations, all have to go.

He thinks all he has to say is that he is in a hurry. That is the answer he gave to Belgium when he violated his pledge to protect her neutrality.

Rapidity of action is German's greatest asset, which means "I am in a hurry, get out of my way." You know the type of motorist, the terror of the roads, with a sixty-horse-power car, who thinks the roads were made for him and knocks down and mangles anybody who impedes him in his mad rush.

The Prussian tyrant is the road-hog of Europe. Small nations in his way are trampled on and hurled by the roadside bleeding and broken; women, children and men are crushed under the wheels of his cruel car.

Britain was ordered out of the way by this tyrant so that he might drive his death-dealing monster over Belgium, but the old British spirit still lives, which compels her to keep sacred her pledges and to defend the weak. The Prussian has yet to settle with Great Britain and her allies, and when he has paid his debt the German Empire will be humbled in the dust and the military autocracy will end forever and the German and Austrian people will be free and live to thank God for the downfall of the war lords who have held them under the iron heel for the last fifty years.