

Threatens to Torpedo British Food Ships

German Minister of Marine Believes Submarine Blockade of England Would Keep Supplies Out and Starve People--Hopes Britain will be Sensible and Listen to Reason.

The following interview, taken from The Family Herald and Star, between Karl H. Von Wiegand, special correspondent of the United Press, and Admiral Von Tirpitz, head of the German navy, will no doubt be found interesting, as it is a good sample of the real German attitude towards England, and shows that that feeling has been in the hearts of all German military men for many years back:

Grand Headquarters of Kaiser in France, via The Hague to New York, Dec. 23—"America has not raised her voice in protest and has taken little or no action against England's closing of the North Sea to neutral shipping. What will America say if Germany declares submarine war on all enemy merchant ships?"

Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, Minister of Marine, regarded as the strongest man in the German Government, and possible next Imperial Chancellor, whose organizing genius is largely responsible for Germany's fleet, poured sharply at me as he leaned forward and put the question to me, in the first interview he has even granted to an American correspondent.

"Why not?" he continued. "England wants to starve us. We can play the same game. We can bottle her up and torpedo every English or Allied ship which means any harbor in Great Britain, thereby cutting off large food supplies."

Admiral von Tirpitz slowly repeated the first question. "What would America say? Would not such action be only meeting out to England what she is doing to us?"

For once departing from his rigid rule not to talk with newspapermen, Admiral von Tirpitz received me in a private house the home of a French banker who fled before the German advance on the door of which was a cardboard sign "Marine Department."

"Britain's domination of the sea," he declared, "was originally founded on piracy, while her power on land was established by robbery in all parts of the world. England, and England alone, is responsible for this war. Did Germany make any demands on anyone? Did Germany have any quarrel with anyone? No. She only wanted to be left alone to continue her peaceful growth and development."

"England's anti-German policy dates back as far as 1870, after our victory over France. Always dictatorial and domineering, she did not want Germany to expand commercially or to take the place in the world to which her power entitled her."

"England is impartial. She will cut anyone's throat who gets in her way. England has no white man's scruples. Her alliance with Japan shows that. She will form an alliance with anybody, regardless of race or color if she can profit thereby. Germany was developing too fast, growing too strong and too powerful and was getting in England's way, so her throat had to be cut—that's it in a nutshell."

"King Edward laid plans for it years ago. He had an inexplicable antipathy to Germany. He looked about and seized upon the growing Pan-Slavism in the east and the 'Rovanche' idea in the west as his means."

"The impression has gone abroad," I remarked, "that German militarism helped to bring on the war."

"Yes; that's England's cry," retorted the Admiral. "Our militarism they accuse, but what about her navalism and marineism, which for years has made

claims to a monopoly of authority to the water? There is no militarism with us, unless you call universal service by that title; and this is merely the defensive development which has resulted from Germany having been the tramping ground of the European nations for hundreds of years. In two hundred years France has declared war on Germany thirty times. I say universal service makes for peace, not for war."

"What are your Excellency's views as regards the Japanese problem?" I asked.

"That is for you! That is what you Americans will have to face and meet."

"How long may the present war be expected to last?" was asked.

"That," he replied, "will depend upon England. It is said that England wants a war to the hilt. If England insists upon that, we can accommodate her, but there are some who still hope that England will be sensible and listen to reason."

"Is your Excellency one of those who have this hope that England will be sensible and listen to reason?"

"Von Tirpitz countered interrogation with another question: 'Do you believe England will be sensible?'"

"That depends on what your Excellency may mean by the word 'sensible,'" I said. "If you mean an inclination in England to accept as early or easily adjusted peace, I am not optimistic at this time."

Answering my question without defining his own, von Tirpitz exclaimed: "No, I am not one of those."

"Then I take it Germany does not want to carry the war to the bitter extreme, or to the hilt," as your Excellency has termed it?"

"Certainly it is not our desire or wish, but if England insists upon fighting the war to the hilt, we will be there."

"What effect will Lord Kitchener's new army have on the war?"

"We are not worried about Lord Kitchener's million. We still have several millions of fine, physically fit men to draw upon, if necessary, and if we take those not quite up to our regular standard we can still put more millions into the field. That we will fight to the last, if necessary, I think the world no longer doubts."

"Nothing has been heard from the Zeppelins lately. Your Excellency. How have they proven themselves an effective arm for the navy in this war?"

"Personally," replied the Admiral, "I am of the opinion that the heavier type of the heavier-than-air machines are splendidly adapted for marine purposes, but for carrying large weights over a long distance the Zeppelins are of course, superior."

Discussing the work of the submarines, I asked if one of the lessons of the war is that dreadnoughts have been rendered obsolete.

"It would be difficult at this stage to draw conclusions," replied the Admiral. "That submarines are a new and potent factor in naval warfare is unquestionable. Our success so far, however, hardly justified the conclusion that big ships have become obsolete."

"We have always figured that submarines could not stay out more than three days on account of the men becoming exhausted. We now learn that the larger types have cruised clear around England and often remained out for fourteen days. This is accomplished by going down in shallow and quiet water settling on the bottom and staying there while

the men get their required sleep."

"Will your fleet give the British fleet battle?" I enquired.

"If the British give us the opportunity, certainly," said the Admiral, "but it cannot be expected that our fleet, numerically one-third that of England, will itself offer battle, especially in view of still other military disadvantages."

"Is there any truth in the reports that an invasion of England by Zeppelins is being prepared?"

"I believe that submarine warfare against the enemy's merchant ships would be more effective," was the indirect answer.

Among the impressions I carried away was that von Tirpitz advocates what would virtually be a submarine blockade of England and that he contemplates torpedoing several merchantships with the result that others will not venture to approach that country, which would thus be bottled up and starved. I believe also that von Tirpitz is not one of those who clamor for the complete crushing of England, (even if

Target Tips and Hunting Helps by Alfred P. Lane



A New Questions and Answers Department of Interest to Shooters

Dec. 20, 1914
There is perhaps, no subject of popular interest about which the average man has more erroneous impressions and ideas than firearms in general, and revolvers and pistols in particular.

I receive daily letters from shooters who state that their rifles or revolvers do not hit the same spot every time, even when they shoot from a rest. There is only one answer to such a question, and that is, no one has ever succeeded in producing any kind of a rifle or pistol which would hit the same spot for shot after shot.

The accuracy of a rifle barrel is determined by the size of the groups produced by it.

"It gets my goat" as the saying goes, to see story after story printed in the current magazines containing episodes involving the use of firearms which are utterly absurd—not because a man could not become skilful enough—I am not questioning that part of it—but because in a number of cases the tales involve mechanical impossibilities. Still, we can hardly be forgiving the authors when actual shooters are so frequently coming forward with tales which stretch the imagination. I remember an instance which is a good sample; in a newspaper written of the Mexican leader, General Villa, a photograph showed him arrayed in a couple of dozen cartridge belts and holding a rifle. The article stated that Gen. Villa was a wonderful rifle shot who could hit a silver ten cent piece every time at two hundred yards, off hand! Now, aside from any question as to the General's shooting ability, his rifle, even if in perfect condition, would be quite incapable of such accuracy.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
J. A. P. Laplace, La.

1. Which of the two mechanical principles of movements that trip the hammer of a revolver, that gives a smoother action, between a Smith & Wesson and an Iver Johnson, and why?

2. Would a target model—such as the Colt Officer's improve my shooting under the same conditions?

3. I am accustomed to shooting a light revolver. Would a heavy model be better for target?

1. The Smith and Wesson revolver costs approximately three times as much as an Iver Johnson and consequently such fine details as smooth action and trigger pull are better in the Smith & Wesson. This has nothing to do with the strength or reliability of the various parts. It is a matter of hand finishing and careful adjustment of the parts in relation to each other.

2. The Colt Officer's Model is a finely finished and accurate weapon. A choice between it and the S. & W. Target Model is a matter of personal preference, as to what grip, weight, and balance you desire.

3. In general, a fairly heavy revolver will give best results but it is an error to have too much weight as it is liable to cause wobbling.

B. D. C. Oyster Bay, N. Y.

1. As the Ross .280 has a velocity of 3,100 ft. per second, and a striking force of about 3,500 lbs. should it not have more penetration than the U. S. A. Springfield which has a velocity of 2,700 ft. per second with the 150 gr. bullet and a striking force which is not quite 3,000 lbs?

2. Kindly let me know which rifle would be the better for big game at long range and at short range and also which rifle has the most penetration with any bullet it is possible to shoot in it.

1. Your figures are a bit off. The muzzle energy of the Ross .280 with 146 grain copper tube game cartridge is just a little over 3,000 ft. lbs. The U. S. Government Springfield cartridge with the 150 gr. bullet is in the neighborhood of 2,450 ft. lbs. The Ross with full metal cased bullet has the greater penetration.

2. Penetration does not necessarily indicate killing power. Muzzle energy does to a certain extent, but so many factors enter into the question. I had a talk a few days ago with a hunter who had just returned from an extended hunting trip in British East Africa. He had had a regular arsenal with him, and he stated that the Ross .280 while a wonderful weapon was sometimes very erratic in its action. I rather imagine that that statement could be made about almost any rifle however. For big game at long ranges, the Ross is the better of the two.

NOTE—Readers are reminded that this column is open to questions which should be sent to me in care of the Sporting Editor, and to discussions by the readers of anything connected with hunting or target shooting.—Alfred P. Lane.

Alfred P. Lane

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possible) and I doubt whether he considers it possible.

I gather that he is opposed to an aerial invasion of England, or an attack upon London from the sky, except as a last resort, and that in his opinion Zeppelins so far have not proven themselves without strong rivals as a navy arm in the heavier type of hydroplanes.

MILDREDINA HAIR REMEDY GROWS HAIR AND WE PROVE IT BY HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS

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