

way to the Germans through her territory and refrain from siding with France in any fashion, Germany covenanted that her neutrality would be respected—after the war. These “infamous proposals” were rejected, and the rest we know.

I do not wish to speak of Belgium, of the violation of her territories—a violation from which even Bismarck shrank in 1870—of the murder and spoilation of her civilian population; of the desecration of her cathedrals or the crime of Louvain. Nor do I wish to speak of the sinking of neutrals by submarines, or the raids upon Hartlepool and Scarborough, but I do wish to say that we have grossly exaggerated in our own minds the contribution of Germany to world civilization.

Germany has organized; she has systematized existing materials, but we owe little or nothing to her initiative.

Dr. Charles W. Eliot has ably epitomized the inventions which have gone far to make our material civilization what it is, and he finds that the inventors in almost every case were citizens of the free countries of the earth.

The application of steam to land and water transportation we owe to England and America. The explosive engine to the development of which we owe our vast automobile industry, had its origin in France. French and English chemists made the fundamental discoveries in chemical and physical theory. The telegraph and telephone we owe to America; the wireless to Italy. The sewing machine, typewriter and rotary press are all products of American invention. The United States built the first monitor and submarine, and England the first dreadnought. In the world of medical science, we find the same thing. We owe the discovery of anaesthesia to America, that of asepsis to an Englishman, and it was an Englishman who first discovered the possibilities of typhoid inoculation. The rubber industry we owe to the invention of the American Goodyear. Modern

business organization has arisen out of the conception of the joint stock company with its magic of limited liability. This is an English conception and its greatest development in the ocean steamship corporation has been built up on British soil. American business organization has built up and made possible corporations such as the Standard Oil and United States Steel.

Germany, however, has given us an idea of empire; of a state “hacking its war through” under the influence of the doctrine of force, having no care for sanctity of obligation or right of contract, regarding a treaty as merely a “scrap of paper,” and fired with an intense desire for the domination of Europe and the world.

“It is the business of the State,” said Frederic the Great, “to extend its boundaries,” and the same monarch gave Goethe as his reasons for his violation of the Pragmatic Sanction, and his attack upon Maria Theresa, “The vivacity of my temperament, my well filled war chests, a favorable opportunity and an ambition for glory.” So Frederic, so Wilhelm!

We too have an Empire, and of that Empire, and of the struggles and privations which have made it great, let Homer Lea speak:

“The Saxon has marked around this earth, as has no other race before him, the scarlet circle of his power. This thin, red Saxon line, so thin with his numbers, so red with his blood, was made possible only by his heroism and racial fealty. Where this line has not gone man has not found. It has crossed every sea; it has traversed every desert; it has sought every solitude; it has passed through swamps where only the sacred ibis fishes; over sands that have never been moistened; over snows that have never melted. There has been no storm it has not encountered; no pain it has not endured; no race it has not fought, and no disease it has not contended with. This Saxon line has been to the earth a girdle tragic and heroic, binding within itself all the old