

# The Bowrings Challenge The Power of The F.P.U.

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 20, 1915-2.

## You Don't Need to Worry about the storm signal if you Wear our Raincoats

April showers are coming, are you ready for them? If not, come and let us fit you out. We have Rain-coats for Men and Women in all the new Spring Colors and Styles. Smart snug-fitting collars with Tabs, large armholes, wide Raglan sleeves and well-cut coats with the new full effect at bottom.

Ladies' Coats no longer look as though they are strapped tightly around the feet, they fall easily away from the skirt, and are far more comfortable for walking.

Come and see the distinctive cut in the new Season's Rain-coats, look at the beautiful shades, the quality and durability of the materials. Compare ours with others, and you'll surely come to us when you want a coat to defy all weathers, from a little April shower to a big nor'easter.

Reliable Goods : at : Reasonable Prices

U. S. Picture & Portrait Co.

## Cabbage, Etc.

To arrive ex S.S. Stephano about Wednesday

75 Packages Cabbage

25 Barrels Table Apples

George Neal

## Boys and Girls Sell the Latest War Budgets!

Published in London every week containing 75 to 100 War Pictures taken on the Battlefield, at the Volunteer Camps and the Navy. They sell at 12c. and 14c. each, and your customers will want a new one every week. We pay you cash or give you valuable prizes for selling them.

Write for a dozen at once. We trust you. Pay us when sold. Do not delay, as we only appoint one or two boys in each town as agents.

Boys wanted in town every Thursday, Friday and Saturday to sell The Daily Mirror (weekly edition).

**J. M. RYAN SUPPLY CO.,**  
227 THEATRE HILL, ST. JOHN'S, N.F.  
WAR NEWS AGENCY.

## SHINOLA POLISH!

In THE TIN WITH THE KEY.

Black and Tan

Wholesale only.

The Direct Agencies, Ltd.

## America and The War

By A. MAURICE LOW, in "National Review"

THE Note sent by the Washington Government to the British Government on the 26th of December protesting against the seizure of ships and the detention of American cargoes on suspicion of being contraband intended for enemy purposes, appears to have been as great a surprise to the Foreign Office as to the man in the street. Neither ought to have been surprised, that is if either keep fairly current with the best sources of information. Governments, of course, in their collective capacity never read the newspapers; the Government officials when they do read the newspapers read them in their official capacity and with a heretical mind—prepared to believe nothing that would appear to be inherently probable and to square with preconceived prejudices.

Through the pages of this Review and the columns of the "Morning Post" it is difficult, it may be admitted, to make the average person understand that belligerents have rights no less than neutrals, but the task is not impossible. Because of the pragmatism of the official mind, which seldom has imagination and too often is without sympathy, the American has been allowed to nurse a grievance, and that grievance would never have existed had more foresight been displayed.

What is uppermost in the American mind at the present time is that certain "rights," which he believes are inherently his, have been trampled upon. He is rather vague as to what those rights are. His ideas are nebulous and inchoate. He cannot very clearly or convincingly advance his argument, but he is quite certain that something almost as precious to him as his birthright is in danger.

In the discussion in the Press on the American Note this question of "rights" is the pivot of the whole argument, and by assuming at the outset, as the majority of the papers do, that there has been an invasion of American rights by Britain we are immediately placed on the defensive before American public opinion. No one will accuse the New York "Tribune" of being pro-German or unfriendly to the Allies, but it feels constrained to say:

"Our sincere desire to avoid anything approaching ill-feeling does not mean that we are willing to retreat from our unquestioned rights as a neutral Power. The law of contraband contains a large borderland of doubt. But it leaves the broad right of neutrals unimpaired. It is at the most an exception to the general right of a nation not at war to go about its business as usual. That right we shall unquestionably insist upon maintaining, however ready we stand to discuss the mooted terms of the law of contraband in fairness and good-will."

An equally sympathetic supporter and well-wisher of the Allies has been the New York "Evening Post." It is therefore not without significance that a leader in this friendly newspaper should be entitled "Scraps of Paper at Sea," and that the writer should say:

"Britain enjoys the command of the sea. True, but that does not make her whim the law at sea. The rules carefully worked out through all the years, with the decisions made by British courts as well as American and the positions laid down repeatedly by British statesmen as well as our own, cannot be brushed aside as if they were but scraps of paper. They represent the consensus of nations. No plea of extreme necessity, or of life or death for Britain or any other Power, can avail to set aside the indefeasible rights of neutrals at sea. Command of the sea does not mean that you may do whatever you please at sea. Your conduct there in time of war, as upon the land, no matter how many army corps you may be able to mobilize, or how many big guns your battleships may carry."

When newspapers that hope for the success of the Allies so stoutly assert Britain has exceeded her legitimate powers, one can very well imagine what the comment is of newspapers that are pro-German or indifferent to British success. The President's protest has for the time being made every newspaper cease to be pro-British or pro-Ally or pro-German, but to become pro-American. A question has arisen between a foreign Government and the United States. Naturally every newspaper upholds the hands of its Government; every newspaper must believe and insist that the United States is in the right and the foreign Government is in the wrong.

It is a great pity that some of the energy and space that were used to answer German arguments about the responsibility for the war were not employed to deal with questions of more practical interest to Americans. More would have been gained in that way. Most Americans are anxious to have the war ended. They have contributed with extraordinary generosity

stood. I find in talking to men and women of more than average intelligence that they resent the idea, which is undoubtedly prevalent, that we have resorted to arbitrary methods and created a code of our own which, so many people believe, is as flagrant a violation of the law of nations as Germany's violation of the neutrality of Belgium. In fact, I have been told by more than one person that while we pretend to be horrified by Germany's derisive reference to a treaty as a scrap of paper, we have done the very thing on the sea for which we have so severely criticised Germany on land. Finding the Declaration of London inconvenient we tore it up; seeing that the laws in force were not sufficient we made new laws to suit our own particular needs.

Intricate questions of law are not easily comprehensible to the lay mind. It is difficult, it may be admitted, to make the average person understand that belligerents have rights no less than neutrals, but the task is not impossible. Because of the pragmatism of the official mind, which seldom has imagination and too often is without sympathy, the American has been allowed to nurse a grievance, and that grievance would never have existed had more foresight been displayed.

What is uppermost in the American mind at the present time is that certain "rights," which he believes are inherently his, have been trampled upon. He is rather vague as to what those rights are. His ideas are nebulous and inchoate. He cannot very clearly or convincingly advance his argument, but he is quite certain that something almost as precious to him as his birthright is in danger.

In the discussion in the Press on the American Note this question of "rights" is the pivot of the whole argument, and by assuming at the outset, as the majority of the papers do, that there has been an invasion of American rights by Britain we are immediately placed on the defensive before American public opinion. No one will accuse the New York "Tribune" of being pro-German or unfriendly to the Allies, but it feels constrained to say:

"Our sincere desire to avoid anything approaching ill-feeling does not mean that we are willing to retreat from our unquestioned rights as a neutral Power. The law of contraband contains a large borderland of doubt. But it leaves the broad right of neutrals unimpaired. It is at the most an exception to the general right of a nation not at war to go about its business as usual. That right we shall unquestionably insist upon maintaining, however ready we stand to discuss the mooted terms of the law of contraband in fairness and good-will."

An equally sympathetic supporter and well-wisher of the Allies has been the New York "Evening Post." It is therefore not without significance that a leader in this friendly newspaper should be entitled "Scraps of Paper at Sea," and that the writer should say:

"Britain enjoys the command of the sea. True, but that does not make her whim the law at sea. The rules carefully worked out through all the years, with the decisions made by British courts as well as American and the positions laid down repeatedly by British statesmen as well as our own, cannot be brushed aside as if they were but scraps of paper. They represent the consensus of nations. No plea of extreme necessity, or of life or death for Britain or any other Power, can avail to set aside the indefeasible rights of neutrals at sea. Command of the sea does not mean that you may do whatever you please at sea. Your conduct there in time of war, as upon the land, no matter how many army corps you may be able to mobilize, or how many big guns your battleships may carry."

for the relief of the Belgians. I think if they had been told that by stopping a single cargo of copper to Germany the war would be over, that much sooner and the necessity of furnishing food to the distressed Belgians would be to that extent lightened, they would have shown less objection to the necessarily rigorous measures Britain was forced to adopt. More real good can be done to Belgium, for whom every American has profound sympathy, by making it impossible for Germany to obtain copper than even by sending food, great and urgent as is the demand of Belgium.

The President dwells upon the injury that has been done to American trade. I think it is unfortunate that the American people have not been made to understand that this injury has been brought about by Germany and not because Britain has been required to search ships and confiscate contraband. That fact, the real truth, is being lost sight of. People quickly forget. Americans now seem to be forgetting on whom the responsibility for the war rests and only to remember that their cargoes are being interfered with by Britain, and therefore to hold Britain blamable for everything that has happened. It is dangerous when this impression becomes widespread; it can easily result in the loss of sympathy.

Many Britishers will no doubt ask whether American sympathy for Britain is less pronounced now than it was at the beginning of the war. Sentiments in the United States is still heavily in favor of the Allies, but it is not so one-sided as it was, I believe. With the breaking out of hostilities Germany did so many foolish and outrageous things that Americans were disgusted and horrified, and public opinion was quickly formed. The Germans in the United States appeared to be dazed by the catastrophe they had invited and to have lost the power to gauge the temper of the people whose support they were so anxious to gain. Since then they have pulled themselves together and acted with more discretion and greater wisdom, and various incidents have operated in their favor and turned our disadvantage.

It would be unfair to President Wilson to say that he was inspired by political considerations to send his protest to London, but it would be foolish not to recognize the influence of politics in shaping American thought and affecting American action. I am convinced that Mr. Wilson is honestly desirous of maintaining strict and impartial neutrality and doing nothing that can be construed as showing preference to either side. A great deal of criticism has been levelled at the President because he induced an American to abandon his contract to build submarines for the British Government. Parenthetically it may be remarked that an American who obtains a large contract from the British Government and then advertises it to all the world and our enemies is the person to be criticised, and it shows how little confidence can be placed in his discretion, but that apart, those persons who attack Mr. Wilson for having made it impossible for the submarines to be built are convicted by their own ignorance.

International law, we are now discovering to our cost, is not a legal code and cannot be internationally enforced. It ties the hands of nations willing to respect it and frees from obligation those without conscience. It is largely ridiculous and usually ineffective. Why a neutral nation should be permitted to sell to a belligerent cannon and shell and yet not be permitted to sell a vessel on which that cannon and shell can be used is not obvious to the lay mind, nor is it logical or consistent. You may sell cannon that can blow a fort to pieces or torpedoes that can send a battleship to the bottom, but if a pop-gun that could not make a dent on the side of a gunboat is mounted on a launch she becomes a "war ship," and under the absurdities of international law it is the duty of a neutral nation to prevent the departure of that formidable "warship" from its ports. Remembering, as Mr. Wilson must very well have remembered, the "Alabama" case and the heavy damages in which Great Britain was mulct for having permitted that vessel to be outfitted in a British port, it is perhaps not surprising that he should have prevented the building of submarines in this country rather than risk having to pay a heavy indemnity to Germany at the conclusion of the war.

The Germans accuse Mr. Wilson of favoring the Allies because he did nothing to prevent the exportation of munitions of war sanctioned by international law, and they resented his refusal to receive delegations who wanted to enlist his support in behalf of Germany.

## Remnants of Tweed

By the Pound at Removal Sale Prices

COME in to-day and look through our tweeds by the pound—you'll pick up a bargain here in an excellent quality—better than are usually sold by the pound.

We are showing some high-class pure-woollen tweeds that we have priced to make a complete clearance before removing to our New, Modern Store, in the West and are offering them now at a third less than the original price.

Come and see the patterns—we are sure the qualities will give entire satisfaction—you can select a piece here to make a man's coat, a pants, or a pants and vest and it is just possible that the piece you'll select will give you from two to five years constant wear—you know how a well-woven piece of pure-woollen tweed wears, better than we can tell you.

When you call take your time and look through the lot of eight hundred pounds, because the very pattern you are needing may be at the bottom of the pile—we'll wade through them and help you to be suited—a piece large enough for a man's pants may weigh 2 pounds and perhaps much less.

Removal Sale Price a pound \$1.00.

Splendid pieces amongst this lot suitable for making garments for sturdy school boys.

We also have a special lot of Union tweeds, in Men's Suit Lengths, in a variety of neat dark patterns. Regular a pound 90c.

Anderson's, Water Street, St. John's

## Housekeepers!

NOW that work is slack with Painters and Paper-hangers, get a hustle on, and have your House Papered at once. Do not lose any time in getting your choice of our

CANADIAN

"JOB" ROOM PAPERS and BORDERS TO MATCH

Regular Price 25c. to 45c.

Job Price 15c to 25c

Also CURTAIN NETS and CURTAIN MUSLIN All Reduced

## NICHOLLE, INKPEN & CHAFE

Limited.

Agents for Ungars Laundry & Dye Works, Halifax, N.S.

## Write For Our Low Prices

Ham Butt Pork  
Fat Back Pork  
Boneless Beef  
Special Family Beef  
Granulated Sugar  
Raisins & Currants

All Lines of General Provisions.

## HEARN & COMPANY

St. John's, Newfoundland.

Advertise in The Mail and Advocate