

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH is issued every Wednesday and Saturday by THE TELEGRAPH PUBLISHING COMPANY, SAINT JOHN, a company incorporated by Act of the Legislature of New Brunswick.

E. W. McCREADY, President and Manager.
Subscription Rates—Sent by mail to any address in Canada at One Dollar a year. Sent by mail to any address in the United States at Two Dollars a year. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.

In mailing price of subscription always sent money by P.O. Order or Registered Letter.

Advertising Rates—Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper, each insertion, \$1.00 per inch.

Advertisements of Wants, For Sale, Etc., one cent a word for each insertion. **Important Notice—All** remittances must be sent by post office order or registered letter, and addressed to The Telegraph Publishing Company.

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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N.B., DECEMBER 11, 1915

WAR COMMENT.

The statement from London that the Allies have taken steps to defeat a German movement looking toward an inconclusive peace is apparently based on two facts. One is that the Allies have signed a treaty in which they engage not to conclude peace separately, and this treaty is being published now. In the second place its publication comes just before a meeting of the German Reichstag which is to be held on December 9 at which the German government has agreed to permit the discussion of peace terms.

The feeling in London is that official Germany desires to convince the German people and the neutral nations that the Allies are responsible for the continuation of the war and that Germany is ready to make peace on reasonable terms. Apparently the German authorities have not only consented to a free discussion of the whole situation, including peace terms, in the Reichstag, but have authorized the German newspapers to enter upon a consideration of possible terms.

The position of the Allies is well expressed by the French Under-Secretary, Albert Thomas, who says that France will not make peace until Alsace and Lorraine have been won, Belgium and Serbia restored, and "German imperialism and Prussian militarism are put beyond the possibility of resurrection."

There comes by way of Holland to London a vague outline of the terms Germany is said to be ready to consider. According to this report the Germans would evacuate the sections of France which they have invaded, and all of Belgium except Antwerp, and would negotiate with Great Britain concerning the position of Antwerp. Poland would be made an autonomous state, Russia's invaded territory would be restored, and the independence of Serbia would be guaranteed. Then Germany would demand what is described as "the freedom of the seas" for German commerce. No one yet understands just what is meant by this phrase, for prior to the war German commercial ships, and for that matter other ships, had the freedom of the seas as did the ships of all other nations.

Thus far London has no definite knowledge that Berlin is considering, or proposes to put forward, any such terms as are outlined. What has been received from Holland is mere speculation to which the forthcoming meeting of the Reichstag has given rise. Whether there is any real basis for this speculation will not be known until after December 9.

If any such terms were suggested from Berlin at this time they would not be considered by the Allies, and any neutral nation which accepted them seriously would merely be in the position of Mr. Henry Ford.

It is felt in London that the German government is seeking some means of improving public opinion in Germany, and then an attempt will be made to convince the German people that peace ought now to be possible on terms of Germany's choosing because its armies still occupy large sections of the territory of the Allies. Whatever effect may be produced in Germany, the neutral nations are not likely to be impressed seriously by anything Germany may say until Germany is prepared to admit defeat in the field. In every Allied capital there is the same conviction—that the greatest danger now confronting the Allied nations is not the German army but the possibility of a premature peace which would leave Germany unbroken and ununited.

A source of peril to the Allies was the possibility that some one of them might be compelled or persuaded to make a separate peace. That danger is no longer considered serious. Moreover, leading men in all of the Allied countries are now convinced that Germany has long since passed its maximum of striking power, while the Allies are still gaining in strength. It may be expected that on several fronts fighting will be suspended to some extent during the winter. During that time the Allies will constantly be accumulating more men and munitions. It is felt that Germany will be unable to produce a sufficient number of fresh troops to maintain effective strength on the principal fronts next spring and next summer. The obvious course, therefore, is that upon which the Allies long since decided. They will confront Germany and its partners with a constantly increasing

superiority of forces in every theatre of war until finally the Teutonic alliance collapses under the strain.

Among the rumors which London hears by way of Holland is one to the effect that if Germany meets with success of its tentative peace terms, it will "decide upon a war of extermination." So far as the will to exterminate goes, Germany decided upon such a war long ago. No new decision by Germany will render the war any more horrible than it has been or more dangerous to the Allies, for Germany has already done its worst. When the time does come to talk about peace the Allies will dictate the terms.

FAITH IN ULTIMATE VICTORY.

The cheerful optimism of the soldiers facing the German trenches in France and Belgium is as strong now as at any other time since the beginning of the war. The Allied troops are confident that when the time comes they will be able to smash their way through the German lines, and they are equally sure that no amount of German shell fire, no reckless sacrifice of German soldiers would ever suffice to break their own lines. They are waiting hopefully for the day when the French and British commanders shall decide to begin the great drive. Meantime they are cheerful, happy, full of optimism and ready to fight desperately when attacks are made by the enemy or pressure is applied by their own side.

Not all the letters from the front are published, but those which are made public, as well as many of those which are not, are full of cheer and express a keen desire to fight to the bitter end. The men who write home very often do not attempt to minimize the task in hand, but they make it plain that they do not fear it. And they share the belief of their commanding officers that when the time comes to shatter the enemy's fortifications and break down his resistance they will be able to do so.

As an illustration of the feeling which prevails among the troops of the Allies, the following is taken from a correspondent's letter from Paris. "He is speaking of the French troops:

"For a time, the soldiers often expressed their belief that their own lines could never be broken, but also they did not see how they were to break the German lines. I have good reason to believe that this idea is disappearing. A captain from the very forefront assures me it is now only a question, not of men, but of time and munitions. Ever since the fighting in September, I believe this calm expectation of winning decisive advantages all along their front, however slowly, exists everywhere among the French troops. The obvious disposition of the German prisoners who have been taken lately, and sometimes their words, confirm this expectation."

The same thing has been said by correspondents with the British troops and with the Canadians. We in Canada hear it often from our men in the firing line. It shows the spirit in which the Allied troops are bending to the task. Such men would never admit defeat. They know they are fighting for civilization—for the right to live as free men. They know that time, money and men are on their side, that there must be no peace until the military power of Germany and its allies is crushed. In the face of such determination all talk of a peace which does not bring with it the things we are struggling for is wicked and vain.

THE PRUSSIAN CREED.

"During forty years Germany sat within her wall, learning and repeating Prussian incantations. It recalls those savage rites where the participants, by shouting and rhythmic movements, worked themselves into a frothing state. This has befallen Germany."

The quotation is from Owen Wister's new book on the war, "The Pentecost of Calamity." Mr. Wister was in Germany as a boy, and he recalls seeing at Cologne, on July 19, 1870, a part of Germany's mobilization against France. He was in Germany in May, June and July of 1914 and thus saw Germany again on the eve of the present war. He was a great admirer of Germany until the war opened his eyes and he was enabled to look back and see every step of Germany's deliberate preparation to spring at the throat of the world. One part of Germany's preparation was to deceive its own people, to exaggerate the merits of the German race and minimize the intelligence and progress of all other peoples. "China built a stone wall, Germany a wall of the mind," says Mr. Wister, and this he illustrates by quoting from a letter of an American parent who lived in Berlin and who placed his children in a school there:

"The text books were unique. I suppose that there was not in any book of physics or chemistry that they studied an admission that a citizen of some other country had taken any forward step; every step was by some line of argument assigned to a German. As you might expect, the history of the modern world is the work of German heroes. The oddest example, however, was the geography used by Katherine. (His daughter, aged thirteen.) This contained maps indicating the German sphere of influence in foreign lands in striking colors. In North and South America, including the United States and Canada, there are said to be three classes of inhabitants—negroes, Indians and Germans. For the United States there is a black belt for negroes and a middle west section for Indians, but the rest is a German sphere of influence. Canada is occupied mainly by Indians. The matter was brought to my attention because one of Katherine's girl friends asked her whether the war of negro or Indian blood and when she replied she was neither her friend pointed out that this was impossible for she surely was not German."

Mr. Wister has compiled a statement of the Prussian creed, taken sentence by sentence from speeches of the Kaiser and of his authorized spokesmen, his generals, professors, editors, and philosophers. Parts of this creed were formulated deliberately long before the war, and other parts of it were promulgated after the war began. Parts of

it are familiar to all newspaper readers, but taken as a whole, it must give everyone a fresh and startling impression of the brutality and hellishness not only of Prussian methods but of Prussian designs, the designs which the Allies must defeat if the civilized world is not to submit to Prussian outrage and Prussian military rule. To people in Europe who have been trampled under foot by the Kaiser's legions, who are familiar with murder, and worse than murder, there can be no difficulty in understanding this Prussian creed. In Canada, free thus far from the real ravages of war, it is highly essential that people should study it. By reading it with care and by recalling what has happened in Europe they will see how literally and how brutally practice has followed precept. This is the Prussian creed:

"We Hohenzollern take our crown from God alone. On me the Spirit of God has descended. I regard my whole task as appointed by heaven. Who opposes me I shall crush to pieces. Nothing must be settled in this world without the intervention of the German Emperor. He who listens to public opinion runs a danger of inflicting immense harm on the State. When one occupies certain positions in the world one ought to make dupes rather than friends. Christian morality cannot be political. Treaties are only a disguise to conceal other political aims. Remember that the German people are the chosen of God."

"Might is right and is decided by war. Every youth who enters a beer-drinking and dueling club will receive the true direction of his life. War in itself is a good thing. God will see to it that war always recurs. The efforts directed toward the abolition of war must not only be termed foolish, but absolutely immoral. The peace of Europe is only a secondary matter for us. The slight of suffering does one good, the infliction of suffering does one more good. This war must be conducted as ruthlessly as possible."

"The Belgians should not be shot dead. They should be left as to make impossible all hope of recovery. The impossible is to treat the Belgians as civil population with unrelenting severity and frightfulness. Weak nations have not the same right to live as powerful nations. The world has no longer need of little nations. We Germans have little esteem and less respect for the little. We need to enlarge our colonial possessions; such territorial acquisitions we can only realize at the cost of other states."

"Russia must no longer be an frontier. The Polish press should be annihilated, likewise the French and Danish. The Poles should be allowed three privileges: to pay taxes, serve in the army, and shut their jaws. France must be so completely crushed that she will never again cross our path. You must remember that we have not come to make war on the French people, but to bring them the Higher Civilization. The French have shown themselves decadent and without respect for the Divine law. Against England we fight for booty. Our real enemy is England. We have to crush absolutely perditional Albion, subdue her to such an extent that her influence all over the world is broken forever."

"German should replace English as the world language. English, the harshest tongue must be swept into the remotest corners until it has returned to its original elements of an insignificant piteous dialect."

"Let us drop our miserable attempts to excuse Germany's action. We will it. Our might shall create a new law in Europe. It is Germany that strikes. We are morally and intellectually superior beyond all comparison. We must fight with Russian beasts, English mercenaries and Belgian fanatics. We have nothing to apologize for. It is no consequence whatever if all the monuments ever created, all the pictures ever painted, all the buildings ever erected by the great artists of the world, be destroyed. The ugliness of stone placed mark the burial of a German grandeur is a more glorious monument than all the cathedrals of Europe put together. No respect for the tombs of Shakespeare, Newton and Goethe. They call us barbarians. What of it? The German claim must be: Education to hate. Organization of hatred. Education to the desire for hate. Let us abolish unripe and false shame. To us is given faith, hope and hatred; but hatred is the greatest among them."

This is not in any sense an exaggeration of the Prussian creed. In no way does it do injustice to the Prussian soul. By word and by deed Prussia has deserved every word of Mr. Wister's burning indictment. The words he quotes are the words of German leaders in every case. Of the German deeds all the world knows. Mr. Wister believes that Belgium and France, and other countries which have felt the full weight of the war, have been re-created through suffering, and he says: "If Germany's tragedy be, as I think, the deepest of all, the hope is that she, too, will be touched by the Pentecost of Calamity and pluck her soul from Prussia to whom she gave it in 1870. Thus shall the curse be lifted." It can only be lifted by the crushing of Prussian militarism.

Mr. Wister's striking work closes with a consideration of the position of the United States. He tells his fellow countrymen, after analyzing the evidence, that their nation risked its soul by failing to protest when Belgium was invaded. Europe, he says, did not expect or desire armed intervention by the United States but: "Europe has never forgotten some words spoken here once: 'That government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.' She waited to hear us repeat that in some form when The Hague conventions we signed were torn to scraps of paper. Perhaps nothing save calamity will teach us what Europe is thankful to have learned again—that some things are worse than war, and that you can pay too high a price for peace; but that you cannot pay too high for the finding and keeping of your own soul."

RECRUITING IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

It now seems probable that delay in definitely assigning quarters to the various New Brunswick units which are complete or in process of organization is about at an end. According to Monday's developments it has been discovered officially that there is accommodation enough in St. John for two battalions in

addition to the 90th, or more if necessary. The local recruiting authorities are at least in more direct touch with Ottawa and there apparently is no cause for further hesitation in deciding where each unit shall be quartered.

If there is as much improvement in the situation as was thought to be in sight Monday the effect upon recruiting should be good. But one plain lesson of recent developments has been the need for making New Brunswick a separate military district. If this province is to raise the number of men expected from it we should have here men who can come to a decision about ordinary matters of military business without referring them to Halifax, or to Ottawa through Halifax. This is said merely from the standpoint of efficiency. Few who have had anything to do with recruiting here will dispute it.

Meantime active and earnest recruiting committees here and in other parts of the province continue to bring home to men of service age the very great and very pressing need for men. While speculation as to the probable length of the war is natural, and cannot be prevented, the clearest lesson of the hour, the daily lesson of the news, is the need for men and the clear and personal responsibility of every man fit for service.

There is no parish in the province now which is not receiving letters from men at the front telling of the work being done there by sons of New Brunswick, relating how cheerfully and how earnestly they are going about their grim duties, and impressing upon their friends and acquaintances the fact that more recruits from this province are needed—and expected. The young men of New Brunswick can give only one satisfactory answer to these other men who are already at the front. That one satisfactory answer is to come forward and begin the period of training that is necessary before the new men can be advanced to the firing line.

WORDS—WHAT IS TO FOLLOW?

The world hears what President Wilson says; but it does not know what he will do. The force of his message to Congress Tuesday lies rather in the adjectives he applied to the German-American plotters than in any concrete suggestion as to how, or when, the United States is to protect its property and the lives of its citizens and vindicate its honor.

In truth the message of Tuesday would have been far more impressive had it been the first of its kind. There were others, and though they promised much, notably one in which Germany was to be "held to a strict accountability," they were not followed by any such action as they were thought to foreshadow. Only a few days ago a leading American editor was discussing the world's opinion of the United States. Of the French he said: "They look at the heart of things here, and they see the flood of Germanism which has risen in the Upper Mississippi Valley and washed with its threatening tide the very threshold of the government at Washington, and they are beginning to believe that their friends in this country are outnumbered by their enemies. They have yet to see the slightest sign in anything that President Wilson has said or done, that he has any other than a so-called view of the struggle. We cannot be surprised that the French marvel at this brand of neutrality."

So it is. There will be an uncommonly lively session of Congress. It could scarcely be otherwise under present conditions. But because Mr. Wilson has done nothing, because he has confined himself to words it is all too probable that Congress will follow suit and merely talk.

WAR COMMENT.

Sir George Foster is being criticized by one or two newspapers of his own party because in recent speeches he impressed upon his hearers his opinion that Germany had had the advantage in the war up to the present day. Some of his critics argue that his speeches were unduly pessimistic and might be regarded as encouraging by the enemy. As a matter of fact the things which affect the enemy's state of mind are events in the field rather than speeches by public men in Canada, and for that matter, Sir George Foster has expressed the utmost confidence in final victory for the Allies. What he said about Germany's progress was intended to impress upon his hearers the gravity of the situation and the necessity for Canada, and every part of the Empire, to redouble the work of prosecuting the war.

No one who has been reading the news of the day will be disposed to question the extreme gravity of the whole situation, and no well informed person will desire to give his fellow citizens an unduly optimistic impression of the outlook. Still more undesirable is the tone of undue pessimism. Recent events in Serbia and in Mesopotamia ought not to destroy the natural sense of proportion, and will not do so. These reverses must be considered in their relation to the whole war, and not as isolated incidents. They mean some prolongation of the war but they do not change its tendency. These incidents give temporary encouragement to the enemy, but they will not change the course of the war by any means. Taking the broad view, what is the situation? This question is well answered by the editor of the Ottawa Citizen, who looks forward with confidence to the end but who deems it necessary once more to remind his public how tremendous the task of the Allies still must be before peace and security are won. The Citizen points out that in the American Civil War the South was not beaten in any one engagement but by the "steadily growing power of the federal armies, by the slow relentless movement of super-

ior forces, superior equipment, superior resources." So it was with Napoleon. So it will be with Germany, in time. The Citizen says:

"Today Emperor William is not deceived, nor is his great general staff, by spasmodic Zeppelin raids on British cities, by 'glorious' victories over the ragged half-starved remnants of the Serbian army, by the geographical defence of Constantinople, by the uncertain aid of the vacillating Bulgarians. Official Berlin knows, if the people of Germany do not, that France and Britain are more powerful in men, arms and resources than at any time in modern history, that the Russian empire is stretching its great limbs, that Italy is unsundered and firm in its determination to crush Austria, that the German navy is helpless and that, after eighteen months of enormous physical and financial strain, the Central Powers are weakening."

"Does this augur an early peace? History shows to the contrary. Every similar war has ended, not when hope of victory was dissipated, but only when the effects of superior force and organization in support were actually applied and conclusively demonstrated. A war that begins in victory is hard to lose. A war that was planned with the foresight of what an essentially military nation, intoxicated with past conquests was capable, and which was timed with remarkable intelligence and prosecuted with terrific energy will not be regarded as hopeless until the nation that conceived it lies crushed beyond all hope of immediate revival. When, in combination with this, it is recognized that the powers that planned the conflict are in a position to command the national resources and that defeat means the complete loss of all that for them has obtained in the past the conclusion is inevitable that the last stages will be more desperate even than the first."

"Germany must lose, but before us lies the greater part of the task of securing human liberty, and the rights of nations for all time in Europe and throughout the world. The war has entered that last stage where victory awaits the final great application of the cumulative strength of the nations which have battled so steadfastly for freedom. In this glorious consummation Canada must do her part and do it with all the vigor and whole heartedness of which she is capable."

This is the right line. When Germany and Austria take stock of their weakened resources in men and in money next spring they must find the Allies growing rapidly in striking power. The Germans must see that nothing can interrupt the war until they are soundly beaten. Germany cannot be saved from crushing defeat by anything that happens in Serbia or in Turkey. Her fate will be settled in the west, and what the end will be her leaders cannot fail to see today. How desperately Germany will fight after her people realize what her leaders already know—that they are bound to be beaten—is a question which the future must answer.

NAPOLEON AND THE KAISER.

Germany's winter campaign in Russia has naturally recalled Napoleon's march to Moscow—and from Moscow. Napoleon had at the beginning of his campaign some 600,000 troops. The Germans have had about four times as many; but while Napoleon advanced at the rate of ten miles a day, the Germans, in their last drive, averaged about two miles a day and finally came to a standstill.

Napoleon passed through 1,200 miles of hostile territory in 120 days, and took Moscow four months after his declaration of war. But the Germans in fifteen months have advanced only 400 miles as compared with Napoleon's 1,200, and already a further advance is regarded as too costly to be attempted, while the common expectation is that the Russians, with new levies and a plentiful supply of artillery and shells, will roll back the invader once more in the spring. The German line to-day extends from the neighborhood of Riga in the north down across Poland to the district of Lemberg. While the German army fought its way from Kovno to Vilna in thirty-two days, Napoleon covered the same distance in four.

The German drive was well organized and was carried on with relentless vigor, but while the attack was infinitely more powerful than that of Napoleon the resistance offered by the Russians in 1914-15 was in every way more formidable than the resistance in 1812. And yet Russia was not ready. She has been getting ready slowly for fifteen months, and when at length she is in a position to strike—with her full force, she will sweep the enemy back out of Poland and appear once more in the Carpathian passes.

THE AMERICAN LEGION.

The formation of the 97th Battalion of Canada, to be composed entirely of officers and men born in the United States, makes one of the interesting incidents of recruiting in Canada. Although the United States is a neutral nation yet by declaration of its government—many of its newspapers, and, as it now appears, many of its citizens are not neutral. Well, turn about is fair play. The number of Canadians who fought in the armies of the North during the Civil War has been variously estimated from 40,000 to 60,000. A contemporary says the military records at Washington show 48,000 Canadian enlistments during the Civil War, and 18,000 Canadian casualties. Even in St. John to-day there are living veterans of that war of half a century ago.

If the popular will in the United States had complete freedom of expression to-day it is probable that many battalions of Americans would join the Allies. Or, if the United States should cease to be neutral and should break off relations with Germany and Austria, recruiting officers representing the Allies would find it easy to secure a large number of soldiers in the United States among men born in Canada, in the United Kingdom, in France and in other countries now opposed to Germany. If Canada supplied forty-five battalions of the men who fought in the Civil War, and if the Canadian dead and wounded in that war were equivalent to

sixteen full modern battalions, our American friends have still some distance to go before they will equal the Canadian record. And the Allied cause to-day is one which should appeal on every good ground with exceeding force to millions of American citizens. The American battalion will not be fighting for the Allies alone; it will be fighting for liberty, justice and civilization. Also, it will be fighting to protect every vital interest of the United States.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

One can imagine with what interest the Canadian troops at the front would welcome a daily news bulletin service from home.

A pertinent suggestion to Henry Ford was made by an American editor just as the Ark sailed for Europe. It was that Mr. Ford might try his hand in Mexico first.

British submarines are again at work in the Sea of Marmora. A Turkish destroyer and five other vessels already have been sent to the bottom. The Allied attack at the Dardanelles by no means has been abandoned.

Words will not have any effect upon Germany and Austria. These countries are not alarmed by threats that are not backed up by acts. After all, the direct and courageous way is always the best.

While Henry Ford is on his way to Europe to "end the great war" the employees of his automobile factory in Manchester have enlisted in a body. Their action is a striking rebuke to the impudent millionaire.

The joint war council of the Allies held its first meeting in Paris yesterday. The formation of such a council has inspired the people of all the belligerent nations with confidence, and doubtless the good results of its deliberations will be quickly apparent.

The official report of recent operations along the Canadian front is highly complimentary to Canada's troops. They have held their own at all times and on several occasions they have inflicted considerable damage on the German trenches. Meantime they are wondering how many of their comrades back home are hurrying to their assistance.

No serious international complications are likely to follow the Austrian attack upon the American steamer Petrolite. Had not the enemy been pretty sure of this it is doubtful if the steamer would have been fired on. It is by no means the most flagrant violation of American rights on the high seas by pirate submarines.

Interviews recently given out by King Constantine of Greece and Premier Skouloudis clearly indicate that Greece is playing for time. It is evident that both King and Premier fear the Allies, and it is highly probable that Greece would enter the war against the Central Powers if the Allied force in the Balkans were very much stronger. The same thing is true of Roumania.

Colonel Roosevelt has declined an invitation to address the Toronto Canadian Club lest he might say something about the neutrality of his own country that would be in bad taste. But however careful he may be in this regard he is not at all backward at home about criticizing President Wilson and his colleagues. The United States would have been at war with Germany long ago if Colonel Roosevelt had been President instead of Mr. Wilson.

Sir William Peterson, principal of McGill University, points out that among the things that are worse than war are dishonor, being recreant to a pledged word, and slavery. It is because that what Sir William says is true that Great Britain would not think of stopping the fight now. Too much is at stake. Germany is an outlaw nation and must be punished for its crimes.

Dr. Andrew Macphail, of McGill University, editor of the University Magazine, is serving at the front as an officer in No. 6 Field Ambulance, Canadian Expeditionary Force. In his absence the magazine is being carried on by an editorial committee headed by Sir William Peterson and including Stephen Leacock, C. W. Colby, and P. T. LaFleur. Dr. Macphail did a public service of high value as an editor of courage and originality, and he was quick to answer the call to battle.

It is right that the four officials of the Hamburg-American Line should be sent to prison for violating the laws of the United States. But that will not end the activities of German agents in America. Sterner and more sweeping measures will have to be adopted if the United States laws are to be obeyed by the criminals in the service of the Kaiser on this side of the Atlantic.

The New York Journal of Commerce, which looks upon the Ford excursion as a serious reflection upon the dignity and sobriety of the American people, says: "It is to be hoped that Mr. Henry Ford will not be disappointed in the result of his costly trip abroad with invited and voluntary guests. He says he expects to come back much wiser than he is now. That is altogether desirable."

Paul Leroy Beaulieu, a leading French economist, takes a hopeful view of the future. He does not believe Europe will be reduced to a state of bankruptcy by this war. Even Germany, he thinks, will emerge from the struggle with sufficient financial strength to carry it back to commercial prosperity. Incidentally, M. Beaulieu looks for the end of the war by next autumn. Whatever basis he may have for his opinion of Germany's commercial outlook there are many who will agree with him regarding the prospects for post-bellum activity along industrial lines and a greatly increased

trade. It is not too early for Canadian manufacturers to pave the way for trade connections in other countries. And Canada ought now to begin the manufacture of many articles hitherto imported from Germany.

The United States government has sent a note to Austria asking for reparation for American lives lost when the steamer Ancona was shelled by an Austrian submarine, and for assurances that such acts will not be repeated. This must not be taken to mean that the United States would declare war if Austria should refuse to grant the American demands. A similar note was sent to Germany after the Lusitania disaster, but Germany has made no reparation. Vienna is not likely to be seriously disturbed by the latest note from Washington.

Comparing the butchery of Edith Cavell with the action of the British government in allowing Kenneth Triest to return to America with his father, Theodore Roosevelt says:

"The execution of Miss Cavell was a deed of black horror, and when I saw the account of it I confess that I did not believe the British government would be inclined to show mercy to young Triest, for, of course, the British government had a thousand-fold more justification for insisting upon the execution of Triest than the German government had for putting to death Miss Cavell. The boy should be made to understand the mercy and magnanimity with which the British government has treated him."

Kenneth Triest was arrested as a spy after joining the British navy. He was released after Colonel Roosevelt and others interceded for him, there being some doubt as to his sanity.

A British naval officer, discussing the efficiency of the monitors which Great Britain is using to such good effect along the Belgian coast and at the Dardanelles, says:

"When, in the autumn of last year, the three monitors which had been purchased into the navy were available for active service, the idea seems to have been that they might be used on the canal system in Flanders. But a place was soon found for them in connection with the bombardment of the enemy's positions on the coast of Belgium. Here the advantages of the monitor types were first demonstrated. From the reports of the German wireless, as well as those of Dutch observers, it is obvious that the monitors now operating on the Belgian coast, while they carry much heavier guns, retain the advantages which made the prototype so useful. Their immunity from mishap confirms this. It was due to their peculiar design that the Severn and Mersey were able to follow the Königsberg up the Raigvi river and settle her, although she was much more heavily armed, and a larger vessel than both of them put together."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(The opinions of correspondents are not necessarily those of The Telegraph. This newspaper does not undertake to publish all or any of the letters received. Unsigned communications will not be noticed. Letters on one side of paper only. Communications must be plainly written; otherwise they will be rejected. Stamps should be enclosed if return of manuscript is desired in case it is not used. The name and address of the writer should be sent with every letter as evidence of good faith.—Editor Telegraph.)

FROM AND CONCERNING, ROBERT L. DUNCAN.

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Sir,—In your issue of yesterday reporting the recruiting meeting at St. John I see that use of what appears to be my action regarding a subscription to the machine gun fund has been used as an incentive for every man to do his utmost. In so far as the motive of Sgt. Knight in using the story is concerned, I feel that he may have done so with every good intention. That is the kind of sacrifice we need in this country."

Commenting on this I may say that I never sold any "old" piano or any other, that it was not necessary for me to do so as yet, and that the instrument in question is a fairly modern one, and would suggest that Sgt. Knight be somewhat more careful if foolish tales are repeated to him before giving them unnecessary publicity.

I may say further that I have no acquaintance with Sgt. Knight, and cannot see the necessity of introducing names in his speech, and if he does so at least have the common decency to give the name instead of the abbreviation quoted above. It might be well also to ask the permission of the party or parties interested before placing them in print in such language.

If you will give this letter space in your valuable paper next issue you will greatly oblige.

Yours truly,

ROBERT L. DUNCAN.

Campbellton, Dec. 7, 1915.

To the Editor of The Telegraph: Sir,—In your issue of yesterday reporting the recruiting meeting at St. John appears the following: "In Campbellton there is an old man named Bob Duncan. His one pleasure in life was an old piano. He sold that piano for \$80 and gave every penny of it to the patriotic fund. That is the kind of sacrifice we need in this country."

The above is entirely untrue except that Mr. Duncan gave \$80 to the machine gun fund, the inference of sacrifice and poverty is entirely unfounded. It is resented here by a large section of the community. Mr. Duncan is one of the largest holders of real estate in the town, and is also related to almost all the old families here, who certainly do not appreciate the efforts of Sgt. Knight in giving such publicity to an untruth. Many of us also feel that the gallant sergeant's very interesting accounts from the front will have to be taken more carefully in future as they, too, may be somewhat highly colored, in order to be more effective.

Please give this short letter a place in your paper and oblige.

A CITIZEN OF CAMPBELLTON.

Campbellton, Dec. 7, 1915.

AGENTS

RELIABLE representatives meet the tremendous fruit trees throughout the present. We wish four good men to represent the fruit-garden in the fruit-garden. New Brunswick offers opportunities for men offer a permanent pay to the right men. Toronto, Ont.

THERE is a boom in New Brunswick. Agents now in ed district. Pay well. Pelham Nursery Co.

TEACHERS

TEACHER WANTED and class fees. District No. 3, Parish of St. John. Apply, stating salary, to John A. Young, Esq., County (N. B.).

WANTED—Second male teacher for 2, Parish of St. John. Apply, stating salary, to John A. Young, Esq., County (N. B.).

WANTED—Second or for School District of Sussex. Apply experience,