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Semi-Weekly Telegraph and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., JUNE 5, 1915.

GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES.

The German note invites—in fact, demands—a prompt, short and decisive reply from President Wilson. If he is bound by his own solemn words, he must regard Germany's reply to his Lusitania message not only as wholly unsatisfactory but as cynically arrogant and defiant in substance, though not in tone.

Germany's signal failure to afford satisfaction and give the guarantees required by President Wilson is only too obvious. At the time Germany announced its submarine blockade of the United Kingdom and the waters adjacent thereto, the United States notified the German government that the American nation did not propose that its citizens should be endangered or should lose their lives by the destruction of merchant ships, neutral or belligerent. The American note said clearly that the United States would hold Germany to a full accountability in case any American life was destroyed in the course of this submarine warfare, whether the Americans were traveling on merchant ships owned either by neutral powers or by nations engaged in the war. After that came the sinking of the Lusitania and the loss of more than one hundred American lives. President Wilson then repeated in substance the conditions of his former message, and demanded from Germany not only full reparation in the case of the Lusitania's American passengers but—and this is now the point—a binding guarantee that Germany would cease from any acts or policies whereby Americans traveling in merchant ships might be killed or imperiled by the sinking of such vessels without giving time for the escape of all on board.

Now Germany makes reply, and pointedly ignores President Wilson's demand for a change of policy in regard to the sinking of merchant vessels. Germany seeks to raise other issues, and to retry the case upon which the American government has already passed. It either seeks to evade the main point in the American note, or, as many Americans will believe, impudently brushes that point aside with the intention of gaining time while carrying on a prolonged correspondence as to facts which President Wilson regards as already established beyond dispute. Increasing evidence to establish the fact that the Nebraskan was torpedoed and only escaped destruction by good luck is coming to hand at the very hour when Washington is digesting this most unsatisfactory reply from Berlin.

These incidents, considering the language in President Wilson's last message to Berlin, surely mean that the time for gentle speech has passed. It is difficult to see now what President Wilson can do short of sending a prompt, short, and decisive note, demanding complete satisfaction within forty-eight hours, and notifying Germany that he will declare war unless Germany pledges itself to make prompt reparation and to abandon its policy of murder on the high seas by means of submarines. The tenor of President Wilson's next communication to Berlin will be scanned narrowly by all the civilized world, for the American nation is on trial.

TIME WELL SPENT.

New interest is being taken in the boy scout organization in New Brunswick and competent leaders are giving considerable time and attention to the proper instruction of the young members. At times, and under certain conditions, it is discouraging work, especially wherever there is a tendency to look upon the boy scouts as a military organization. But the results are gratifying and in no sense is the time wasted. In no better way could the development of the boys be brought about. Discipline, a splendid knowledge of the woods and the open, signalling, map drawing, first aid and the ideals of citizenship, all are taught and the final results are of benefit to the nation.

When Baden-Powell founded the first troop of boy scouts he made it clear that it was not to be confused with any military organization and that principle has been faithfully followed in the broad development of Baden-Powell's idea. But the present war has already proved that the knowledge of discipline and scouting attained by the boy scouts is of tremendous value to them if they are called upon to take their places on the battlefield. Following his recent visit to the front the founder of the boy scout organization wrote: "I found the scouts a very fine body of men, and their officers spoke of them with the highest praise, saying that old scouts made far better soldiers than the untrained lads, for they knew already how to obey and how to use their wits."

Boy scouts have done great work in this war, both at home and on the battlefield. Their services as ambulance drivers, stretcher bearers and patrol leaders have been invaluable, and, no matter how trying the situation or how dangerous the work assigned them, they have displayed fine initiative and intelligence and have been highly complimented by their officers.

The men who are doing what they can to place the boy scout organization in this province on a firm footing will be encouraged in their work by the fine record of the scouts at the front. No doubt the deeds of the scouts and former scouts will stimulate the boys themselves to greater effort. It is time and energy well spent.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNG MEN.

If St. John furnished as many recruits in proportion to population as Manchester has furnished, this city's contribution would be 5,750 men, or a little more than five battalions like the 26th—which is made up of men from every part of the province.

But the Manchester record of recruiting is high, so let us see what the results would be if this city and province furnished recruits up to eight per cent. of our population. That would give 4,000 from St. John, reckoning the population at 50,000, and 28,000 for the province, out of 350,000. Eight per cent. is the general level of recruiting in England and Scotland.

If we take five per cent., the province would furnish 17,500 men, or, roughly, seventeen battalions, and the city alone 2,500 from within its limits, or a little better than two full battalions.

These are figures which our young men must be thinking about. They like to read, and they read with a glow of pride, of the historic battles in the history of our Empire, of Balaclava, of Waterloo, of the deeds of the Gordon Highlanders, of the magnificent fighting of the Canadians at Langemarck and St. Julien. But while it is good to read and to feel a thrill upon reading these records of glorious deeds done, our young men must remember that this is a war of volunteers so far as the British Empire is concerned and that those who have served the flag so faithfully and so magnificently up to the present time have been volunteers who sought more diligently for reasons why they should go to war than for reasons why they should remain at home. They went, expecting thousands more to follow them. Are they to be disappointed?

This is a war carried on by young men, and the average age of the Canadians who have gone is very young. The response has been fine. It shows the patriotism and the courage of this great Dominion. But because many have gone we must not be for a moment blind to the fact that there are other battalions to be filled up. The young men who should have been filling up those battalions to overflowing would be vastly insulted if they were told that the Germans were outdoing them in readiness to fight. They might say that Germany is a conscript nation and that men there have had no choice. One answer to that is that if the fruits of our voluntary system, thus far magnificent, especially in the United Kingdom, do not prove sufficient for the task of beating down the Prussian and Austrian armies, we shall be a conscript nation also, and our community will be called upon to furnish by lot a certain proportion of the men of active service age. It may not come to that.

Meantime, so long as more troops are required, it is the duty of this country, of our city and province, to find as many volunteers per thousand of population as have been found in the United Kingdom. For we must remember that life and security, and ease, and wealth, and family ties are no more to be weighed against the needs of the flag and the Empire in New Brunswick than they are so to be weighed in the British Isles. The ordinary private whom you see in uniform has set the one example that is of supreme use. He has thrown the weight of his body into the scale on the side of justice, and the very sight of his uniform is like a flashing sign pointing out the duty confronting every civilian whom he meets in the street, if that civilian be of active service age and physically fit for the field.

The record made by Canadian soldiers up to the present day shows what splendid fighting material the Dominion can furnish and how, with only a few months of training, our stalwart sons are able to meet the shock of war with the best. With the praise of their valor ringing throughout the world it remains for us who are still at home to fill the vacant places in the battalions now in course of completion.

Ours is a brave race, and therefore the matter of securing more recruits is only one of bringing home the duty of the hour to the young men who should be going. They must be set to thinking more clearly and more deeply upon the needs of the Empire, the nature of the war, and the call that comes back from the dust and smoke and blood of European battlefields for reinforcements to stiffen the line of khaki-clad British and Canadians who are paying their shot.

What are you doing about it?

THE TASK IN HAND.

"Little did our enemy understand or realize, when he wantonly opened the gates of war, the forces he was unchaining in every quarter of the globe where the English language is spoken and where the free traditions of our race have entered into the life blood of the people. He has from the first, and increasingly so as he has proceeded, violated every law of God and of man, step by step down the incline to a depth of unmeasured infamy. He has mobilized against himself the powers and influences which are at the back of the free spirit of mankind. War is not fought with the spiritual weapon. It needs, and never more did it need than with us today, physical strength and unceasing flow of numbers, of equipment, and apparatus which science can devise and industries supply. It is more than ever before a question, not of personal prowess or of brilliant surprises, but of the steady and unsleeping organization of the whole of the material resources of the community."

The foregoing is from a speech made recently by Premier Asquith at an Imperial patriotic meeting in London which was also addressed by Mr. Bonar Law. In pointing out that now in the tenth month of the world's greatest war the call was still for more men to take the place of the fallen, the Prime Minister paid grateful tribute to the splendid services rendered by the Dominions oversea and he asked the meeting to record on behalf of the British people, its abiding gratitude for the aid rendered by the Dominions in the Empire's hour of peril. Mr. Asquith was loudly cheered as he reviewed the progress of the war and referred to the great work accomplished by the Allies on land and sea. The armies raised and sent into the field, where they had been steadily and continuously reinforced, were upon a scale which dwarfed everything in the past, but the call was still for men to increase the Empire's effective forces, both for aggression and for defence, to place outside the region of uncertainty or of speculation the complete and decisive victory of the Allies' cause.

Mr. Asquith proceeded to review separately the contributions to the common cause, first of the Dominions and then of India. After quoting striking figures to show how generously all parts of the Empire had contributed in money and in kind, he came to the military aid sent from over the seas. Speaking generally, he said:

"Canada sent to us a complete division with line of communication units, two regiments of Regular cavalry, and two batteries of horse artillery, in addition to the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry. (Cheers.) A second division has been organized, and parts of it have already arrived. Australia has furnished a division of several light horse brigades, and reinforcements have been organized and will shortly be dispatched. New Zealand has sent a large contingent, and further reinforcements are due to arrive. A contingent of Maoris have been dispatched and on completion of their training will be sent to the front. Newfoundland has furnished a contingent of her own, and further drafts have arrived lately. She has provided a most valuable body of naval reservists, of whom the Admiralty think very highly. Many offers have been received from South Africa, but it was felt that the Union government had first claim on South Africans, and the acceptance of these offers had better be deferred until the campaign there had been concluded."

After giving interesting details regarding the achievements of General Botha in South Africa, where "British and Dutch have been fighting side by side," the Prime Minister referred to India's princely contributions in money and kind, saying:

"India has put in the field in the several theatres of war, including the British troops sent from India, a force equivalent to nine completed infantry divisions, with artillery, and eight cavalry brigades (cheers), as well as several smaller bodies of troops aggregating more than an infantry division in minor and outlying spheres. She has placed at the disposal of the Empire, for service out of India, 28 regiments of cavalry, British, Indian, and Imperial service, and 124 regiments of infantry, British, Indian, and Imperial. (Cheers.) When we look at the actual achievements of the force so spontaneously dispatched, so liberally provided for, so magnificently equipped, the battlefields of France and Flanders bear an undying tribute to their bravery."

One in heart and purpose, was the way Mr. Asquith described the united struggle of Great Britain and the Dominions oversea, the true reasons for which were far deeper than self-interest. "We long ago," he said, "abandoned the old-fashioned and worn-out fallacy that colonial autonomy was inconsistent with or hostile to Imperial unity. There is not, I believe, a Dominion of the Crown which would not rather suffer annihilation than exchange for any other sovereignty its allegiance to the British government." (Cheers.) It was in this connection that Mr. Asquith drew the cheers of the audience by saying with great enthusiasm: "Gallant feats of arms have been performed by the Dominion troops in the theatre of war in Europe. The Canadians have won for themselves in France an everlasting name (cheers), and in the far-off peninsula of Gallipoli the Australians and New Zealanders have shown themselves worthy warriors."

Mr. Bonar Law who followed Premier Asquith compared the Prussian menace to a venomous reptile which must be destroyed. That was the task before the people of the whole Empire, a task that needed every ounce of strength. He referred to the unity of the political parties in the United Kingdom and said: "There have been rumors of political changes, of combinations of politicians or statesmen. Such combinations would be useless, perhaps worse than useless, except as a means to an end—as a means to a combination of the nation (cheers)—a nation from top to bottom organized for the purpose of ending this war." (Cheers.)

"Our enemies have singled us out," said the speaker, "from all the Allies as the chief object of their hatred. The British Empire is the antithesis of everything for which German militarism stands. They rely on force, and force alone. They not only despise, but they do not understand moral forces, and it is moral forces on which the British Empire rests. (Cheers.) The Prime Minister has spoken of what has been done by our Indian fellow subjects. I do not think we fully realize here how much those men, who have fought and died by the side of our soldiers, have helped us through these long months. But what about Canada? The world learned with surprise—the British world learned not with surprise but with a thrill of pride which spread from one end of it to another—that men who a few months ago were civilians had stood the severest test of war, and had gained a reputation which will never die. (Cheers.) Perhaps as one born in Canada and knowing personally some of those who have fallen in the last few weeks, I think most of what has been done by Canada."

Mr. Bonar Law concluded by warning the people of the Empire that this war threatened our national existence and that in order to survive it was necessary to set our teeth and see the end of it. His closing words were:

"I do not wish in anything to look beyond this war. But perhaps, with the representatives of the Dominions here, I may be permitted to say for myself, for myself alone, not attempting to speak for any party, that I have now the hope that we shall gain something more as the result of this war. The Dominions of the British Empire have not been created by the war. But the conditions have been changed by the war. It is my hope, and if it is taken up in earnest while the metal is glowing red hot from the furnace of war I believe it may be done, I believe as a result of it we may see a Parliament of the British Empire in which every part of that Empire in proportion to its resources and numbers, will share in the duty and in the honor of ruling the British Empire." (Loud cheers.)

SHORT-SIGHTED AFFECTION.

Parents who seriously object to their sons enlisting at a time when the need of men at the front is urgent, may well ask themselves this question: "Is our affection short-sighted?" The answer was given by Lord Derby in an address at an open-air recruiting meeting at Preston. One of the things that kept men back, he said, was the reluctance of mothers to let their sons go to the front. He knew what their feelings were, because his own son was fighting in the trenches. If he had kept his son from doing what he clearly recognized to be his duty, he would at the end of the war have been pointed out as a man who knew his duty but failed to do it. "Mothers and fathers," he added, "let me say this to you. If you keep your son back when he knows what his duty is and wants to do it, you may keep him for the moment but you are going to make him lose his own self-respect, and when the war is over you will find that when he has lost his self-respect he will equally have lost his affection for you who prevented him from doing his duty. Parents who have read of the German atrocities cannot be human if they do not let their sons go to fight to prevent such things ever happening to this country. Young men instead of looting shops and breaking the heads of Germans at home, you should put your hate to purpose by fighting the enemy in the field and subjugating him once and for all."

Some young men, said Lord Derby, were saying: "We won't go till we are fetched." To these he wished to make it plain that Lord Kitchener wanted 300,000 men, and that if he did not get them one way he would get them the other.

THE RUSSIAN RESISTANCE.

The Russian resistance to the Austro-German advance is perceptibly stiffening and it is apparent that the heavy reinforcements which have been rushed from the rear are making themselves felt in no uncertain manner. While the enemy's attacks are still continuing all along the line it is freely believed that the Germans have lost the offensive and that they will not long be able, in their present position, to face the great pressure which the Russians have already begun to exert. Although Przemysl is now still inside a circle of Austro-German armies, a circle that shows a gap of about eighteen miles on the eastern half of its circumference, extending from the vicinity of Jaroslau to a point southeast of Przemysl, a strong Russian defence, according to official statements from that territory, is being carried on from two directions and the gap in the circle is being held against assault from north and south. At the same time, far to the north of Jaroslau, the Czar's troops are hammering away at the Austro-German circumference from the outside. It is at this point, on the lower San, where last week the Russians scored a success of considerable dimensions—a success which changed the complexion of the operations along that part of the eastern front.

Military critics believe that if the Russians succeed in pressing home this attack the Germans will be threatened seriously on the flank, and the tide which has steadily run against Russia since May 1 will be definitely turned. However there is no disposition to overlook the fact that the Austro-German commanders appear to be confident and give no indication that they entertain any serious fear of a successful demonstration against their left flank. But it is plain that the Russian retreat has come to an end, and it is pointed out that what happened after the battle of Lodz last December may be repeated and that just as the Russians rallied and made their stand along the Bzura and Rawka rivers, to the east of Lodz, so may they be able to dig themselves in along the Wisnia River, which flows into the San between Jaroslau and Przemysl. If this were done it would be impossible for the Germans to proceed undisturbed with their siege operations. Up in the Baltic provinces the invading Germans are said to have been pressed back, losing guns and prisoners.

It is of interest at this time to note that Professor Vogt, one of the ablest of the German military critics, is pointing out in leading German publications that the assumption, so prevalent in Germany, that Russia's capacity of resistance is weakening, is a mistaken one. He declares that, unfortunately for Germany, there exists no reason to justify the hope of exhaustion, in men and material, of the Russian army. The story that Russian reserves were sent into the field without arms, he pronounces as purely fantastic, and he goes on to say: "All our lessons so far from the eastern war theatre ought to show us that the Russians have learned much, very much, from the Manchurian war, since when they have indefatigably utilized their experiences to ameliorate the serious defects of their army system. The experiences of our troops in the east justify the belief, not only in the efficiency of the Russian troops, but also in their admirable equipment, and, above all, in the good working of the commissariat."

Professor Vogt while contending that the Russian supply of men is relatively smaller than the German, is careful to add that "Russia remains, however, the Moloch, whose reserves are greater than we originally imagined." He draws attention to the fact that those who reckoned with the possibility of revolution in Russia have been disappointed and he also discourages the expectation of Russia's economic collapse. "The prohibition of alcohol which was carried out with unexampled energy denotes," he says, "a tremendous strengthening of the power of resistance, and statistics show that the great falling off in the state revenue through the loss of the alcohol monopoly, far from signifying the weakening of Russia, denotes rather the strengthening of her physical power. One must also consider what enormous treasures Russia possesses, what wealth her monasteries contain, whose moderate taxation recently brought the government in a revenue of 210,000,000 rubles. One should remember how very quickly after her financial exhaustion in the Russo-Japanese war Russia was able to make herself one of the greatest possessors of gold. A land so wealthy, and, therefore, indestructible, can always hope to obtain credit."

It is for these reasons that Professor Vogt is trying to disabuse the German mind of the fallacious idea, no doubt derived from official and semi-official statements issued in Berlin, that Russia is lacking in equipment and in unanimity of spirit and that she must therefore tire of fighting before her allies on the western front. Germany is finding that Russia is in the fight to stay and that Russian generals are the equal of Prussian leaders in strategy and generalship.

RECRUITING STANDARDS.

One of the interesting features of Lord Kitchener's recent call for 300,000 more men was his announcement that recruits enlisting for service at the front and at home were to be accepted up to the age of forty years, and that the minimum standard of height for such recruits was to be five feet two inches for infantry.

Since the beginning of the war the age limit and measurement standards for recruits for the army have varied considerably. During the first recruiting campaign the War Office asked for men between the ages of nineteen and thirty, but at the end of the first month the age maximum was raised to thirty-five, with a minimum height of five feet three inches, and a minimum chest measurement of thirty-four inches. On September 11, owing to the rush to join the colors, the minimum height was raised to five feet six inches, and the minimum chest measurement to thirty-five and a half inches. Six weeks afterwards, when men were needed to complete the second half million, the age limit was extended to thirty-eight and the minimum height reduced to five feet four inches. Less than a month elapsed before another alteration was made. This time the age limit was left unchanged but the minimum height was reduced to five feet three inches and the minimum chest measurement to thirty-four and a half inches.

The following figures give a good idea of the changes that have been made in this regard since the outbreak of hostilities. During August last the recruiting age was nineteen to thirty with a minimum height of five feet six inches and a minimum chest measurement of thirty-five and a half inches. At the end of August the age was nineteen to thirty-five, height five feet three inches, chest thirty-four inches. On September 11 the age was nineteen to thirty-five, height five feet six inches, chest thirty-five and a half inches. On October 28 the age was nineteen to thirty-eight, height five feet four inches, chest thirty-five and a half inches. On November 11 the age was nineteen to thirty-eight, height five feet three inches, chest thirty-four and a half inches. On May 19 the age standard was set at nineteen to forty, height five feet two inches, chest thirty-three and a half inches.

Lord Kitchener's appeal, a facsimile of which appears elsewhere in today's Telegraph, has been placarded on every prominent wall in the United Kingdom. Outside the War Office in London and on many other public buildings posters appear headed "Lord Kitchener Calls For More Men," and reproducing on a large scale a sheet of War Office note paper on which in Lord Kitchener's handwriting, are the words which every young man in New Brunswick eligible for service at the front should read and ponder well:

"I have said that I would let the country know when more men should be wanted for the war. The time has come, and I now call for 300,000 recruits to form new armies. Those who are engaged in the production of war material of any kind should not leave their work. It is to men who are not performing this duty that I appeal."

The time has come. The young men of the Empire, the young men of St. John and New Brunswick are asked to heed the call. They must not ignore it.

THE MEXICAN CRISIS.

President Wilson has served notice upon Mexico that it must mend its ways. What alternative the President has in mind has not yet been made public, but it is declared in official circles in Washington that the United States government will insist on an improvement of the internal situation and is prepared to take such steps as may be necessary to bring this about. Thus the Mexican situation has come once more to an acute stage, and this time it would appear that the factional leaders must get together and end the distressing turmoil with its long list of deaths and its privation and suffering or find themselves face to face with pressure from outside too strong for them to ignore.

As a result of years of internal disturbance the people of many parts of Mexico have been reduced to the verge of starvation, and large numbers are actually dying for lack of food. In addition to this several foreigners have recently been murdered, the latest victim having been the son of a prominent American citizen. The people of the United States have been asking the government what it is going to do about it and President Wilson is convinced that conditions in Mexico have come to such a state that he can not longer continue his policy of watchful waiting.

It is to be hoped that armed interference by the United States will not be necessary, but if such a course becomes the only alternative the President will find himself upheld by the American people. It is apparent that no faction in Mexico is able to get command of the situation. Therefore it becomes the duty of the United States to see that there is a change.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

While it may be true that Italy is proving that he who hesitates is not always lost, it is more than probable that Italy did not hesitate so long as appearances indicated. Italy's mind no doubt was made up months ago.

* * *

The Italians are a patriotic people, and they have entered this war in earnest. Already more recruits have offered than can be equipped at present. When the honor and safety of the nation is at stake, Italy's sons need no urging.

* * *

The opening to navigation of the Russian seaport of Archangel means a great deal to the Russian armies. No doubt a great number of guns and much ammunition have already been landed there. Archangel will be a busy port until the Dardanelles are forced. Then Russia will get munitions of war by a shorter route.

* * *

The London Statist says that Britain would welcome an American declaration of war against Germany "as a clear pronouncement of the utter condemnation of German methods. But we are inclined to think that the United States can render speedier and more effective help by producing as largely as she can than by fitting out great fleets and armies."

* * *

If the Russian statement of the fighting on the Eastern front is based upon facts the German drive to the San has brought little success to the enemy's campaign. It has cost the Austro-German forces thousands of lives and it would seem now that their offensive has been definitely checked. Meanwhile the British and French continue their nibbling in the West.

* * *

Another Zeppelin raid on London has resulted in the death of three or four innocent non-combatants, while Austrian aeroplanes have killed a boy or two in Italy. That is the measure of success attained by the much vaunted aircraft of the enemy in raids on the cities of the Allies. From a military point of view it is time and energy wasted.

* * *

The real story of the desperate fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula has not yet been told. Turkish prisoners declare their losses have been appalling, whole regiments having been practically wiped out. The Allies are forcing the Dardanelles at a heavy cost to themselves, but the enemy is suffering more. And each day is bringing nearer the capture of Constantinople.

* * *

All signs point to the early entry into the war of both Roumania and Bulgaria. Indeed it would not be surprising if the allied powers know exactly when and how these two Balkan States are to give their assistance. Both have well trained armies which by this time should be well equipped. Together they could no doubt put more than a million first-class fighting men in the field, sufficient under present conditions to break the back of Austria. It is probable that the entrance of Roumania and Bulgaria into the conflict would be looked upon as quite as important to the Allies' cause as the recent decision of Italy. Moreover, it would be a master stroke of allied diplomacy.

* * *

In his Guildhall speech the other day Mr. Bonar Law referred to the savagery of the Germans in striking language. "I happen to remember," he said, "and I turned up this morning, a passage written by a German historian which so accurately described the latest German outrage that I shall read you a translation of it. 'That they should without warning have fallen upon the weak with armed hands was a folly no less than a barbarity, one of those frightful barbarisms of civilization where morality suddenly loses the rudder and naked baseness stands out before us as if to warn us against the childish belief that civilization can rub out the bestiality of man.' That is what we are fighting against."

* * *

"When we are once agreed, as most of us are," says London Truth, "that the present war, which has made a hell of a great part of the world, was contemplated, prepared for, and brought about at Berlin, we are in the presence of a stupendous crime against humanity and civilization, beside which any subsequent atrocity perpetuated in pursuance of the same purpose becomes a mere subordinate incident. That apparently is exactly how they look at it in Berlin, and in Germany generally. What the sinking of the Lusitania ought to teach the world is that the German people and their rulers being what they have shown themselves, the present war was inevitable. What it ought particularly to teach those of us who are in it is that we have got to win or to go down as the Lusitania went down, for we are fighting people who do not know what mercy means."

* * *

Britain, France and Russia have agreed to give safe conduct to the troublesome Dr. Dernburg, once Colonial Secretary of Germany, although he justified the sinking of the Lusitania and the murder of the women and babies on board. When the Washington authorities invited Dr. Dernburg to leave the country his first concern was about his personal safety on the high seas and he lost no time in begging the United States government to secure him safe passage over the route made dangerous by the German submarine pirates.

* * *

The New York Evening Post speaks very plainly in regard to relations between the United States and Germany. It says:

"All the pleas and quibbles which are now put forward to the effect that submarine warfare must of necessity be brutal and lawless, were really stated and rejected by President Wilson in advance. To raise them at present would be almost an affront. The German government will be making an enormous mistake if it goes on the theory that American feeling about the Lusitania has died out, simply because it has been held in check; and will blunder still more egregiously if it makes its own anything like the language of her naval Jingo, Count Reventlow. He declares that Germany ought to defy the United States, and welcome war with us. In his blustering, however, he does not omit to give away the whole German case by asserting that it would be impossible to order submarine commanders to 'conform to any formal conditions laid down by international law.' If the German government endorses that position, it is truly mad."

Little Bernard Dernburg.

(With Apologies to James Whitcomb Riley.)

(New York Sun.)

Little Bernard Dernburg's come to our
town to stay
To Kulturize our citizens an' drive our
doubts away,
An' warn us of the dangers that are
lurkin' all about,
Fer the Britishers 'll git us
Ef we don't watch out.

They'll up an' take the ocean an' then
our happy homes,
An' George 'll be the king of us an' set
upon a throne,
An' Teddy 'll have no voice at all in
the rulin' of his own,
An' earls an' dukes an' counts an' things
'll hover all about.
Fer the Britishers 'll git us
Ef we don't watch out!

So you better mind Herr Dernburg, an'
observe the German rules.
An' love the Kaiser's children wot is
gethered on our shores
To fight the Kaiser's battles safe from
where the cannon roars.
You better heed this wornin' cause
there isn't any doubt
That the Britishers 'll git us
Ef we don't watch out!

To My Country.

(Everybody's Magazine.)

One told me he had heard it whispered:
"Lo!
The hour has come when Europe, desperate
With sudden war and terrible swift
hate,
Rocks like a reed beneath the mighty
blow,
Therefore shall we, in this, her time
of woe,
Profit and whisper, since her ships of
state
Go down in darkness. Kind, thrice
kind is Fate,
Leaving our land secure, our grain to
grow!"

America! They blaspheme and they lie
Who say these are the voices of your
sons!
In this foul night, when nations sink
and die,
No thought is there save for the fallen
ones
Who, underneath the ruins of old
thrones,
Suffer and bleed, and tell the world
good-by!

—Charles Hanson Towne.

Suddenly Increased in Size.

A Scottish farmer was one day selling some wool to a carrier, and after weighing it in the yard he went into the house to make out an invoice. Coming back he missed a cheese which had been standing on a shelf behind the outer door, and glacing at the bag of wool he observed that it had suddenly increased in size. "Man," he said to the carrier, "I hae clean forgotten the weight o' that bag. Let's pit it on the scales again." The carrier could not refuse. Being duly weighed, the bag was found to be heavier by the weight of the cheese inside. A new invoice was made out, and the crestfallen carrier went away. The farmer's wife at once missed the cheese, and, rushing to the yard, told her husband that some thief had stolen the cheese. "Na, na, meg," replied the farmer quietly; "I hae just selt the cheese for twa shillin's the pund."

What is Treason?

(Victoria Colonist).

A request has been made of us for a definition of treason. The number of acts specified in the Criminal Code as treason or treasonable are fairly numerous, but most of them are of a nature that renders them unlikely to be committed in this country. There is one definition which may be given here. It is as follows:

"Assisting any public enemy at war with His Majesty in such war by any means whatever."

These words are very comprehensive. They could not possibly be more so. We are not aware as to how they have been held to extend to utterances of a disloyal nature, but it would be as well for all persons to understand that in times of war things which are permissible in times of peace may be construed as criminal.

To a Rose.

(N. Y. Sun.)

Sweet rose, who so resembles her;
What is the secret of thine art,
That thou hast made such sweet transfer
Of her white soul unto thy heart?

—James Terry White.