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Domination of Might Over Right in Belgium

Cardinal Mercier Replies Scathingly to Von Bissing's Letter Justifying German Deportation of Belgium Workmen.

London, Dec. 6.—Documents received here give the text of the reply of General Von Bissing, military Governor of Belgium, to Cardinal Mercier's letter of October 19, and the Cardinal's rejoinder of November 10.

General Von Bissing's reply, dated October 26, begins by denying any violation of the assurance the German commander gave at the beginning of the war that no men would be removed from Belgium, declaring that such removals had been justified by the clandestine emigration of large numbers of young men wishing to join the Belgian army. He adds:

"The German authorities would have been quite justified in following the example of England and France, but they have not done so."

Contending that the employment of Belgian workmen in Germany has nothing to do with the conduct of the war, but is purely social and economic measure, General Von Bissing says:

"Great Britain's merciless economic isolation of Germany bears equally on Belgium; it deprives her of raw materials, and prevents the export of manufacture, and thus deals a vital blow, leaving masses of the people unemployed and bringing a state of public calamity to Belgium."

General Von Bissing then declares that the Belgian people realized the state of affairs and that tens of thousands of them have gone to Germany where they could get better pay. Others would follow, he says, but are deterred by influence systematically brought to bear on them. He concluded by inviting the Cardinal to study the situation from a social and economic viewpoint.

Replying on November 10, Cardinal Mercier recalls the promise made by Baron Von Huhne and subsequently confirmed by Baron Von Der Goltz, and says:

"The undertaking was explicit and entirely without time limit that 'young people have nothing to fear that they may be sent to Germany either to be enrolled in the army or employed at forced labor.'"

"This engagement has been violated every day a thousand times for fifteen days."

In answer to General Von Bissing's charge that England and France have done such things, Cardinal Mercier reminds them that he should look to those countries for revenge, not towards a peaceful and disarmed population. The Cardinal then denies that the Belgian workmen menaced public order, saying "five million Belgians and some hundred Americans are wondering witnesses of the dignity and impeccable patience of our working classes."

Cardinal Mercier then says that if, as Von Bissing declares, such labor has nothing to do with the conduct of the war properly speaking, it has something to do with the war "improperly speaking."

"For," he continues, "even if a Belgian does not take up arms, he releases the hands of a German workman who will take them up."

The letter concludes as follows:

"Monsieur Governor, at the beginning of my letter I recalled the noble words of your Excellency: 'I have come to Belgium to heal the wounds of your country. If your Excellency could, as we priests do, enter the homes of the working people and hear the lamentations of the wives and mothers to whom your decree brings mourning and poverty, you would be better able to see yourself that the wounds of the Belgian people are open and bleeding.'"

"Two years ago they say there was death, there was pillage, there was burning. But it was war. Today it is no longer war. It is cold circulation, desired destruction, the domination of might over right, the humiliation of man in defiance of humanity. It depends on you, your Excellency, to silence the voice, the cries of outraged conscience."

"May God, on whom we call with all the ardor of the soul of an oppressed people, inspire you with the pity of the Good Samaritan."

French Champion To Box Willard

Tex Rickard Arranging to Have Carpentier Visit America

(By H. C. Hamilton, United Press Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Tex Rickard, the world's greatest promoter of boxing bouts, is about to dazzle the public with another of his smashing "feats" in fist-cuff excellence.

If Rickard's plans for annexing a license for Madison square garden go through, and if Rickard can induce the French military authorities to give their consent Jess Willard and Georges Carpentier will meet in a ten round, no-decision bout in New York, some time late in January or early February.

Willard already has given his word to go through with the bout, telling Rickard at the same time that all he required was six weeks' notice to begin training. Rickard declares Willard appears to be in good condition and would have little trouble getting ready.

At the present time Carpentier, the European heavyweight champion, is in Paris on a furlough. He is a member of the French aerial service, having joined that branch of the army when war broke out. He has been sounded by the probability of a New York match and has given his consent. If things can be arranged satisfactory he soon will sail for New York.

With such a match up his sleeve, Rickard probably would be only Madison square garden, of course, the garden. Undoubtedly he would go the limit to stage it and would leave nothing unturned to get the prospect of an enclosure. The leasing of a weight he could find, providing would add more fame to his crown, but a Willard-Carpentier bout, with the glamor of a war hero pitted against the hulking world's champion, could draw a massive throng.

Carpentier has done little boxing since he won from Gunboat Smith, the American heavyweight, in what was to have been a twenty-round bout in London. The bout ended when Smith struck Carpentier after the latter had fallen or had been knocked by his knees and the referee declared a foul. That was in July, 1914, and shortly afterward war was declared and Carpentier joined the colors. The idol of France, he has been kept in good condition at the front, occasionally taking part in boxing contests.

In announcing the probability of his match Rickard said he also was planning matches between Freddie Welsh and Johnny Kilbane and a bout between Les Darcy and the best middleweight he could find, providing Darcy recs on his way to this country. He declared his policy, if he gains control of the garden, will be put on only the highest class attractions, preferring champions as opponents for rising boxers. Samuel McCracken, who long has been associated with Rickard, will be matchmaker.

Saw the Ghost of Their Colonel

An Amazing Story From the Trenches in France

LONDON, Eng., Dec. 10.—(Correspondence)—Those who complain that the ghost scenes in "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" hurt their sense of probability, will be interested to read that a hundred British soldiers, men who, as a rule, see no visions, saw the ghost of their colonel in France. At the beginning of the war, says the "Daily Express," a famous regiment left England for France. The Colonel of that regiment was a man beloved by all his men, idolized by his young subalterns, and highly thought of by his young brigadier. For a year the colonel led his regiment through the campaign in Flanders, until one misty morning a hand grenade deprived him of an arm. The colonel left for England by the first hospital ship and his regiment knew him no more. The colonel after a few months was fitted with an artificial arm, but he was not satisfied. He wanted above all things to get back to his regiment. He moved heaven and earth to get back there with his men, but that he was in command was impossible. If he liked, however, he could have the command of a garrison battalion shortly leaving for the Dardanelles. Not being of an idle disposition, he took it. After landing at Lemnos one of the first to fall ill with dysentery was the colonel. He had sufficient strength to warrant his being taken to a hospital ship, however, and so, for the second time, he returned to England under the Red Cross. The hospital ship docked in England on a Tuesday, and at midday on Wednesday the colonel was carried into the train which was leaving for London. He never reached that city, for he died just half an hour after the train had left. Now the extraordinary part of the story is that at the exact moment that the colonel died on the hospital train, a company of his old regiment saw him in their trench in Flanders. There was nothing out of the ordinary happening at the time and beyond the usual number of exploding shells the "tick-tack" of a machine-gun, and the occasional bursting of a

hand grenade, the morning was just as many others had been. The company were at their post when the company sergeant-major turned to the company commander: "Beg pardon, sir, here's Colonel coming round; I didn't know he was back again." There, standing with his cap just a little on one side as he always wore it, stood the colonel. His field boots were caked with mud, and an old pair of binoculars were slung around his neck. The company commander was surprised, and started to walk towards him, when he dropped his stick. He stooped to pick it up, and when he straightened up again the colonel had gone. The officer dived down a communication trench and rushed for company headquarters. "Did you see him?" he queried breathless. The three subalterns looked up at his question. "See whom? D'you mean the colonel? Yes, we saw him standing still, looking down the trench just here," we looked at him for fully a minute and suddenly he WAS NOT THERE. Can't make it out at all," said the spokesman: "I thought he was in the Dardanelles; besides all the men saw him too, and I don't know whether you noticed it or not—he had BOTH his arms." It was not until the next week's mail heaven and earth to get back there with his men, but that he was in command was impossible. If he liked, however, he could have the command of a garrison battalion shortly leaving for the Dardanelles. Not being of an idle disposition, he took it. After landing at Lemnos one of the first to fall ill with dysentery was the colonel. He had sufficient strength to warrant his being taken to a hospital ship, however, and so, for the second time, he returned to England under the Red Cross. The hospital ship docked in England on a Tuesday, and at midday on Wednesday the colonel was carried into the train which was leaving for London. He never reached that city, for he died just half an hour after the train had left. Now the extraordinary part of the story is that at the exact moment that the colonel died on the hospital train, a company of his old regiment saw him in their trench in Flanders. There was nothing out of the ordinary happening at the time and beyond the usual number of exploding shells the "tick-tack" of a machine-gun, and the occasional bursting of a

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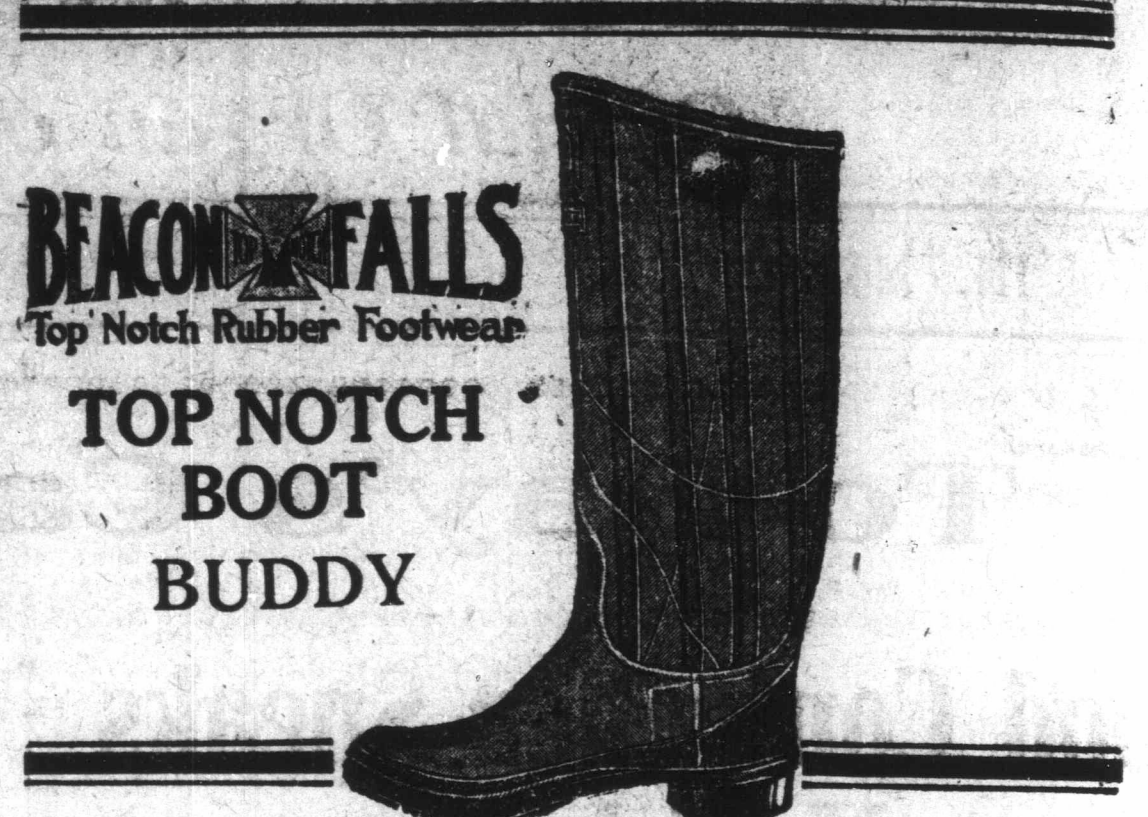
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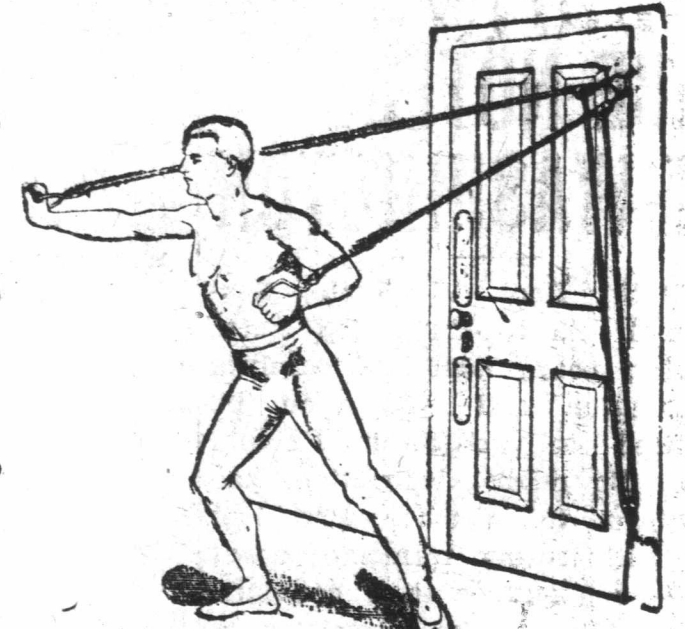
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