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Special Articles

The Doctrine of Minimums.

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

Lessons from the British Budget.

By H. M. P. ECKARDT.

Conditions in the West.

By E. CORA HIND.

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The Evidence in the Case

IN an early stage of the war an eminent American lawyer, Mr. James M. Beck, published a review of the events leading up to the declaration of war. Studying the question from the standpoint of a neutral, and as a professional man accustomed to examine and weigh evidence, he was forced to the conclusion that Germany, and Germany alone, was responsible for the horror which had fallen upon the world. Germany had for forty years been preparing for war, and the moment having arrived when she was ready, and most other nations were not, her rulers resolved to strike at once for the domination that she had so long desired. Some excuse had to be found, and therefore the quarrel between Austria and Serbia was chosen, but it is clear enough that if that poor excuse had not offered, another would have been found, since Germany was resolved to fight. All the information available then, and all that developed later, led to the same conclusion, and nearly the whole civilized world—even that part of it which still counted itself neutral—recognized Germany's guilt. The Kaiser and his co-conspirators, nevertheless, have endeavored to keep their own people—and any others who could be persuaded to listen—under the delusion that Germany was innocent and fighting only to defend herself. Again and again Kaiser Wilhelm has issued his hypocritical proclamations calling on the Almighty to witness that the quarrel was forced upon him by the Allies, and particularly by England. Probably there were not many independent minds even in Germany ready to pay respect to such declarations; but if any vestige of doubt remained in Germany as to the responsibility of the Kaiser for the world's greatest tragedy, it was destroyed when, by an accident, or a breach of faith on the part of somebody, the public received the testimony of the German most competent to tell the truth. Prince Lichnowsky was German Ambassador in London before the war. Not with any intention of present publication, but as a private paper intended to be left for his own family, Prince Lichnowsky made a memorandum of his experience in London, and his negotiations with the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, on the eve of the war. Through somebody's blunder, or worse, this memorandum was made public recently. The truth was told by the witness most qualified to tell the whole truth. The result is that Prince Lichnowsky, one of the most distinguished men of Germany, is now under arrest and likely to be placed on trial for treason.

The German Government may punish Lichnowsky, but the truths that he has told can

hardly fail to sink deeply into the minds of such of the German people as have hitherto been disposed to believe that Germany endeavored to keep the peace. In the plainest language Prince Lichnowsky states that Great Britain did everything that was possible to avert war, and that her efforts for peace were wrecked by Germany. Austria, he points out, was used by Germany to serve her purpose. "We encouraged Berchtold (the Austrian Minister) to attack, although no German interest was involved; we rejected the Grey proposals of mediation, although Serbia had accepted practically the whole ultimatum, and although Berchtold was ready to accept the Serbian reply; on July 30 Berchtold was ready to give in, and we deliberately destroyed the possibility of a peaceful settlement." The honorable part played throughout by Great Britain, through her Foreign Minister, Sir Edward Grey, is frankly acknowledged by the German Ambassador. "Lies and intrigues," he writes, "were foreign to his nature. This is the man who was called 'Liar Grey,' and 'the originator of the war.'" Summing up the whole situation Prince Lichnowsky says: "Thus ended my London mission. It was wrecked, not by the perfidy of the British, but by the perfidy of our own policy."

In the presence of such a record, what can any German hereafter say, in defence of the men who plunged the world into the dreadful condition of the last four years?

Mr. Gompers

THE invitation to Mr. Samuel Gompers to address the members of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada at Ottawa was at once a graceful compliment to the man, an expression of appreciation of the services he has rendered to the cause of the Allies, and an indication of the remarkable advance that has occurred in the recognition of the part that labor is playing in the world's affairs. Mr. Gompers, the head of the American Federation of Labour, is what is commonly called a "labor leader." Not long ago he would have been called by some a "labor agitator." That he would be assigned a foremost part in the affairs of his countrymen and invited to address the Parliament of Canada, would but a little while ago have been regarded as almost an impossibility. There have been labor leaders whose conception of duty obliged them to pursue a course which could not lead them into such service as Mr. Gompers has been able to give. It is immensely to his honor that from the moment his country entered the war, he has devoted himself with whole-heartedness to plac-