

## Villainies Rehearsed

FROM the "Grey Paper" of Belgium we learn that a German invasion and violation of Belgium was contemplated long before the war broke out. It was anticipated in Belgium before the passing of the Militia and Defence Act in 1913, doubling the war budget, putting the Belgian army on a war footing and preparing Belgian forts against attack by German siege guns. It was a Belgian military engineer, Brialmont, who designed most of the modern Belgian forts, and he was one of the ablest fort-builders in Europe.

All this preparation on the part of Belgium was equalled by cold intention on the part of Germany. The correspondent of the Morning Post in Antwerp has written his conviction for the English press. He says that "the German campaign of outrage and brutality in Belgium was deliberate, organized, foreseen, provided for with scientific machinery." When the German Emperor, as recorded by the photograph on the preceding page, congratulated Gen. Von Emmich on the capture of Liege, he was simply O. K. ing an elaborate schedule of which he himself was one of the authors, and perhaps the chief designer.

The Post writer says that "special machinery for incendiarism accompanied the German forces; special drill for incendiarism had been taught; that the Germans burned out a town with the methodical correctness with which a German battery went into action." A town was sacked as retribution for some German defeat. Sometimes it was threatened as a blackmailing attempt to secure the surrender of a town seven miles distant. He refers to the "commonly-reported, commonly-believed statement that as a last attempt to bully Belgium into an act of treachery, the German Emperor telegraphed to King Albert a threat to treat him as a 'personal enemy' and to 'sack' Belgium." This report has not been officially confirmed. But the treatment of Belgium seems to be sufficient evidence that some such sinister intention was present in the mind of the war lords of Germany. Certainly what has been done in Belgium was never the casual, sudden act of a moment either by irresponsible troops or revengeful officers. It was part of a long-concocted German plan to "hack their way through." And we have the great Bismarck's authority that whenever a nation at war finds itself faced with a struggle for existence it is not necessarily bound by pacts or treaties.

## Slandering Burns

GERMANY has recently been fed up with some remarkable newspaper reports of a speech which the Hon. John Burns, who resigned from the British Cabinet on the outbreak of war, never made, at any time or place. Both time and place, however, are given in the reports of the Vossische Zeitung, the Deutsche Tageszeitung and the Frankfurter Zeitung. It is the latter's report that has done so much to inflate the German credulity. On August 14 at Albert Hall, John Burns is credited with saying:

"England's greatness is manifested in peace. England's weakness is exhibited in war. We shall never be in a position to exert without foreign help any influence in European and extra-European politics. We have never been able to do so. We destroyed Napoleon's fleet at Trafalgar, but a few days later Napoleon won his most glorious victory at Austerlitz, and threw all Europe on her knees. What was Napoleon's defeat at sea in comparison with his unparalleled victory on land? We gave him a pin prick, but notwithstanding our victory he defeated the whole of Europe.

"England staked everything on a Franco-Prussian victory. But what if England's troops are beaten, together with the French? What if the news of England's defeat and England's weakness leaks out to the colonies, which have really nothing in common with the Mother Country, and perhaps are waiting for some opportunity to fall away from her? What if France does not win? Enormous possessions are then lost, and British loss of influence on the policy of the Continent cannot for centuries be recovered, because the influence of Germany, in association with her Austrian ally, would become so immense that Germany would let no power on earth interfere further with the construction of her navy. Germany's industries are strong, and they cannot be weakened even by an unsuccessful war. A people so powerful and so conscious of its strength as the German people can be bound in no fetters that can be forged. With unparalleled self-sacrifice—even if the poorest labourer had to produce the last penny from his pocket—if we destroyed the German navy, Germany would create a navy twice, nay, thrice as strong."

Of course this compliment to Germany is as true as any tale of the Arabian Nights. Mr. Burns never delivered this speech. Whatever he may think he has not spoken, on that head at least. This is another sample of how Germany fails to understand other countries. In Germany Mr. Burns would be classed as a Social Democrat, one of the millions

whom ex-Chancellor Von Buelow in his book on Imperial Germany frankly says it is necessary to exterminate. Von Buelow says that Social Democracy in Germany never tolerates the rise of a Social Democrat to a position in the Ministerial ranks. When Hon. John Burns, Labour leader, was elevated to a Cabinet position, we heard nothing of any German protest against it. Probably official Germany gladly saw in Mr. Burns' elevation the end of his connection with the Labour Party. Very likely Socialist Germany said that another friend had gone over to the enemy. Now both official and Socialist Germany are asked to believe that John Burns, the former colleague of Lloyd-George, is a traitor to his country. Bosh!

## A Russian's View

WHEN the question is asked, what of Russia as an ally of England? no better authority could be obtained than the opinions of Professor Paul Vinogradoff, in the Department of Jurisprudence at Oxford. It has been freely said by German writers that the culture of Germany is fighting the barbarism of Russia. Most Germans believe that. Professor Vinogradoff shows clearly that in all Russian military annals there is no record to equal that of the German army in Belgium and France. He admits that Germany has produced many cultured men; but he observes that since 1870 the German nation has become afflicted with a peculiar form of national conceit, especially revealed in the writings of Bernhardi.

He notices that this conceit has ruined German diplomacy; that since the days of Bismarck the arch-diplomat, Germany has become blinded by her own arrogance to a point where she no longer considers diplomacy and statecraft as important compared to the "mailed fist." Bismarck himself, who never believed in absolute monarchy but in criticism by parliament and press, was at the same time convinced that there were times when the army was a bigger force than all criticism. He also believed that statecraft was more important before a war and sometimes after a war than any military force. He was himself unpopular with the army even during the Franco-Prussian War, because he knew too much about the army. But if Bismarck had been alive to-day and in office he never would have sanctioned a war waged entirely by the war machine without reference to diplomacy.

Professor Vinogradoff adds this tribute to the Russia Tsar as contrasted to the German Emperor:

"I may add that whatever may have been the shortcomings and the blunders of the Russian Government, it is a blessing in this decisive crisis that Russians should have a firmly-knit organization and a traditional centre of authority in the power of the Tsar. The present Emperor stands as the national leader, not in the histrionic attitude of a War Lord, but in the quiet dignity of his office. He has said and done the right thing, and his subjects will follow him to a man. We are sure he will remember in the hour of victory the unstinted devotion and sacrifices of all the nationalities and parties of his vast Empire. It is our firm conviction that the sad tale of reaction and oppression is at an end in Russia, and that our country will issue from this momentous crisis with the insight and strength required for the constructive and progressive statesmanship of which it stands in need."

Again the Professor asks:

"Apart from the details of political and social reform, is the regeneration of Russia a boon or a peril to European civilization? The declamations of the Germans have been as misleading in this respect as in all others. The master works of Russian literature are accessible in translation nowadays, and the cheap taunts of men like Bernhardi recoil on their own heads. A nation represented by Pushkin, Turgeneff, Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky in literature, by Kramskoy, Verestchagin, Repin, Glinka, Moussorgsky, Tchaikowsky in art, by Mendeleff, Metchnikoff, Pavloff in science, by Kluchovsky, and Solovieff in history, need not be ashamed to enter the lists in an international competition for the prizes of culture."

## The Story of Senlis

SENLIS is another of those little towns in the west of Europe suddenly become famous after it is destroyed. Bulwer Lytton, who described the destruction of Pompeii, should be living to-day to tell what happened at Senlis, a pretty little cathedral town twenty miles north of Paris, which the Germans took on their grand march before they veered away to the east. The cathedral was the biggest building. The Germans did their best to ruin it with shells, but the walls were built too solidly by the mediaeval builders, and the old Cure, with tears in his voice as he proudly told how it had stood up against the artillery, told also the sad story of how the "Germ-Huns," as an English writer has called them, almost obliterated Senlis.

Some crack-brained wine-seller fired on the troops. That, as at Pottery, was enough to doom Senlis. The wine-seller was taken out and shot. The Mayor,

whose chateau amid the grapes and the garden walls had been burned, and who, with twelve others, were held as hostages, was brought to a court-martial. The story of this trial was told by one of the twelve who escaped. Mayor Odont was ordered to be shot. Six others were designated to be shot the next day; the other six on the next. The one that escaped while changing prison got into the fields, took off his coat and gathered a bundle of straw, from which the Uhlans, thinking him a harvester, permitted him to escape. The poor old Cure of the cathedral, having given his word of honour that no shots had been fired from the tower of his church, since he himself had the key, was permitted to give evidence. That saved the church from further destruction. But seventy houses, including all of the main street, were burned. It was intended to make an example of Senlis to the French, as Louvain had been to the Belgians. But the efforts of the Cure alone kept the Germans from completely destroying the town. A coincidence of the destruction was that a small statue of King Edward the Peacemaker was the only thing unharmed in the burning of one of the Senlis houses.

## A Holy War

A CORRESPONDENT of the Morning Post describes a wonderful service which he attended recently in the famous Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, one of the great churches of Europe, which might have been bombarded as Rheims and Malines and Mons. Notre Dame, where Charles Gounod was organist at the time of the Franco-Prussian War, and which he left for a long visit to England before the Siege of Paris. Architecturally, Notre Dame is as famous as Rheims Cathedral and much larger. It is quite twice as large as its namesake in Montreal. At this remarkable service, thirty thousand people were in the congregation, thousands of whom were unable to get inside. The Cardinal Archbishop preached the sermon, and at the close of the service in procession he appealed to the people to shout in unison,

"Vive Dieu! Vive l'Eglise! Vive la France!"

So the Roman Catholics in France regard this war against the annihilator of cathedrals as a holy war. If the Kaiser still has any use for his German "will-to-power" God as an ally, he may yet discover that though it no longer makes the difference it did in the Middle Ages whether the Pope blesses the war or not, when a people who have learned to discard Christianity are brought back to the frame of mind when they regard a war as a holy war, it may be worse than the curses of a Pope.

## When David Spoke

GERMANY may have her iron chancellors and welcome. Along with Prussian absolute monarchs and neurotic philosophers like Nietzsche they have helped to make Germany the big brute-force cynicism that at present is converting Europe into a shambles. For our part, when it comes to picking out chancellors, we prefer the little five-foot-six Welshman that has charge of the British money-bags, and whose name is David Lloyd George. We mention him because his great anti-German speech has just come to hand in the English papers. Lloyd George has made a number of great speeches in his day. He has not always been particular about tramping on the corns of Germany either. But in this, the greatest of all his speeches, delivered in Queen's Hall, Langham Place, to a tremendous audience, he laid about him at Germany's expense in a way that might have made the ancient David of the slingstone quite envious. His short, flaming sentences burst like shrapnel among the audience. Every sentence was charged to the limit with high explosives, as he talked of the sacred rights of little states like Belgium—not forgetting Wales.

But there was one passage in which this Celtic chancellor sized up the character of Germany; and that passionate deliverance will stand as probably the most fiery classic on this subject ever given to the world.

"I would not say a single word about the German people to disparage them. They are a great people. They have great qualities of head, of hand, and of heart. I believe, in spite of recent events, there is as great a store of kindness in the German peasant as in any peasant in the world, but he has been driven into a false ideal of civilization—efficient, capable—but it is a hard civilization. It is a selfish civilization. It is a material civilization. They cannot comprehend the action of Britain at the present moment. They say so. 'France,' they say, 'we can understand. She is out for vengeance, she is out for territory, Alsace-Lorraine. Russia, she is fighting for mastery. She wants Galicia.'

"They can understand vengeance; they can understand you fighting for mastery; they can understand you fighting for greed of territory; they cannot understand a great Empire pledging its resources, pledging its might, pledging the lives of its children, pledging its very existence, on protecting a little nation that seeks for its defence."