

# The Weekly Ontario

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W. H. Morton, J. O. Herity, Business Manager, Editor-in-Chief.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1915.

## THE AMERICAN NOTE.

If Germany looked for weakness and vacillation in President Wilson and the American people, yesterday's note to the German government will entirely dissipate such expectations. America's reply to Germany's butcheries is one that is worthy of the sturdy Americanism of Lincoln and Grant, and one that will awaken a patriotic response in every true American breast.

President Wilson's policy of "watchful waiting" with Mexico, has been patient and long-suffering, almost to the point of humiliation. His speech at Philadelphia on Monday night in which he promulgated the doctrine about being "too proud to fight" was regarded as a further evidence of executive effeminacy. The speech was probably prepared long in advance of the tragic events to which certain passages were supposed to apply. That President Wilson believes in peace and peaceful methods is a well known fact. But that he believes in peace when it means a callous disregard for national honor, and the common rights of humanity, is not to be credited.

There is no lack of vigor, or determination in the note to Germany, and the logic of the presidential argument completely demolishes the shallow but brutal sophistry of Bernstorff and Dernburg.

The German pretence that a warning published in American newspapers absolved them from blame for the massacre of non-combatants is thus vigorously assailed in the presidential message.

"There was recently published in the newspapers of the United States, I regret to inform the Imperial German Government, a formal warning, purporting to come from the Imperial German Embassy at Washington, addressed to the people of the United States, and stating in effect that any citizen of the United States who exercised his right to travel upon the seas would do so at his peril if his journey should take him within the zone of waters within which the Imperial German navy was using submarines against the commerce of Great Britain and France, notwithstanding the respectful but very earnest protest of his Government, the Government of the United States. I do not refer to this for the purpose of calling the attention of the Imperial German Government at this time to the surprising irregularity of a communication from the Imperial German Embassy at Washington addressed to the people of the United States through the newspapers, but only for the purpose of pointing out that no warning that an unlawful and inhuman act will be committed can possibly be accepted as an excuse or palliation for that act or as an abatement of the responsibility for its commission."

The rebuke to the loquacious and blatant Bernstorff in reference to "the surprising irregularity of a communication from Imperial German Embassy at Washington addressed to the people of the United States" is surely keen enough to pierce the brass of Bernstorff's Teutonic armor.

That the American representations may be followed by "action" is the unmistakable meaning that is conveyed in firm but diplomatic language in the concluding paragraph.

"The Imperial German Government will not expect the Government of the United States to omit any word or any action necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States free exercise and enjoyment."

At the present time it does not look as if and its citizens, and of safeguarding their anything less than a complete renunciation by Germany of its undersea program against mercantile shipping could prevent an open rupture with the United States. If Germany desires to add the Americans to their declared enemies, as many suspect, there will be no renunciation. At present the outlook is distinctly unfavorable for the preservation of peace.

As outlined in Thursday's Ontario there are many reasons why the United States can be of greater assistance to the Allies as a friendly neutral than as an active participant in the war. But surely there is no one in the Allied nations who would desire to see Americans stand idly by as spectators while their women and

children were being assassinated by the German savages.

United States citizenship has shown fine self-restraint in the past trying week, but there is beneath this self-restraint a national pride and determination that will brook no quibbling when the lives and honor of American subjects are at stake.

## THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Professor D. R. Coleman of the Ontario School for the Deaf has shown us the following letter from his brother, William Macon Coleman, Ph.D., attorney and counsellor at law, Washington D.C. As the letter has reference to events of international importance, and is valuable as showing the American attitude at the present time, we have persuaded Prof. Coleman to allow its publication. Dr. Coleman is of Southern birth, and is a well known legal authority at the capital. His letter follows.

Washington, D.C., May 11, 1915.

Dear Brother,—  
America is filled with horror at the crime. The Germans are the only exceptions, outside of a few dastardly politicians where the German vote is strong, as for instance, Bartholdt, in St. Louis, who has represented the German beer business in Congress.

The country irrespective of party has unbounded confidence in President Wilson. I believe he will be firm, while he remains calm. There will be no declaration of war by this country. But I do not see how Wilson can refrain from taking such steps as will lead to a suspension of all intercourse with Germany.

This is indeed a war of humanity against savagery. There must be no thought of peace until Germany is made incapable of doing harm.

Although I am a Socialist, I say that all other questions must be subordinated to that of victory for civilization in this war—victory final and overwhelming. Then after the war is over I believe will come "the new heaven and the new earth," and men, for the first time, will begin, as Tennyson says, to "ring in the Christ that is to be."

—Wm. Macon Coleman.

Dr. Coleman encloses with his letter, an editorial from The Washington Herald which under the heading "The End of Neutrality" gives a restrained but forcible enunciation of American thought and the American position in the crisis that has been forced upon them.

"The American people are no longer neutral in the war. They are not trying to deceive even themselves by pretending it. Germany is their enemy and will remain their enemy so long as the present generation and the memory of the savage butchery of American men and mothers with their babies in their arms shall last. Germany is guilty of a crime against us for which the history of centuries cannot supply a parallel. It is beyond forgiveness by men now living. Until the government at Berlin admitted responsibility for this act of a Herod or a Nero there was one course open that might have saved it from the execration of the civilized world. It could have disavowed the act of the murderers and pirates on board its submarine and brought them to justice on the gallows. But that time has passed; Germany is enfeite in celebration of its naval triumph, while American mourns for its mothers and babies, cold in the morgues of Queenstown.

Neutrality has lost its meaning in America. President Wilson's wisdom and calm judgment will discover the way to proclaim to the world a new relation between the United States and Germany, and with him the country will stand united. It is not conceivable that friendly, or even coldly formal relations can be maintained, or rather restored, between the two governments, even if a state of war is not the outcome. That Germany is seeking war with the United States to afford her an excuse to sue for peace, is the only rational explanation of the series of warlike acts against this country, culminating with the Lusitania atrocity. But that excuse would not avail, should Germany be the one to declare war, and this is a circumstance which must necessarily influence President Wilson's course.

The possibility of war is being freely discussed by the country's statesmen and in the press, and the question most often asked is how America can strike Germany. It is too early yet to begin the planning of war measures, but Americans will not belittle themselves by entertaining for a moment the idea that they would not be powerful enemies. What has been Germany's false cry throughout the period in which we have maintained strict neutrality? That we have been aiding the allies. And if our neutrality inflicts so grievous an injury upon Germany, is our hostility to be regarded as less potent? The answer to the question how America can strike Germany has not yet been seriously sought; it will be found if the necessity arises. No less important is the question how Germany can strike America. At least we shall be able to defend our homes and nurseries.

The people wait for their President to point the way.

## "BRITISH ARE RESPONSIBLE."

The Kaiser himself could scarcely desire a more conscientious apologist than The Daily Palladium that is published right across the lake from here at Oswego. In its issue of May 10th, under the heading, "British Are Responsible," it says editorially.

Great Britain is partly responsible for the destruction of the Lusitania. In view of the warning which had been given that the big Cunarder was to be attacked, it is almost incomprehensible that the British Government took no steps whatever to protect this ship, so loaded with human freight, from the destroyers of the enemy when they knew that these German undersea boats were operating in the path which the Lusitania must take.

It is going to be a hard matter for the English Government to explain this evident neglect to set itself right with the families of those who are mourning the loss of relatives and friends.

However, this neglect is in line with the alleged incompetency which has characterized the British Government ever since the European war broke out, so far as its action regarding the sea is concerned. Its boasted naval supremacy has been more of a joke than anything else. It has done practically nothing to uphold the British slogan that "Britannia rules the waves." In fact, the German submarines and other smaller naval craft have run wild destroying British and neutral shipping at will, with apparently no attempt being made by Great Britain to prevent the destruction.

The Palladium in this article simply reiterates the philosophy of Bernstorff and Dernburg that murder and assassination are justified if the murderer or assassin issues a warning in advance of committing the crime. The blame is shifted to the person who is murdered because he has failed to protect himself!

It scarcely seems possible that any such infamous logic would find a home outside of Germany. Its satanic falsity was pitilessly exposed by President Wilson in his history-making message to the German government.

The Palladium regards British naval supremacy as "more of a joke than anything else." If the editor of our Oswego contemporary will take the trouble to visit New York harbor, he can ascertain for himself just how much of a joke the power of the British navy really is. There he will find tied up to their wharves at Hoboken the "Imperator" and all the other monsters of the Hamburg-American line. They have been lying there since the fourth day of August 1914, upon the night of which Great Britain declared war. At the same time he will see heavily freighted ships sailing daily for British ports—"business as usual" for Great Britain, and all the seas of the world swept clean of German commerce. Does the Palladium see in that no triumph for the British navy? As a great English statesman has said—"every day wins a fresh victory for the British navy."

It is quite true that the German submarines have caught a few British ships. But it is very easy to exaggerate their number and comparative importance. Out of more than seventeen thousand sailings from British ports since the submarine "blockade" was established, the Germans have scored less than a hundred hits.

We believe it is quite true that the British Admiralty and the Cunard company might have exercised greater precautions in the case of the ill-fated Lusitania. But it is evident that neither Admiralty nor company could bring themselves to believe that even the Germans would commit this last monstrous infamy—an unnatural crime that has staggered and shocked humanity the world over.

But surely The Palladium does not urge that lack of precaution as a plea to justify re-handled murder. Such a doctrine as that would mean the end of government and law throughout the world and rule by the cut-throat knife.

To The Palladium we commend these words from one of its own great newspapers, The Washington Herald—"Bombs dropped on sleeping infants, wells poisoned, asphyxiating gas used on fields of battle, cathedrals destroyed, and fetes in Berlin in celebration of the murder of 1200 helpless non-combatants, more than 100 of them Americans. And yet here and there a defender of Germany is to be found with the audacity to call himself an American, blinding himself to the obvious truth that this is a war of civilization against savagery."

## "HUMANITY AND CITIZENSHIP."

Mr. D. V. Sinclair, who is now on his way to the great Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco, has sent us the following editorial from The Denver News which appeared in the issue following the deliverance of President Wilson's Philadelphia speech to the newly-made citizens of the United States.

At times it must be to the disadvantage of Woodrow Wilson that he spent so many years in the confines of classroom and campus for many of his utterances savor of the study instead of the world of action.

No one of intelligence who read the carefully worded address delivered by the president on Monday night at Philadelphia to a body of newly accepted citizens at a moment fraught with deepest significance to the nation, but had to admire the beautiful diction and its intellectuality. Few, however, but had to confess in the same breath that there was something essential lacking in the discourse which the world was waiting expectantly to hear.

A few days before a terrible thing happened at sea. More than a thousand people went to their last account without warning, as part of a reign of terror policy inaugurated from Berlin. Americans were among the dead. They perished by reason of their trust in their country.

They believed in their hearts, else they would not have sailed, that the deed that stirred a continent to its depths would not be attempted, despite the crimes that had been committed on innocent nations and people in the name of war's necessities. They may have been wrong, they may have counted too much on their citizenship in a neutral nation for protection in a time like this, but that they took the chances they did, with this feeling, is beyond question.

No threat, nothing in the way of bluster or defiance, was expected of the chief executive in such a grave crisis by thoughtful people of this peace-loving republic. But some word, some authoritative expression, something that would tell to those men of different nationalities what it signifies to be under the American flag—some word that would remove misgiving among the doubters and make it plain that this nation is unafraid—was hoped for and it was not given.

The president is too impersonal. "There is such a thing as a nation being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right." Applied to Mexico or one of the Latin republics on this continent, the sentence quoted and the whole tenor of the Lillson address might be understandable and acceptable. Addressed to a European nation that is the strongest single military power, it was not well conceived and it was expressed at the wrong moment.

During the revolutions and counter revolutions in Mexico and the heavy loss of life among American residents, the people at home were generous to a degree toward the president in his non-intervention attitude. They forgave him the Vera Cruz-Huerta flag fiasco and strived to forget it as soon as possible, because the Mexican people were fighting for their freedom and this great republic could afford to be generous.

But the president must know that the policy and the spirit underlying it that have prevailed with a heartbroken country at our door, can have small application to the situation that exists with respect to a foreign power that claims superiority to any other. The most recent assaults upon American life was not the first since the war became acute, and there has been little effort from German diplomacy to soften the blows to his country.

It may be thought, that, as has been claimed by the immediate supporters of the president, he deemed it wise to reveal only the "gloved hand" at that particular moment and is holding himself in reserve for action under less dramatic surroundings than fate accorded him that night. In this case, final judgment should be reserved.

It is probable that the surmise contained in the last paragraph is correct. In the light of the message sent a couple of days later to Germany it does not seem that the Philadelphia address was intended to have more than a general application and had no specific bearing upon the questions arising out of the sinking of the Lusitania as many have inferred.

President Wilson's attitude and conduct of public and foreign questions have sometimes appeared to be academic, but no one can say that his message to the Kaiser "savoured of the study instead of the world of action."

No more statesmanlike deliverance has appeared since the beginning of the war than the history-making American note to Germany. Its dignified and lofty tone, its clearness of expression and reasoning, its irresistible logic, remind us of Sir Edward Grey at his best.

The American press and people have every reason to be proud of the noble stand of their chief executive in behalf of "Humanity and Citizenship."

The efforts of certain Germans to justify the sinking of the Lusitania, on the ground that they had given warning are stigmatized by the New York Herald of Monday last as being on a par with the Jack-the-Ripper crimes that are now being carried on in New York. Warnings are sent to mothers in that city that their little children will be murdered—and the murder follows. Germany's course is the same in principle says the Herald—she is seeking to terrorize her opponents and indeed the whole world, by "frightfulness." Will she succeed? asks the Herald, and answers—"Never. The hearts of her opponents are not filled with terror at such deeds. They are set on fire."

The following stanza sent in by a reader contains some wholesome philosophy that the most of us may read and practice with profit.—  
If you want to live in the kind of town  
Like the kind of town you like,  
You needn't slip your clothes in a grip  
And start on a long, long hike.  
You'll only find what you left behind,  
For there's nothing that's really new;  
It's a knock at yourself when you knock your town.  
It isn't the town,—it's you.

## Other Editors' Opinions

### PATRONAGE LIST SHOULD GO.

The patronage list is a worn-out political institution. It is a part of the iniquitous spoils system; and was first generally established on this continent by the redoubtable Andrew Jackson, Democratic President of the United States. It flourished in that country for many years, and still is far from being decadent. It has flourished in Canada under the protection of both Liberal and Conservative Governments. The great countries of Europe are reducing its evil influence to a minimum and the tendency of the present time is to abolish it entirely. A Government, in purchasing goods should be actuated by the same motives that govern the private purchaser. Quality, price, and the support of home industry should be the only things considered.—Industrial Canada.

### MANITOBA POLITICS.

Has Sir Rodmond Roblin retired voluntarily or has his hand been forced by the Heutenant-governor? Mr. Norris, the new premier, is the changing enemy of separate and bilingual schools. His accession to power, then, threatens to reopen the whole school question. Sir Rodmond and Mgr. Langevin had succeeded in finding ground for an understanding and they had hope to reach an agreement at an early date which would settle the whole difficulty. The Conservative Premier had called into his Cabinet the Hon. Mr. Bernier as representative of the French minority. Our compatriots had only to commend the good offices of Sir Rodmond and his active sympathies were secured. In the Norris Cabinet it is not probable that we shall see the name of a French Canadian.—La Patrie.

### UNITED STATES'

#### MILITARY POWER.

It is not safe to infer that because the United States has a small military organization it would be unable to put forces in the field. If the war were to last only a few more months, that aid to the Allies would indeed be impossible, and quite unnecessary. But presuming the war to last beyond 1915, the United States could, if the authorities wished, arm and train quite a formidable body of men. There need be no misconception as to that.

The Civil War found both North and South unorganized in a military way. Up to October, 1863, when voluntary enlistment practically ceased in the North, 1,332,000 men went into the ranks. The South got 750,000 volunteers. Then the Conscription Act came into force, and the South obtained 1,100,000 men, and the North a total of 1,150,000 from the various states by levy. The grand total obtained by President Lincoln was 2,898,000, including re-enlistments, and 2,250,000 without. On both sides there were 2,000,000 recruits who volunteered. The Spanish War, though but a minor campaign, afforded another instance of how quickly the United States could, on necessity, organize military forces. If Canada within six weeks of war could organize and equip 33,000 men for the front, and within seven months have nearly 100,000 more or less ready, what could the United States, with its immense resources of men, material and money, not do in equal time? By the end of the year the United States could, if it wished, have an army of a million in Europe.

When war broke out Lord Kitchener had the task of gathering and equipping and training a civilian army of over two millions. Those troops are now ready for the field, according to authoritative advice, but must await fuller munition organization. If that great feat is possible among the artisans, shop clerks, office workers and other housed-up workers of industrial Britain, how much more easily could a nation of a hundred millions, as fond of outdoor life as the Americans, do as much. The man-power is possessed by the United States. To transform it into military usefulness is merely a question of organization. A nation with so much energy, capacity and driving power as our neighbors could quickly show results. It may be, of course, that the occasion may not arise, but if it should the United States would be far from as helpless as surface indications seem to show.—Mail and Empire.

Like a Grip at the Throat. For a disease that is not classed as fatal there is probably none which causes more terrible suffering than asthma. Sleep is impossible, the sufferer becomes exhausted and finally, though the attack passes, is left in unceasing dread of its return. Dr. J. D. Kellor's Asthma Remedy is a wonderful curative agent. It immediately relieves the restricted air passages as though the attack could testify. It is sold by dealers everywhere.

## WHY BE

Writing in the *London* on the origins of the *Lovet Fraser* says:

We are witnessing a burst of the German scale for which we, the days of ancient Rome, an inadequate precede which swiftly overtook comparable only to the titides who seated their shields and shot slopes of the Alps into Italy. Every episode figured a thousand times and only the armament. The Emperor Commodus earliest exponent of the humiliate the German Marcus Aurelius, in a lasting three years, exhaustion and then made a peace "which the all but beaten advantage that had been them." In thirty years attacking again, and they were pouring into

### Germans Always

The Germanic people have been destroyers. The sack of Rome less than years ago was so barbaric almost without a parallel stamped upon countless fresh civilisations of their turns have flourished. The impulses which are complex and probably in their summatic. Their earliest western shores of the hardest, bleakest, most land in Europe. Today of the Prussians, a Prussians alone that ent upheaval. Next modern times in far the influence which many is geographical unceasing effort of the pies to burst the breast strain them is as great factor in world history. Rome. It is a jig, and it seems unoffshots do not retain because they are reliable.

The geographical position is, when all other been counted, the finest the Prussian system and the Prussian can. Seely saw this when the life of Stein. Easy individualism America would never Prussia, because the difficult to defend. to be governed to a