

## “TOEING THE MARK”

By Albert Ernest Stafford

A better understanding of the state of mind behind the German atrocities which shocked a civilized world when the enemy made its way thru Belgium, and ever since then, is available thru the several articles which have appeared in the London, England,

It appears that German professors and teachers are preaching a doctrine which justifies, in the minds of the Germans, the deeds which have been performed against humanity. "German theologians," he says, "have been busily engaged since the beginning of the war in justifying the policy of their country in the light of their own particular doctrines and belief. Thru all their special pleadings runs the common idea that Germany was selected by Divine Providence to chastise a wicked world." Rev. Fritz Philippi, a prominent Lutheran pastor, ended a sermon recently with these words: "Germany has never used her strength to menace the independence of any other nation. Just for this reason, on account of our clean record, we have been chosen as the Almighty's instrument to punish the envious, to chastise the evildoers, to bring the sword to the sinful peoples of the world. Germany's divine mission is to crucify humanity." He continues thus: "It is, therefore, the duty of German soldiers to strike blows of merciless violence; they must kill, they must burn, they must work wholesale destruction."

Here is a sample of a sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Lobel, pastor of the principal Lutheran church at Leipzig: "Heaven having blessed the Germans by appointing them the chosen people, we wage this war with the conviction that we are carrying out Divine wishes in destroying our enemies and in establishing our own power. Germany stands for Christianity; her enemies are the enemies of true religion. It is this knowledge that enables us to rejoice and be glad, with hearts full of thankfulness, when our engines of war in the air strike down the sons of Satan, and when our wonderful submarine instruments of Divine vengeance send thousands of the un-elect to the bottom of the sea."

"We must fight the wicked by all possible means; their sufferings must please us; their cries of anguish must fall upon deaf German ears. There can be no compromise with the forces of hell, no pity for the slaves of Satan; in other words, no quarter for the English and the French, and the Russians and all other peoples who have lent themselves to the Devil, and who have been in consequence, sentenced by Divine judgment to damnation."

Professor Rheinhold Seeberg, who occupies the Chair of Theology at the University of Berlin, preaching at the cathedral there said:

"We do not hate our enemies. No, we obey the Divine command to love them.

"When we kill them, when we inflict untold suffering on them, when we burn their homes and overrun their territories, **WE ARE PERFORMING A LABOR OF LOVE.**"

Geheimer Consistorialrat, Dr. Scholz, one of the recognized leaders of the Evangelical Association of Germany, preaching at Halle, said: "After Germany's final triumph over her enemies the way will be clear for a truly German Christianity. Germans must realize their own importance to the world's future; they will be the apostles of the new Christianity in which the spirit that has animated the German people during this war will predominate."

"These are fair examples of the work of the German pulpit since the beginning of the war," says The Standard correspondent. Practically every preacher in Germany has delivered sermons along these lines. The Evangelical Association of Germany has distributed 3,000,000 pamphlets written to prove that they are fighting for Right against Wrong and the kaiser has expressed to the executive committees his gratitude for their "truly religious and patriotic efforts."

It is pleasant to turn from the fearfully cruel expressions of what lies in the German soul to a letter read from an English pulpit that shows from a side little revealed, the sort of spirit that animate us:

"May I read you a few lines from a letter written by a friend of mine just a few hours before he was killed in action?" asked Rev. R. Brook, preaching in Westminster Abbey.

" 'We are in it again before long,' he writes, 'determined to succeed; but one knows that in any case there will be precious little left of a fine battalion, and one may become oneself nothing but an ugly mess, and the memories of one's friends and enemies. That is what makes one long again and again to be able to leave the power and the intensity of one's conviction that it is good, and all the little precious grain of hard-earned knowledge which each one possesses.

" 'Because we don't go as sheep to the slaughter, but as men knowing the fullness of life, and giving it up as a common duty, done without much fuss by other men, and therefore to be held of small account by us as well.

" 'After this war, and out of it, a prophet and a poet will arise—of that I am sure—to say what every one feels and leaves unsaid for fear the touch of words too weak should turn the gold to slag.

" 'War out here is as horrible as your imagination can picture it, but if every one doubted the deity of man or the future of our race let them come out here and learn the truth.' "

A political cartoon by Spudis. A large, heavy block labeled "FOREIGN EXCHANGE" is being pushed up a ramp. The ramp consists of several steps or levels, each labeled with a numerical value: 73 1/4, 78, 83, 88, and 93 1/2. A coin, labeled "DRIVE IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE", is shown entering the ramp from the left. The background features a stylized city skyline with a prominent tower. The artist's signature "Spudis" is in the bottom right corner.

The article in the last Sunday World, "Bigger Armies Demand Bigger Business," created considerable interest—quite enough to induce people to wonder just what the Dominion Government is going to promote trade abroad and point the way to possible expansion after the war. And so we enquired as to what Sir George C. Foster's department of trade and commerce was doing and we got the following report:

This department maintains a service of nineteen trade commissioners, two special trade commissioners and five commercial agents stationed in the more important countries for the purpose of promoting sale of Canadian products abroad. Reports of these officers are published in a weekly bulletin, together with other information relating to foreign markets, and supplements to weekly bulletins are issued from time to time giving more particular details of special lines of trade. The department at Ottawa furnishes exporters with data on all trade points. Subsidies to steamship companies render shipping facilities

es available with all principal countries. Statistics indicating the trend of trade of Canada and other countries are compiled and published in monthly and annual reports.

Every effort has been made to draw the attention of Canadians to trade openings resulting from the war. Tables illustrative of German export business and comments thereon have been prepared by the department and published in the weekly bulletin. Mr. Just has

been sent to Russia to investigate the possibilities for Canadian trade with that market. Two potential trade commissioners to Russia were recently appointed. Mr. MacMillan, a special trade commissioner, has been appointed and Mr. MacMillan is expected to be promoted to the position of trade commissioner to promote the sale of Canadian lumber in foreign markets. The department has been instrumental in securing for Canada a due share of the orders from allied governments. It is now being considered towards securing vessels for shipment of Canadian grain and other exports. A careful study is being made of opportunities and possibilities that may develop in foreign countries as a result of the present conditions, and of probable conditions after peace, and information is being gathered for the use of our manufacturers and pro-

The Canadian export trade has shown great expansion since the commencement of war. Exports for the twelve months ending November, 1915, showed an increase of approximately 40 per cent. over the preceding twelve months. The opportunities created by withdrawal of German imports are being taken advantage of by Canadian firms. Many articles are now being manufactured in Canada, which were previously imported and Canadians are opening up connections with outside markets, which will probably result in permanent trade.

dians do not appreciate all that their government's statistical and information bureaus do for them. The renewed splendid spirit of independence, so charitably shown our country, is probably responsible. The smaller manufacturer, jobber and dealer could probably find at Ottawa information worth thousands of dollars to him, if he is inclined to be aggressive and enterprising in taking advantage of new opportunities. The information can be had without cost and with very little trouble.

The pre-dential probabilities in the United States are greatly obscured by the outstanding personality of Theodore Roosevelt. Col. Roosevelt has undoubtedly the largest personal following of any man in the republic, Mr. Wilson not excepted. He is so strong that if he runs as a third party candidate he will defeat the Republican nominee as he did in 1912. Possibly he might himself be elected.

and South American trade by the manufacturers and exporters of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. All the belligerent nations will produce feverishly and go after the export trade in real earnest. They can do so because they already have the industries and railways will be to a large extent under the control of the state. England, we are sure will win out, and Germany will enter the race for world commerce sadly handicapped.

There will be enough competition to cut prices in every market. The American manufacturers are already scared to death and the demand for a higher or protective tariff will be a big factor in the coming presidential race. Our Canadian manufacturers will always have the threat of cut out for them if they are to retain the home market. The United States and Canada alike have reaped a golden harvest from the sale of war munitions and war supplies to the warring countries and the Allies, but they have not been doing much business in any other part of the world. When the big drive begins after the war for commercial supremacy, they may be able to compete. They may be able to dig themselves in behind a pretty high tariff if they are to hold their own.

His strength is attested by the recent "Gary dinner" in New York, at which something like ten per cent. of the wealth of the United States was represented. Big Business is anxious to beat Wilson and it is obvious that Roosevelt is the man to accomplish the president's defeat. At any rate, the Republican party would have little chance to elect a standpat candidate upon a standpat platform unless Roosevelt stayed out of the field.

President Wilson is finding many obstacles in the way of his reelection. He is being assailed now as he was in 1912 on religious grounds. Of course the critics do not agree among themselves, and it is not clear what happens when the same man may suffer from the charge of being too friendly to a certain church and also at the same election suffer from the same charge of being that church's enemy. In any case, however, all the British-Americans and all the German-Americans will vote against Mr. Wilson, who will be left? But perhaps the marvelous luck that brought Woodrow Wilson to the White House may, after all, keep him there for another term.

It may be as well not to bother too much about what is going to happen after the war until the war itself is over. Prophecies along the line of what is to happen when peace is restored may prove as fantastic as some we heard respecting the war. The war did not end in ninety days; the kaiser was not crowned in Paris and the czar did not celebrate Christmas, 1914, in Berlin. But it does seem reasonably certain that after the war a big drive will be made for both North

THE WHITMAN CLUB of Bon Echo, founded by Flora Macdonald, sent out invitations for a reception recently and I was fortunate enough to be included in the company that assembled in the King Edward on Friday evening of the 7th. It was an inspiring way to begin the New Year. I had first heard about Flora Macdonald sixteen years ago when she published her book, "Mary Melville, the Psychic," which was recommended to me by Mr. Hague Evans, of whom I wrote in these columns some time ago. It was a long time afterwards before I met Flora Macdonald in person, and came to realize not only as a tradition, but as a fact that "Mary Melville" was the sister of the writer, who had only written down with faithful and loving care an account of the remarkable life which had grown up and withered beside her. That book, with its picture of a remarkable father and mother, and its glimpse of a Canada that has been a foundation for much that is yet to come to pass, should be better known than it is. Perhaps one day, as biography, it will have a wider circulation and a better reception than it has yet had as fiction. Those who read "Mary Melville," however, realize that they are dealing with a remarkable family. Mrs. Denison, who is Flora Macdonald, and founder of the Walt Whitman Club of Bon Echo, is a true sister of her own heroine.

MRS. ENISON TOLD "US that she was first introduced to Walt Whitman by Col. Ingersoll. She had not met the great American orator personally, but had attended the lecture given by him in the old Shaftesbury Hall in 1892. More and more as she became imbued with the spirit of Whitman, she understood that the Voice Eternal was speaking the ancient message in a new form to a new age. She understood, also, that the message was an appeal to the innermost, and that it must fall on many deaf ears. It was an inspiration and encouragement for her in her own work. She distinguished between her own inner self, the Flora Macdonald who thought and wrote and dwelt apart, and the Mrs. Denison, who faced the world and did the world's business. She knew that the Inner Person must be free, and Whitman's appeal stirred her. "Leave all free as I have left all free!" She had been born in the wild and picturesque country far north of Belleville in a French settlement where her father had been the first white settler. He had urged the government at that time to dedicate this beautiful country as a national park, but nothing was done, and it

many phases. Finally, after many strange circumstances and in curious ways, the property now known as Bon Echo came into the possession of Mrs. Denison, and she remained to make it a center and nucleus of the Whitman spirit, a symbol of democracy, the democracy of Whitman, the poet of liberty and immortality. In this lovely spot, with its great Gibraltar cliffs set above the lake, its enchanted woods and its rocky shores, it is clear that there have been gathered many of the notables of the time, and more will come from summer to summer. It is Flora McDonald who will be the genius of Bon Echo, and she intends shortly to issue a little magazine called "Bon Echo," in which the inspirations of the day will find record.

ON ECHO LIES SEVENTY miles north of Belleville, and 150 from Toronto on the C.P.R., and there were many testimonies to its excellent beauty and to the fine specimens observed there. On one occasion, George Perkins Peterson Gilman, having seen seven rainbows there all at once, wrote a poem about the place. Mr. F. M. Bell-Smith, who took part in the expedition, painted many of the scenes, and the artists find the scenery full of charm and suggestion. After Mr. Bell-Smith's recitation and Miss Taylor's song there was some speaking. Dr. H. H. Hance, a lawyer who also proved to be a good Whittierite, related his early experiences in Hastings County and how he had taken Sir Sam to school and put him thru the teacher's course and got him a certificate. He then told how they had both taught school together in the "Bon Echo" House. He had met Col. Ingham at the lecture already mentioned, which had been arranged by Col. Pope, and afterwards while they were there he had written a telegram which was handed to the general. It happened it was, and much disturbed, said he must hasten away at once as he

“had been chosen to preach a funeral sermon of the greatest kind that ever lived—Walt Whitman, Whitman, as Binns says, recognizing a more perfect faculty of reason the Ingersoll's logic, and was cognate of a field of transcendent knowledge which Ingersoll had never known, but which Ingersoll had to admit, replying to the question, ‘Love over the grave. Hope might proclaim that “before all life is death, and after death is life.”’ He did not know as Whitman knew that he was “the leavings of many deaths,” and that he had died five thousand times over.” Dr. Binns spoke an interesting and broadening of opinion in Toronto the last quarter of a century. He had been himself denounced as a dangerous person in his boyhood because he read Dickens. He denied that Ingersoll was an infidel, and quoted Whitman's assertion that, “no miracle enough to stagger sextillions of infidels.” He had brought many lectures to Toronto, and a president of the University had warned the public not to attend a lecture by Julia Ward Howe because she was a Unitarian. He had been denounced for reading “Tom” Paine. He had been called an infidel, and his works were now sold in the Methodist Book Room. An infidel was an impossibility, he declared.

M. R. SMYTHE also spoke on some phases of Whitman's teaching. He said that of course "By Blue Ontario's Shore," Whitman had the line, "As a whale turning on its axle, so I find my chants turning finally on the war." Elsewhere Whitman says of "Leaves of Grass," "The entire work is finally to convey the first characteristics of the literary result of Whitman's devotion in the hospital to the sick and wounded, and his recognition of the cosmic force that were at work in such upheaval were dwelt upon. The war taught what one's self and union meant." He stressed leadership and democracy. He tested the truth and reality. This side of Whitman has not been understood in Toronto where the police had actually raided the booksellers who offered "Leaves of Grass" for sale, and the late public librarian refused to admit the books to his shelves. The speaker hesitated to say that Whitman's Walt Whitman was by some of those who understood him, lest some susceptibilities might be jarred. He referred to the passage in Blake's preface where he says, "It is as man that I see and have sought to express in Whitman. But as a man of special, exceptional qualities, a new type of mystic or seer. And the conviction that he belonged to the order of initiates has dragged me on to confessedly difficult ground." Mr. Smythe suggested that if they regarded men as incarnations of the Supreme Spirit it would be the higher degrees that would be able to regard the lower as one who had manifested, whether reflecting or transmitting, the cosmic mind in an exalted measure which must estimate for himself. Whitman's chief mission was to establish among men "the institution of the Master, the Master, and Bon Echo would be a token of promise for Canada of the great cause of brotherhood.

TO UNDERSTAND THE Bon Esch movement it will be necessary to read "Mary Melville." The marvelous girl, who confounded the great mathematicians of the world at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876, obtaining the gold medal and presidency of the Mathematical Society, and dying of grief after her husband's death, afterwards at the age of 19 the victim of experience in psychic conditions of a medical man, was a prodigy of learning. She passed her examinations, taking almost cent per cent in them, all, and was awarded her Ph.D. degree by the Albert University, with three first honors in mathematics. Whatever she attempted she did perfectly, and she astonished the drawing master when she corrected a study for a fellow pupil, also she had never done any drawing before. Strange physical phenomena attended her. A chameleon would follow her about the room. She handled burning coals in her bare hands without injury. At a Moody and Sankey revival she controlled the audiences, restraining or impelling by her will those who wished to testify, finally rousing

with the greatest simplicity of nature and sweetness of disposition. Her continued existence is an essential element in her sister's life. She is the echo of Bon Echo as the result of the inspiration thus obtained. Her life is a reflection of the life of her sister, her expression to views and ideas that originate from this source. Florence Macdonald, in fact, will represent the inner life, and the urge of an influence that has higher aims than the life of the world, usually such as the aspirations and understandings of the outer world, as Mrs. Denison has lived them, afford the training which make the inner realizations possible. Bon Echo will unite in summing up the comrades who seek the inner and the outer man. In the summations of the life Walt Whitman celebrates as the perfect union of the inner and the outer man. In 1819, on May 31, within a week of Queen Victoria, Walt Whitman was born, and on May 31, 1919, we celebrate that his century will be appropriately celebrated.