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THE WORLD WINDOW

Vatican Proposals Inspired by Germany.

Nearly all the newspapers agree that the weak point in the Pope's peace proposal is his failure to distinguish any moral difference between the Germanic powers and those that are opposed to them. It is patent to everyone, especially since Mr. Gerard's pungent revelations that the Kaiser had been planning the war for years and was really the International political Pecksniff of Europe, pretending the greatest piety and philanthropy, while all the while meditating the greatest devilry the world has witnessed. The war was actually decided upon at a council held at Potsdam on July 5, 1914, and the ultimatum of Austria to Serbia, if not drafted by Germany, was within her guilty knowledge fourteen days before it was dispatched, although the German authorities have been denying they knew anything about it till after its delivery. The Pope in his innocence, wants the Allied powers to accept the word of a discredited and mendacious ruler like the Kaiser, and to give him a chance to regain his strength and make another attack on the peace of the world when he feels prepared. It does not look good enough to any one who knows the Kaiser and his breed. If Germany wants peace the Allied powers must have the Kaiser and his family as hostages, unless the German nation otherwise disposes of them and assures the other nations of its good faith by adopting a democratic form of government. Nothing of this sort has apparently occurred to the Pope, who would not even ask the Kaiser to give bail for his good behaviour or have him bound over to keep the peace.

An article in the New York Tribune, written before the full text of the Vatican proposals appeared, dealt with the principles involved in considering any suggestions for peace. If the document proved to be only one more response to the cry of agony and suffering, one more effort to end the horror without regard to the great issue at stake, The Tribune believed it should be rejected. There has been nothing in the proposals to touch the root of the matter, to make it certain that the Kaiser, after getting peace would not use it as Louis XIV. and Napoleon used similar opportunities, to make a worse and greater war later on. The Vatican proposals are not only without guarantees, but they savour so much of the German aims and watchwords that it is not surprising when it is stated that the proposals were the direct outcome of intrigues directed by Berlin and Vienna towards the end of July. Mgr. Szeptycki, Archbishop of Lemberg, was received in audience by Emperor Carl and the following day by Kaiser Wilhelm, after which he was provided with a passport for Rome, where he was still remaining on the 16th inst. This would account for such characteristically German suggestions as a return to the status quo ante without annexations or compensation; and the freedom of the seas! The seas have always been free, absolutely free, under Britannia's rule, except for pirates. Germany's demand for freedom is a pirate's demand for the rights of the black flag with the death's head and bloody bones. The seas were free until Germany declared war, and now Germany wants the British navy muzzled. It is perhaps astonishing that the Pope would present these ideas, but not that Germany would prompt them.

Russian Regiment's Folly Prolongs the Strife.

Germany is being shaken in these days as never before. It seems evident now that had the Russian army stood fast the Teutonic powers must have collapsed in this year's campaigning. The whole of the Russian failure is now known to have resulted from the lack of discipline in one regiment of the Eleventh Russian Army. This regiment retired from its position, leaving the line with a gap into which the Germans penetrated, the result being that the adjoining troops had to retire to save themselves from being outflanked, and the line gradually melted away. The regiment had been got at by German emissaries, pacifists and anarchists, corresponding to the similar agitators to be found in this continent, as I. W. W.'s, Free Leaguers and other disloyal elements, which are like "the lesser breeds," without the law and without discipline. Society is always exposed to the attacks of such persons, and under ordinary conditions they serve a useful purpose; but in time of war, when the whole national polity may depend upon the loyalty of a single unit, they have to be judged by another standard. Their conduct is no different from that of the ex-Tsar of Russia, who agreed to betray his Allies, and who is reviled by many of these very elements who cannot see the parallel in their own conduct. The treacherous advance, the highly successful French operations at Verdun, and the extensive gains of the British and French in Belgium indicate such a lack of discipline in the German forces that the German people themselves must soon be aware of what is patent to everybody else, the Kaiser and his staff included. All the political movements towards democracy in Germany are efforts on the part of the Court party to conciliate the people in view of what is coming. But when the deluge comes the Hohenzollerns will be swept away.

In these days when meat is becoming not merely a luxury, but an impossibility for those whose incomes do not expand with the demands of the times, increasing attention is being given to vegetarian diet. Many people are surprised to find that with a properly arranged diet of this description they are more healthy and stronger than when eating meat, and it is almost universally recognized that they are clearer headed. Many people when they hear of a vegetarian diet think of vegetables and are surprised again to find that vegetables form a very small part of it, and by many followers of the system are omitted altogether. Vegetarian does not mean vegetable. It is derived from the Latin word vegetus, which conveys the idea of thriving or nourishing, so that a vegetarian diet is one on which one thrives and is nourished. In Mrs. Humphrey Ward's book, "David Greve," there is an account of the rise among other social developments in Manchester of the vegetarian movement, and the V. E. M. restaurants there dispensing Vegetables, Eggs and Milk gave the first impetus in England to the idea. The McLaughlin restaurants in Scotland and Ireland and Eustace Miles in London have done much to popularize the system, but those who can get their households on a vegetarian basis will find that good economy as well as health is possible. Fruit and cereals are the basis of most modern vegetarian diets. Those who can use nut foods find them a splendid substitute for meat. Vegetables in the ordinary sense supply useful salts, but as Josiah Oldfield's "Penny Guide to Fruitarian Diet and Cookery" have an immense circulation in Great Britain. The conservative attitude of women has much to do with the failure of vegetarian diet in times of scarcity to relieve the economic pressure.

Vegetarian Diet is Healthful and Cheap.

But all that has passed. The work of the engineer and his great pile-drivers and pumps has this summer reached a point where the great scheme of reclamation is visible and understandable to all who view what they have done. The general aspect of the great waterways with their thousands of yards of concrete-lined dockage, and the wide areas of dry land on which great factories and warehouses are to be erected are plain to the view, and away to the east one sees the sweep of that part of the marsh that is still left awaiting the time when the engineer, having done his work at the west end may turn his attentions there to complete his task. There it is the visitor will see a little of the marsh as it once was to remind him of old days.

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To those who, four or five years ago, were at all familiar with the general appearance of Ashbridge's Bay and its approach on its western side, a walk thru that district today will prove interesting. All who knew that wide stretch of reed-grown water, if they have any desire to once again glimpse something of the district they may have known as it was years ago, should lose no time in paying it another visit. For two or three years pile-drivers, dredges, concrete mixers and sand pumps have been busily working in a seemingly aimless, confused sort of a way as they were determined to make a great disturbance but had no particular object in view other than to some way change the physical features of that once-favored haunt of muskrat and water fowl.

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But all that has passed. The work of the engineer and his great pile-drivers and pumps has this summer reached a point where the great scheme of reclamation is visible and understandable to all who view what they have done. The general aspect of the great waterways with their thousands of yards of concrete-lined dockage, and the wide areas of dry land on which great factories and warehouses are to be erected are plain to the view, and away to the east one sees the sweep of that part of the marsh that is still left awaiting the time when the engineer, having done his work at the west end may turn his attentions there to complete his task. There it is the visitor will see a little of the marsh as it once was to remind him of old days.

How well remembered is the old foot-path that went over the swing-bridge spanning Cootesworth's out at the foot of Cherry street. Straight south it went, past the ill-smelling dump, where the city's refuse slowly started the filling in that sand-gum-

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