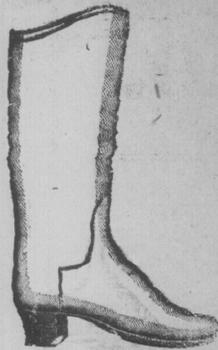


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**GERMAN WAR IS SAVAGERY**

**Moral Degeneration Bound to Have Quick Response on Firing Line—Should Have Drives—New York Opinion Favors Death Penalty for Submarine Pirates**

New York, April 1.—The Tribune's editorial comment on the sinking of the Palaba and Aguilas is as follows: The appetite for savagery in war grows with what it feeds on. Once the wise restrictions which humane sentiment, acting through international compacts, has put on military brutality are thrust aside, the plunge back into barbarism cannot be long delayed. Moral degeneration in the viewpoint of a belligerent Government must have a quick response in excesses and atrocities, all along the fighting line.

When the German Admiralty announced its purpose to disregard the established rules of warfare at sea and threatened to destroy allied merchantmen found within the "war zone" drawn about Great Britain and Ireland, "even if it may not be possible always to save their crews and passengers," that portion of the world which respects the sanctity of international obligations still had some hope that the German Government was only using the language of intimidation. It could not altogether persuade itself that a nation which

possessed its readiness in civilization intended to carry out to the letter a programme of warfare at sea which stands on no higher level than murder and piracy.

That was an over-lenient judgment. At first German naval officers seemed to hesitate about degrading themselves to the work outlined by the admiralty. In an interview with the commander of the U-16, recently published, that officer, describing his attack on the French steamship Ville de Ville, was represented as saying: "I saw two women and children on the deck. Of course, we couldn't torpedo a ship with women and children aboard."

Such a reservation did honor to the German commander's professional instincts. But evidently he was speaking for himself, not for the German Admiralty. In the sinking of the African liner Palaba in St. George's Channel last Sunday the German programme of ruthless warfare on non-combatants, women and children included, was revealed in all its depravity. There is no longer any pretence of consideration for the lives of persons not properly subject to the hazards of warfare. "If the accounts of this tragedy which come from London are correct, the Palaba was torpedoed before the crew and passengers had a chance to take to the small boats, and more than one hundred and forty non-combatants were sacrificed to the sheer brutality of the

German submarine commander. On the same day the U-28 sank the steamer Aguilas off Pembroke with equal wantonness, nine persons being killed, including one woman. It is reported that the crew of the submarine which sank the Palaba even cheered at their drowning victims.

This is not war as the civilized world knows it. It is assassination. Officers and crews committing such crimes forfeit their right to be treated according to the laws of war. If captured they should be tried for murder. What they did is not covered in any way by the plea of accident or of military necessity. They took innocent lives in cold blood. We hope that the brutes who sank the Palaba and the Aguilas will be caught and hanged, not alone as a penalty for their crimes but as a vindication of the law of nations which they and their Government have perversely outraged.

**Shortage of Wheat Predicted**

A recent bulletin of the Department of Agriculture sets forth the fact that if the export of wheat from this country to European nations continues as it has been during the past three months the supply of wheat for bread and for seeding purposes is likely to be cut short. On March 1 there appeared to be a surplus of about 91,000,000 bushels of the grain which would be available for shipment abroad in the months preceding the harvesting of the next crop but figures show that an average of 35,000,000 bushels per month has been exported in the past three months. At this rate a total of 140,000,000 bushels would be required to supply the foreign demand until July when the new crop will be available.

It is believed that the stock of flour in this country is relatively greater than that of wheat. The bulletin points out that the wheat acreage in the Southern states is much greater this year than usual and that the crop of these states will be on the market before July 1 so that the wheat supply will be materially increased.

Statistics of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, compiled from official data supplied by the various countries of the world, indicate that the world's 1914-1915 production of wheat will amount to 3,690,000,000 bushels, or about three-fourths of the institute's estimated maximum. The production of rye is estimated at 1,740,000,000 and of barley at about 1,400,000,000 bushels.

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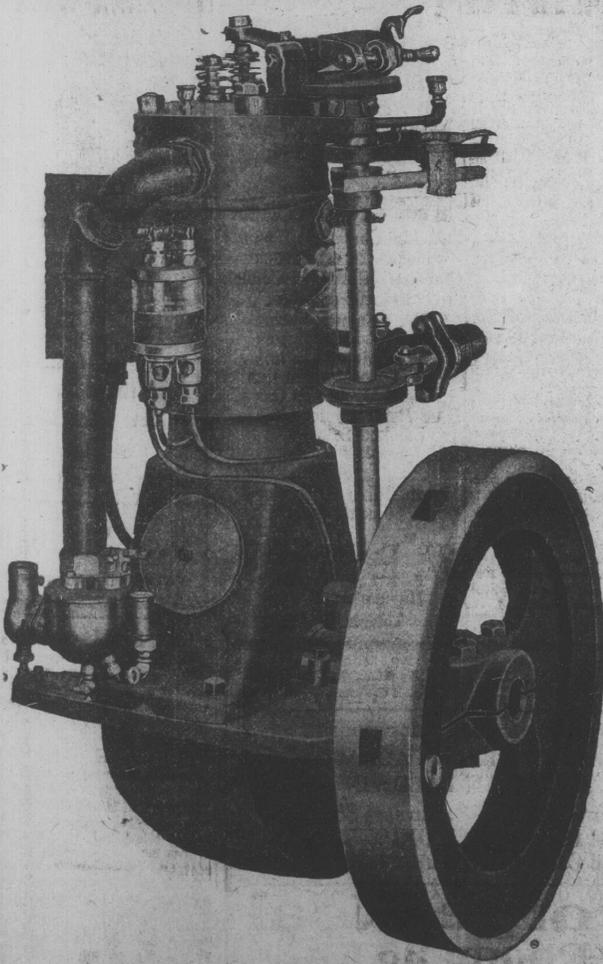
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