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**GERMAN MATERIALISM**

(The Citizen)

Professor Gruber, one of Bavaria's most learned professors, declares that the war was inevitable and unavoidable. It might have been postponed, but was bound to come sooner or later, so that the whole attempt to fix the blame on one nation or another is futile.

Professor Gruber says that life is the being powerful, is the possession of superfluous power, is acting and creating at one's pleasure. In this sense, of course, Germany was responsible for the slaughter. This life leads to competition and in nations is the same as in individuals. Sometimes this competition is mutually helpful but more frequently the prosperity of one disturbs the prosperity of others. Germany has stretched and used her power to the utmost; in forty-five years increasing her population from 40 to 68 millions, so that for her war had become a biological necessity.

This is one of the remarkable examples of recent German philosophy; philosophy which, however, takes no heed even of historical precedent. Professor Gruber argues from the false premise that life is the possession of physical power, and forgets the fate of the Roman empire built upon a similar philosophy. Life from the purely material aspect makes war a biological necessity, but the civilization that embodies the spiritual with the physical in no way provides for the killing of millions that other millions may expand.

Christianity has not become known to Germany as a nation as yet. The clever philosophers, the distinguished scientists, and the brilliant writers who have made Germany famous have failed to impress the truth upon the nation.

For half a century the intoxication of materialism, created by the events of the decade between 1864 and 1872, has raged in the veins of the people until it has finally broken forth in the delirium of war. And now the philosophers come forth to justify the fruits of their teachings. Yet no greater demonstration of the results of economic and social heresy is to be found than this defence of war and anti-Christian materialism.

**SWEDEN'S NEUTRALITY**

(Harper's Weekly)

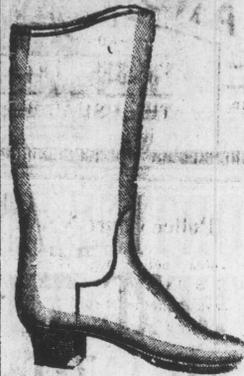
When England's use of sea-power in this war is discussed the entirely ignorant person usually smits surprise that the navy has done so little. A very slight amount of information leads to emphasis of how it has accomplished, but even in the fullest summaries that have come our way one silent effect of sea-power has been overlooked.

It is pointed out that British sea-power assured to England food, and to herself and her allies many needed supplies from overseas, and especially from us; enabled her armies to go to France and to the Dardanelles; prevented the success of the German drive through France along the coast; kept her own factories continuing export trade; took a direct as well as a protective part in the assault on Turkey; and made Germany's effort more difficult and intense by the extra burden of the blockade.

The diplomatic influence has also been counted in the total score, notably on Italy's decision. It is along lines of influence on other countries that there occurs the omission we have in mind. The three Scandinavian countries began early in the war to consult together; and together the rulers agreed upon neutrality.

The fear and distrust of Russia, however, has been a potent force in Sweden, and has been a factor even in Norway; the balance has not been easy to keep; many leading Swedes and Norwegians have looked upon the situation with

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**LONDON'S BIRTHS SHOW A DECLINE OF 280 WEEKLY**

London, Aug. 18.—France has long been suffering from a decline in the birthrate. Britain in the last few years has been steadily following suit. The great falling off in new babies, "war babies" reports notwithstanding, has reached the colossal decline of 280 a week in London alone.

In the provinces 1,500 fewer babies are entering the world in the same period as compared with the numbers which first saw the light last year. The decline means a drop of 80,000 for the country during 1914. The loss of boy population to London is something like 8,000 a year. If London and the ninety-seven big towns be bunched together there is a slump of nearly 2,000 a week.

anxiety. The Germans, in their drive at Russia, emphasized the northern part of their advance, no doubt largely to influence Sweden and Finland to enter the conflict on their side.

The fact that entrance on the side of Germany would mean not only the immediate ruin of Scandinavian commerce, but the exposure of Norway to invasion from Britain has been one of those examples of the pressure of sea-power that are unnoticed because they represent a condition rather than a positive act. Those who know Scandinavian affairs best, however, are first to count this pressure among the forces of the war exerted by the British Navy.

READ THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE

**The "Blockade" Of Great Britain**

(The Nation)

It is now almost exactly six months since the German Admiralty proclaimed its submarine "blockade" of Great Britain, and announced that "every hostile merchantman . . . will be destroyed."

What are the net results of military value? One great aim of the campaign was to cut off supplies from England especially food stuffs. Without imported food, England would starve. Thus the English threat of starving out Germany was to be retorted.

Yet during the first five months of submarine activity in British waters, the official figures of imports show that 100,000 tons more of foodstuffs were received in England than during the corresponding five months of 1914. This does not look as if the German plan of reducing England by starvation was successful.

As for the actual destruction of British shipping—virtually all of it insured, by the way, so that the owners lose nothing—it is variously estimated, but is surely less than one per cent of the vessels actually coming and going through the war zone. Lloyd's Register has recently issued the quarterly returns of new ships—leaving out men-of-war—under construction in British yards at the end of June. The total is 1,500,000 tons. The tonnage of the ships sunk by the Germans is a little over 200,000.

Thus the British mercantile marine is not exactly disappearing. In fact, despite the submarines, the year has been one of large profits for shipowners.

**SUGGESTIONS OF PEACE**

(The Citizen)

It is somewhat of a reflection on the intelligence of the average citizen to explain that the pope's proposal for peace negotiations is not possible of entertainment at this time, and that while the head of the church may be actuated by the best of motives there is really no hope of his suggestion being acted upon.

Perhaps nobody knows that better than the pope. It is safe to assume that if there is any single individual in a position to know the condition, feelings and hopes of all the belligerents it is the occupant of the papal throne. He is not, therefore, deluded into the belief that his suggestion is likely to be accepted at this time. But it is, nevertheless, his duty to propose it—and to keep proposing it until the moment arrives for some leg-weary nation to accept it or to take advantage of it.

The pope, it would seem, is keeping the door open for any who would enter. He is not counting upon any one entering now, or next week, or next month, but sooner or later one of the belligerent powers will feel the necessity of appealing to the Vatican or to the president of the United States, or to Spain, or Switzerland for aid in negotiating terms. The pope is keeping before the nations one of the means of seeking peace, the facilities which would do so much towards softening the national humiliation that must attend an intimation of weakness after a long and desperate conflict, fought with all the resources at command.

That the pope will renew his offer again and again is undoubted. The present suggestion is merely one of a series leading up to the time when the nations will listen. In making it the pope is not deceived; nor is he leaning towards any one side. The events of the month or the week have no relation to any offers of peace or suggestions that may emanate from the Vatican. The pope merely reminds the nations that the door is still open and that any applicants will be gladly welcomed, come from where they may.

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