

Editorial Comment

PRUSSIAN EAGLE VS AMERICAN EAGLE

The United States Government's note of protest to Germany concerning the sinking of the Lusitania has had a somewhat mixed reception. In some quarters the view is that the President has taken a firm stand and done exactly as circumstances demanded he should do; on the other hand, there is also a feeling prevalent that the note is merely intended to save his face, and that nothing further will be done should Germany treat it with indifference.

Certain passages in the Washington note are not calculated to strengthen it in the minds of thoughtful people. One of these passages sets forth the Government's reluctance to believe "that the commanders of the German vessels which committed the acts of lawlessness did so except under a misapprehension of the orders issued by the German naval authorities." In the face of the facts, one cannot help laughing at such a piece of childishness. President Wilson and his advisors in common with the whole civilized world cannot but realize the hollow mockery of this assertion, which seeks to find excuse for the German Government in the fanciful theory that the German naval commanders exceeded their orders. Is it not fully established that warnings were issued by the German Embassy at Washington previous to the sailing of the Lusitania indicating in the clearest possible manner that it was the German purpose to destroy the ship?

Moreover, is it not also a matter of record that the German government has issued a statement accepting full responsibility for the disaster, but laying the blame thereof on the people who were warned and refused to take heed? Further, the policy of sinking merchant ships on the high seas regardless of the loss of life was determined upon and announced by the German Government at the end of January last. Why therefore, in the face of these facts, should the Wilson Government go out of the way to stultify themselves by suggesting that the sinking of the Lusitania and other vessels was due to a misunderstanding of orders?

The Washington note demands that Germany undertake not to "do it again" under penalty of the United States Government not omitting to take such steps as may be necessary to protect the lives of their citizens. Germany's answer is now awaited with interest not only in America but throughout the civilized world. Should it be, as is generally anticipated, a refusal to alter the course she has mapped out for herself, it will be interesting to see what America will do then. There is more than one ground for suspicion that Germany is anxious to drag America into the war, and it may be that she will go still further out of her way in an effort to accomplish this. America has neither army or navy of any account, and Germany in no way fears their entrance into the sphere of activities. The cause of the Allies will not be in any way served by America's entrance into the war, but if Germany treats her note with disdain, it is difficult to see how Washington can do other than declare war to maintain its own dignity.

TAR SANDS OF ALBERTA

The existence of deposits of bituminous sands in the McMurray district of Northern Alberta has been known for many years. The absence of transportation facilities has, however, prevented the utilization and even the prospecting of these deposits.

Anticipating the building of the Alberta and Great Waterways railway into Northern Alberta, a preliminary examination of the deposits was undertaken by the Dominion Mines Branch in 1913 and continued in 1914. Meanwhile, the construction of the railway, which will open up and render these "deposits" available is being rushed, and its completion is expected in 1916.

The investigation revealed the fact that the tonnage of bituminous sands in the McMurray area is very large, and, although much of the material is low grade and, in some cases, the overburden is heavy, the mining by open-cut is impracticable. It is found that some 20 per cent. of the material, representing many millions of tons, may be considered as of commercial value.

Bituminous sands have for a number of years been used in the construction of various classes of pavements in the United States. The extent to which the material has been used appears to have been largely determined by the freight rates. The greater portion of the bituminous sand used at the present time in California for paving purposes comes from the Santa Cruz quarries, and is, in many respects, similar to the Alberta material. The bitumen contained in the McMurray rock is, however, much softer. It is believed that, with proper manipulation, such as heating, and the addition of hardening flux, the penetration of the bitumen can be reduced to meet the requirements of standard specifications for its successful employment in the laying of pavements in substitution of imported asphalt.

In view of the fact that the bitumen contained in the tar sands of Alberta is softer than the bitumen of the California material, arrangements have been made by the Mines Branch for the laying of an experimental pavement in the city of

HAND GRENADES

With rifles of more than two miles maximum range and ordinance with a range more than ten times that distance, the primitive hand grenade manually thrown by one belligerent at another would sound ludicrous, at first glance. One is likely to believe that it is impossible for the opposed armies to get nearer to one another than a mile or more. During this war, the opposing trenches have been less than one hundred yards apart for more frequently than they have been more than that distance apart. Now, the high power long range rifles of all the contending armies, fires so nearly horizontal that it is hopeless for a man in one trench to try to drop a bullet on an enemy in the opposing trench. And the opponents on both sides are all "dug in" so that they are completely below the surface. So, the only way for dropping a destructive missile into a trench is by hand grenade or more modern adaptation of the same. So, in this war, the far famed high power rifle has been ingloriously relegated to the discard when it comes to close quarters in the trenches, and the old primitive method of throwing things by hand has taken its place. When the distances have been a little too far for hand, a modified catapult has been used, discharging a bomb exploded by a detonator. It would be mounted to throw the bomb in a high arc so that it would drop down into the enemy's trench. At shorter distances, hand grenades are feasible. These comprise a head carrying a charge of very powerful explosive and fitted with a detonator, a safety device to prevent accidental discharge, a handle, and a guide tail. It is provided with a hook for suspending it from the belt. The whole device is about sixteen inches long. When the soldier decides it is time to use his grenade, he unhooks it, releases the safety device, unwraps the long cloth tail, and heaves it at the enemy's trench. The cloth tail trailing out behind insures true flight. It is thrown at an angle of not less than 35 degrees elevation so that it may drop down on the enemy in his trench. If well aimed, the detonator will explode it with great injury to the enemy.

Obviously, the first result of grenades was a grenade protection in the form of strong woven wire-ramparts above the trenches. And so it goes in this unparalleled war—each side devising some means of beating its opponent, and its opponent as rapidly devising some means to overcome it.

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This "Made in Canada" movement can be brought a little nearer home to each individual by emphasizing this suggestion: "Patronize the stores of your home town." Each man is entitled to spend his own money where it will buy the most—whether it be in Rome or Ab... But in fairness—Is it not wisdom before purchasing elsewhere to see what the stores of our own town have to offer? The prosperity of each of us is tied up with the prosperity of his neighbor. Acquaint yourself with what the stores of your own town are offering by reading the advertisements in The Union Advocate.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

United Baptist Church Rev. M. S. Richardson. Morning service, 11 a. m. Sunday School, 2:30 p. m. Preaching service, De. by, 3 p. m. Evening service, Newcastle, 7 p. m. Mid-Week Service—Wednesday Prayer and testimony meeting 7:30 p. m. Seats free, all welcome.

St. Andrew's Church (Anglican) Rev. W. J. Bate Holy Communion—1st Sunday in month at 11 a. m. 3rd Sunday in month at 8:30 a. m. Morning and Evening Prayer—Matins at 11:00 (except 3rd Sunday in month). Evensong at 7:00. Wednesday Evensong, 7:30.

St. Mary's Church (Catholic) (During winter months from November to May.) Early Mass with sermon, etc., 9:00 a. m. Late Mass with sermon, etc., 11:00 a. m. St. Aloysius Society for boys, 1:30. Children baptized, when there are baptisms, 2:00 p. m. Sunday School Classes, 2:30 p. m. Vespers, with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, etc., 7:00 p. m.

Methodist Church Rev. Dr. Harrison Sunday Services 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m. Prayer and Praise Service, Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.

The Kirk St. James Presbyterian Church Rev. S. J. Macarthur, M. A., B. D. Worship Sunday, 11:00 a. m. and 7:00 p. m. Sabbath School, 2:30 p. m.

Salvation Army Capt. P. Forbes Holiness Meeting—11 a. m. Praise and Testimony Meeting—3:00 p. m. Salvation Meeting—8 p. m. Public Meetings—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays—8:00 p. m.

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Target Tips and Hunting Helps
by Alfred P. Lane
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A New Questions and Answers Department of Interest to Shooters

Readers are reminded that this column is open to questions which should be sent to me in care of the Sporting Editor, and to discussions by the readers on anything connected with hunting or target shooting.—A. P. L.

Sights and "Near-sights."
Sights on a rifle or pistol have but one function: to make it possible for the shooter to so point the barrel that the bullet will strike the object aimed at. The best that any sight can do is to let the shooter know when the rifle is correctly pointed. If a sight does this, it is a good sight but no matter how good the sight is, if the hunter holds the rifle so that it gives a good imitation of an ossified snake with the St. Vitus dance, the snake can certainly not be held responsible, although that's where the blame is usually placed.

Occasionally you will hear a man say, "It's no use, I can't shoot any more. When I was a boy I could see the sights and the bullseye as clear as a bell, now if I focus my eye on the bullseye the sights become fuzzy and if I focus on the sights the target isn't clear. Guess I'd better stop shooting!" Plain ordinary ignorance of the laws of optics is the cause of such a statement. It is an absolute impossibility for the human eye to see with complete sharpness three objects (bullseye, front sight, and rear sight) all at different distances from the eye.

If you think your eyes are not giving you the right kind of service go to a competent oculist, explain your troubles, and wear the glasses for shooting he recommends. If you don't like the oculist's suggestions on your rifle or revolver, try others, but don't make any changes with the expectation of attaining a result which as above stated is impossible. I will be glad to do my best to help you out if you will write to me and state your troubles.

A. H., Chicago, Ill.

1. Can you tell me what is the best make of .22 repeater for snap shooting and crows?

There are a number of good .22 repeaters on the market. As to the best, you will have to use your own good judgment. Ask your friends who own repeaters what they think of them.

2. Would the .25 rim fire be enough better for crows or long distance target work to justify the added expense?

The .25 rim fire cartridge is more powerful than the .22 long rifle but so far as accuracy goes the latter will give just as good results. Personally I should prefer the .22 repeater.

3. What is the best sight combination for target and snap shooting? Would a duplex front sight with small gold and large white be better than one bead of either color?

This is a very good combination. You will be equipped to shoot under all light conditions.

4. Would the Maxim Silencer be of much use in shooting crows?

Some say it does not silence the report much. I assure you mean the .22 caliber rifle. When used with smokeless ammunition the Silencer gives excellent results and is valuable for crowd shooting.

5. Is there any law in Illinois against the use of rifles on crows and the like when there is no season for other birds?

Write to Mr. C. J. Dittmar, Freeport, Ill. J. C. S., Superior, Wis.

1. Would it be out of the ordinary to ask if you have ever noticed if there was any difference to the killing power of the Lender shotgun shell loaded with 28 grains of ballistics, 1 1/2 oz. shot No. 6 Chilled, Premier loaded with the same and also the black shell? I have had so many crows with two of the makes on grouse and chicken; what's the cause?

There is a difference in the shooting qualities of all shotgun barrels, and sometimes you will find a gun which will shoot one make of ammunition well and try out do so well with another. Make. Try out various makes by patterning until you locate one that gives the right kind of results in your gun.

2. What is the velocity of a .30 Rem. pump action rifle?

The muzzle velocity of the .30 Rem. cartridge is 2020 feet per second.

3. Is there a solid steel bullet made for any gun, or has there ever been any made? I have had many an argument regarding this question. So far as I know nobody makes or has made a solid steel bullet. Some foreign makes of ammunition have a soft nickel steel jacket but all ammunition made in this country of the high power type has either a copper or cupro-nickel jacket. Of course, I am not prepared to say that nobody has ever made solid steel bullets but they have never been actually on the market. The steel jacketed bullets above referred to are of course made of lead with simply the jacket of soft nickel steel.

Alfred P. Lane

EAGER TO FIGHT
Rome, May 21, 12:20 p. m., via Paris, 10 p. m.—Reports received from the Italian colonies in London, Barcelona, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Egypt, say that thousands of Italians there are ready to answer a call for mobilization and that thousands of others will volunteer their services for war.

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ITALY'S HESITATION

The resignation of the Italian Government brings to a climax the political dissensions in that country arising out of the war. Sentiment among the Italians is overwhelmingly in favor of throwing themselves into the fight with the Allies, but there is also a relatively small but at the same time, influential peace party, that hates Austria, and fears Germany. To the influence of this anti-war party is due the extraordinary amount of vacillation which has put Italy on the verge of war one day only to bring her back to safe ground the next. Still it is evident Italy is determined upon certain things, and will secure certain things if her arms are sufficiently powerful. She has, it appears, exhausted all the methods of diplomacy; she can only now realize her aspirations by the sword. And there is quite a strong probability that Italy has played the waiting game a trifle too long. She may eventually find that she has hopelessly and everlastingly offended Germany and Austria without drawing any compensating benefits from the triumphs of other countries arms. Italy cannot apparently make up her mind whether to go into the war or stay out; and this is as perilous a position for a nation as it is for an individual. She may attain her objects, but if so, it will be the first time a country unable to make up its mind on a great national question has ever done so.

Paris, May 13—The official eye witness with the French Army gives supplementary details of French successes at Carency and Neuville, north of Arras. More than 3,400 prisoners, including forty officers, have been taken in this region since Sunday. The village of Carency is a heap of ruins, but these have been strongly fortified, rendering the fighting extremely difficult. The heights above the town are commanded by the road leading from Givenchy to Bethune.



SEALED TENDERS

addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Supplying Coal for the Dominion Buildings," will be received at this office until 4:00 P. M., on Thursday, June 17, 1915, for the supply of coal for the Public Buildings, throughout the Dominion.

Combined specification and form of tender can be obtained on application at this office and from the caretakers of the different Dominion Buildings.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent. (10 p. c.) of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the person tendering declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so or fail to complete the contract. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

By order,
R. C. DESROCHERS,
Secretary,
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, May 20, 1915.

Newspapers will not be paid for this advertisement if they insert it without authority from the Department.—79876. 22-2

is not far to seek. In California extracted bitumen, at \$12.00 per ton, cannot compete with petroleum residual at \$5.50 to \$9.00 per ton. In Alberta, however, bitumen extracted at \$12.00 would compete with imported refined asphalt, costing \$27.00 to \$34.00 per ton, delivered.

Before such an industry, however is attempted, all available information of the results of many years' serious and often costly experimentation in the United States should be consulted.—Dr. Hazel at the Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation.