

WORLD'S OPINION OF HOLLANDERS

They Seem To Believe They Are "In Dutch"

A LENGTHY EXPLANATION

Official Document Tells Why They Were Neutral and Asks For Favorable Opinion of the Allied Peoples

(Toronto Mail.) It is somewhat late in the day, but Holland, through an unofficial source, has prepared and circulated a defence of her attitude of neutrality during the war, and has explained her reasons for receiving the Kaiser. That in Allied nations Holland incurred general contempt is not to be denied. This is perhaps due to the fact that Holland was once a powerful country, a gallant resister of the Spanish inquisition, mistress at one time of the seas, and that the Dutch have generally been thought among the most stubborn, independent

and hardy of European races. Without this reputation it is possible that there would have been less astonishment and contempt expressed when Holland remained a cowardly and proffering speculator of the agony of the world, when she had a chance by declaring for the Allies, of shortening the struggle. No matter how many statements and excuses may be issued and offered, in the mind of the average citizen of an Allied country, Dutch stock has sunk very low, and it will be long before it can make a recovery. Holland's Position.

"Is Your Opinion About Holland Reasonable?" is the title of the document under discussion and to help you arrive at a proper answer in the negative you are informed that Holland is a country extending over twelve and a half thousand square miles, with a population of slightly less than 6,000,000, her entire land boundaries touching either Germany or Belgium. On the sea she was shut off, or her citizens navigated at their peril, and thus remained a sort of isolated fortress of neutrality while the war raged. She maintained this position to the last, which was a feat worthy of remark, for many times she was tempted. That she in any degree departed from neutrality is vigorously denied by the pamphlet. It refutes the easy charge that Holland permitted Germany to march her soldiers through the Dutch territory of Limburg to shorten his march to the front. In this we can acquiesce. Had Holland taken this course there can be no doubt that the Allies would have declared war upon her. On this count she is not guilty.

Let Others Fight For Her. Holland explains her ability to remain neutral and defend her territory on the ground that she was armed. Her army was mobilized on August 1, 1914, and remained mobilized throughout the war. Germany, she believes, did not dare to attack her. There is something patently comical in this assertion. Can there be in Holland, outside of an insane asylum, any one who believes that if Germany had won this war she would not have swallowed Holland in one gulp? Does anyone suppose that she would need to have fired a gun to accomplish it? This, we believe, is at the basis of the unfavorable opinion of Holland that the allied peoples entertain. They know that if they had lost, Holland was lost, too. Holland must have known it. Yet Holland stood covering behind her fence and dared not strike a blow in her own behalf. The fact that her neighbor, Belgium, was invaded, and was treated as a conquered country by the Germans, must have opened any but pro-German eyes in Holland. The pamphlet says that Belgium fought, not for the abstract rights of small and neutral nations, but because she was invaded, and that given the same provocation, Holland would have fought.

Holland's Rights Ignored. But Holland's liberties were definitely abridged by Germany, and yet she made no protest. Her rights on the sea were trampled under foot as ruthlessly as were the rights of Belgium on land. Holland does not deny this, and the pamphlet, indeed, mentions the fact as though it were something to be proud of. The author does so in order to prove

that while Holland was neutral in the war she did not escape without suffering. She, too, paid a price, and, therefore, deserves sympathy. There were 2,102 incoming ships reaching Amsterdam in 1916, as compared with only 418 in 1917, while in 1918 there were practically no ships. How many Dutch ships, Dutch cargoes, Dutch seamen were destroyed by the U-boat pirates are not set forth, and as a result of this savage campaign many of her industries became stagnant. There was no work for

saloon or fishermen, the dock laborers were unemployed. Factories had to close down for lack of raw materials, and a great part of her live stock had to be slaughtered. Indeed, there were tough times in Holland while the war lasted. Harboring the Hohenzollerns. Yet here we find Holland receiving and even welcoming the prime cause of all her troubles, the ex-Kaiser of Germany, and we hear Dutch officials, and most of the Dutch newspapers, asserting that their guest at Amerongen shall not

be given up to the Allies. One would think that William Hohenzollern was their benefactor instead of their cruel enemy. One would suppose that Wilhelm would have been lynched, but on the contrary we find the Dutch inclined to bristle when it is suggested that this murderer or maniac be given up. The pamphlet defends the reception of the Kaiser on international grounds, and is able to quote any number of authorities to prove that a political refugee is entitled to sanctuary when he reaches a

foreign country. The writer of the Dutch defence believes that when passions cool the course of the Dutch government will be approved. In this case one might suggest that the pamphlet has appeared about a generation too soon. "How long have they been married?" "About five years." "Did she make him a good wife?" "No, but she made him an awfully good husband."—Stray Stories.

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Comic strip panels showing characters talking. Panel 1: "GOOD MORNING, MRS. MUTT, IS MR. MUTT AT HOME, MAY I ASK?" Panel 2: "NO, THANK GOODNESS, HE'S GOT A JOB AT LAST AND WENT TO WORK THIS MORNING!" Panel 3: "THAT'S GOOD NEWS! I'M GLAD TO SEE THE OLD DEAR GET ALONG!" Panel 4: "HELLO MUTT, YOUR WIFE TELLS ME YOU'VE LANDED A JOB!" Panel 5: "YEAH! AND IT'S LUCKY I MET YOU. HERE'S A LITTLE BILL YOU OWE SPEEVEM, THE TAILOR. HE'S COMMISSIONED ME TO COLLECT IT!" Panel 6: "HAS HE, MUTT? WELL, WELL! I CONGRATULATE YOU ON HAVING A PERMANENT JOB AT LAST!" Panel 7: "THE BILL! TEAR HIS! TEAR!"