

Twenty Thousand Freemen Take Up Challenge

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE, ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, MARCH 19, 1915-4.

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The Mail and Advocate

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ST. JOHN'S, N.F.L.D., MARCH 19, 1915

OUR POINT OF VIEW

A Talk of Peace

DIPLOMACY, like the smaller brand of politics makes strange bed fellows. In the Dardanelles to-day we witness the sight of England and France fighting to give Russia an outlet to the sea, and to destroy Turkey the keeper of the gate.

Only a few years ago, the world beheld England, France and Turkey fighting in the same Dardanelles to keep Russia shut up in the heart of Europe, without a southern water way for her commerce.

The hoodoo of Europe—"balance of power" receives a peculiar twist, by this latest thing in diplomacy's troublesome and unholy plan, and one likely to so upset the whole rotten edifice as to hurl it into utter chaos. And this plan, suggested by the expediency of the hour, may be a casus belli for many long centuries to come.

Such plans as England and her Allies are carrying out, may be the means of forcing Germany to side for peace, and they may bring a temporary quietude to Europe, but they are at the best the plans of desperation, and the best minds of the nation must regret them whilst they are forced to adopt them.

But there is every ground for fear that the plans suggested by this pressing necessity, will entail a terrible aftermath.

Already we behold the yellow devil of the Orient, his blood up and thirsting for conquest, menacing China.

The untrustworthy and slick Japanese had better had been left to himself.

He should have been told to keep out of this quarrel, and then he would have no pretext for a raid on China.

Both England and Japan invaded neutral territory when they marched troops to the invasion of the German station of Kiao-Chow. The Japanese were shown an example in that, disregard of a neutral territory, that to his yellow, oriental mind must have been a suggestion that China is but a country to be used by Japanese and other civilized (?) people to their own advantage.

He was going to hand over the territory to China, that he had succeeded in driving Germany from, but we do not see him doing it.

He has no intention of doing it, unless compelled to.

What is good for Germany is good for Japan, so reasons the denizen of Nipon. And he is like

ly to cause England lots of trouble in the East yet. Already he is giving the United States some grave concern, and England too.

What will happen in Europe is very hard to forecast.

Whatever does happen in the way of partition and division, those who dream of a lasting peace are bound to have their dreams shattered, and those who talk of this being the last war of the nations, we are inclined to think, are speaking from the heart rather than from the brain. They have not taken into account all the factors which go to make war possible.

It is not in the crushing of one nation by another, it is not by partition, diplomacy, and treaties that peace is going to be maintained.

It is not above all by enforcing the principal that might is right that you are going to make permanent peace, and it is not by the domination of one, two or three powerful nations that amity is to be maintained. The trend of time, the march of industrial progress, is bound to cause national interests to overlap, where a nation's trade relations are as wide as the world, and where this happens there is always danger.

And until such time as men admit God and the voice of a Christian conscience to be heard in the world of trade, there will be wars. A powerful nation may succeed for a time, even when God is not permitted to sit at its councils, in forcing other nations or even the world into keeping the peace, but she cannot succeed for always.

The nation that is most powerful, has the most patronage to give out, and small nations will come hat in hand asking favors. For these like fawning men, they will sacrifice every principal, and live by licking the feet of the powerful. This is a factor too in keeping the peace—the degradation of nations. But then there are nations growing, and having a wish to expand, and there lies the menace to the peace of the world. That nation must be kept small, but she is not going to be kept small. The day comes when she feels vigorous and sturdy enough to demand her place in the sun, and is ready to back her demands by force of arms.

We have not advanced far enough in our civilization to adequately grasp the full realization of the fact that we are like a lot of savage dogs grabbing and pulling from one another, whilst peace and plenty lie unnoticed under foot.

The world is able to produce more than enough to make every man, woman and child the possessor of every comfort, and of this fact we have evidence everywhere.

Look at the display of almost boundless magnificence which the great cities of the world present to our gaze. Behold the product of men's labor in the gigantic armaments of the warring nations, whose value goes up into the thousands of millions, all the product of men's labor.

This is no real good, it is being wasted to-day on the bloody fields of Europe and on the broad waters of every ocean. Vast acreage of fine land is being held in a non-productive state by wealthy individuals in lands where poverty abounds, and where men are asking for employment and cannot get it.

It is not reasonable to expect permanent peace in the world where men can view with indifference the deprivation which the many are called upon to suffer. You cannot expect lasting peace, till men will have recognized the teachings of Christianity and live up to its tenets.

When we hear ungodly men rant of peace we are turned to loathing the very sound of so blessed a word.

What is peace! Ask this of some and they can only answer by telling you, it is that tranquility

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we enjoy when the slaves are cowed and forget to rebel.

It is that security we feel when bristling bayonets and frowning guns deter the wronged and oppressed from springing at our throats.

That is not peace, that is not the blessed peace which the lowly Nazarene taught us to seek. It is but a mockery more cruel than warfare, for it kills the soul and dwarfs the mind, and prevents that higher development towards

God, which is our true destiny and should be our supreme aim.

How many are there among those who preach of peace, who reckon God as their King, and His teachings as their highest aim.

There can be no peace till men turn towards God, and take Him into their councils. He is the Prince of Peace, and while nations march in terror and death, He leads His hosts by bonds which unite the souls of men to Him in love.

Russians Steadily Harass German Rear

Will Not Permit Them to Halt—Pitiable State of Captured Soldiers

London, March 9.—Obstinate fighting marks the battles along the eastern front on the continent, with the Germans slowly withdrawing from the River Niemen in the direction of their own East Prussian frontier. At the same time the new offensive movement against Warsaw and on the Pilzta evidently has not as yet developed into the great engagement which has been expected in this locality.

In the north and in the south the Russians are now virtually establishing an ascendancy. They have driven the right wing of Kochor's army, which recently attempted to cross the Niemen above Grodno, back towards the wide, marshy clearing outside Augustow forest, never permitting the German reinforcements to halt. The Russian advance here reaches a remarkable pace, considering the miserable condition of the ground. At Ossowetz fortress Russian artillery silenced two German heavy batteries Saturday, and they continued shelling the Lyck road to keep back German reinforcements.

The number of Germans who have surrendered, especially among the fresh conscripts, far exceed anything experienced in the earlier stages of the war. Of the first consignment numbering 700 out of a total of 10,000 prisoners taken during the Przrasnysz battles and recently brought from the first field base to the railroad, scarcely fifty could walk steadily; others were crippled in both feet, and complained that their boots were bad and too heavy. They attempted to climb into carts which were only for the wounded, and when prevented complained they were unaccustomed to such marches. They already had done ten miles and could not manage the remaining six. They had been two days advancing and two days retreating without food, and were absolutely used up.

Fighting On Pilzta.

Russians soldiers said to them: "But you come to make war, not to promenade." "Oh, we," groaned the Germans with gestures of weary despair. "From them it has been learned that four corps were involved in the defeat at Przrasnysz. Two were newly formed, one from the Guards Reserve Corps, and one from the Silesian Landwehr Corps. When the prisoners reached the railway they collapsed and slept in heaps on the wet platform. Hindenburg is again striving to distract attention from this tragic end of his north-eastern campaign by directing a sharp infantry attack on a six-mile front above the left bank of the Pilzta, in the direction of the Asawa road. The sharp battle in this district of central Poland has now lasted three days. It evidently aims to prevent the Russian outer lines from the region south and west of Warsaw from sparing forces to go elsewhere, as there are indications the Germans fear a new strong offensive on the Nida and Dunajec against the armies protecting Cracow.

A continuous procession of prisoners is pouring into Kiev from eastern Galicia. One consignment of 4,000 men was taken without a shot being fired. They belonged to an infantry division and were sent on the road for Hungary. They had been three days without food when they encountered the commissariat transport. This they detained and had just distributed the food when the Russians appeared. The Austrians immediately sent a white flag with delegates and asked to be permitted to take their meal; then they would go quietly. The Russians agreed. Some avarian soldiers are among the Austrian prisoners brought to Kiev from Czernowitz. Twelve thousand prisoners from East Galicia have already started for Siberia.

Holland Remains Strictly Neutral

Attitude Toward the War is Declared Not to Have Altered—Germans Flocking in

The Hague—Reports reaching Holland from the United States and other countries indicate that the belief has been spread recently that the Netherlands is about to enter into the hostilities. Semi-official circles here declare that such reports are without foundations. It is asserted that Holland's attitude of complete neutrality has not changed, but that she continues determined to protect her national rights.

Henry Vandike, the American Minister, referring to the reports, said: "Naturally, the various naval declarations have caused considerable anxiety among the neutral nations, which, like Holland and the United States, have large commercial interests. But I see no signs whatever of any change in the attitude of Holland. She is both peaceful and calm, and as strongly resolved as ever to do all in her power to preserve her neutrality and maintain her rights."

There has been a considerable influx of Germans into Holland recently. Two hotels in The Hague and in other cities are crowded. It is understood that many Germans are leaving their country owing to the effects of the food restrictions.

Numerous Hangings In Czernowitz

London, March 3.—"The Russian artillery has bombarded Czernowitz, Capital of the Austrian crown land of Bukovina," says The Daily Mail's Bucharest correspondent. "The Austrians," the correspondent continues, "have placed a rigid cordon of military and police around Czernowitz and nobody is allowed to depart toward the Rumanian frontier. Reports received here say that the Austrians are dealing severely with certain elements in the population. It is reported that numerous secret hangings have occurred and that hundreds of arrests have been made."

Germany Stirred By Britain's Threat

Berlin, (via London.) March 11.—In naval circles it is asserted that a searching investigation will be made concerning the report that the British Admiralty intends to withhold the customary honorable imprisonment conditions from German submarine crews made captive, and that if Great Britain places such German submarines under special restrictions retaliatory measures may be adopted. The naval officials say the investigation will not be made through diplomatic channels, but they decline to specify how their information will be gleaned. They assert that should Great Britain take the action she contemplates this will not affect the submarine war plans in the slightest particular, nor have any influence on the spirit of the crews.

London, March 11.—The decision of the British Government to segregate the captured crews of German submarines and perhaps order criminal proceedings against them for attacks on unarmed merchantmen has evoked fiery comment from Berlin newspapers.

Renter's Amsterdam correspondent quotes the Vossische Zeitung as saying that the British are acting in blind rage. It asserts that if the British Admiralty carries its plans

Russian Aircraft Helped in Retreat

Guided Men Through Enemy's Lines—Brought Ammunition

London, March 8.—A brief description of the very efficient work of two Russian aeroplanes is transmitted in a despatch received here to-day from Warsaw, Russian Poland. These aeroplanes it is related, saved two Russian regiments of the 29th division during the recent Russian retreat in East Prussia. Hover over the heads of the soldiers, the air-men guided them in their retreat through the enemy's lines in safety, and by frequent trips to and from the Russian base kept the column supplied with ammunition.

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Into effect it cannot fail to result in reprisals. The Lokal Anzeiger also says that corresponding counter-measure will be taken by Germany.

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