

Germany's shining armour, and when the goodwill of nations is more desirable than a place in the sun. Civilization, after battling for a thousand years to place humanity on a higher plane than the Huns of Attila, is not prepared to turn back the hands of the clock ten centuries and accept a modern Attila as the guardian of its freedom and liberties.

Of all the indefensible and destructive wars that have been waged in the history of time, this is the greatest. There is not in it a semblance of justification, it has been conceived and carried out in all its devastation to gratify the vanity, the pride and the ostentation of a military autocracy. When the Napoleonic wars overran Europe, there was about them a semblance of cause and effect. Absolute monarchy in central Europe had been trampling upon the liberties of the masses. The French Revolution set free and unrestrained the passions of democracy, a wave of license and personal ambition swept over Europe, the national institutions of despotism began to crumble and to make way for broader institutions of government. The time suited the quenchless ambition and incomparable genius of Bonaparte, and what was then the greatest war of modern days swept the monarchical institutions of Europe from their moorings and a new order of things was established. But this war is indefensible; it is without just cause and without reason. Its responsibility is upon the shoulders of the German Emperor, and he will go down to history, yea, and to eternity, his soul weighted by the awful responsibility of the most appalling destruction of life, of the most wilful atrocities and the most overwhelming devastation of property ever recorded in the history of nations.

Owing to our close neighbourliness to the nation to the south of us, I cannot refrain from making reference to the relations between the United States and Great Britain arising out of the many international questions which are naturally expected to arise between that nation and ourselves in the observance by that country of its neutral relations with the belligerent powers. While no official expression of sympathy with the allies has been made by the Government of the republic, yet it is a matter of profound satisfaction not only to the people of Canada but to the people of Great Britain that the Anglo-Saxon press of that country almost as a whole is in deep sympathy with the struggle which is being so successfully carried on by Great Britain and her allies. With a German population of

from eight to ten million people, we can very well understand and appreciate the difficulties which naturally confront the Government of the United States. We are, however, sufficiently in touch with their institutions of government and with their ideals of civilization to know that the ideals for which the allies stand are the ideals which pre-eminently distinguish the people of the United States. It should not be overlooked that the government of that country, while holding the scales of neutrality between the allies and the enemy cannot be expected to meet the expectations in all cases of our own people. Questions have arisen between the United States and Great Britain as to the difficulties arising in exercising the right of search at sea of neutral vessels carrying American exports to neutral ports and which apparently up to the present have received the most careful attention and consideration of the British Government, and which promise to be adjusted to the satisfaction of both nations.

No little feeling has been created in the United States over the introduction in Congress of the Ship Purchase Bill. While a very animated discussion has taken place both in the press and in Congress on the effect of the Bill should it become law, and the results which would flow from its operation, it may be safe to say that the present indications are that even, if passed, which is doubtful, in its present form, the Government of the United States will not seek to violate in any sense the conventions affecting the purchase of interned shipping. It is, therefore, most desirable on the part of public sentiment in Canada that due appreciation should be shown for the friendly attitude of the people of the United States towards the great struggle in which the allies are engaged and that the good sense of the Canadian public should be shown in the exercise of cool, calm and deliberate judgment in considering the difficult position which that Government has been called upon to maintain in its neutral relations between the allies and their belligerents.

The principal feature of the legislation of the present session will be that of supply for the assistance we are rendering to the Empire. At the August session of Parliament we entered upon the mobilization of the First Contingent. As the months have gone by the developments which have taken place in the theatre of war have grown so enormously as to throw upon Canada the responsibility of entering more largely into