

GERMANY'S COMMENT UPON POPE'S PEACE NOTE MERELY OFFICIAL WINDOW DRESSING

Offers Insult to Author, and Endeavors to Make It Appear
That Only Germany's Future Must Be Considered
In Making Peace.

By A. J. Dawson.

It is probably safe to say that the bulk of the German press, commentary upon the pope's peace proposals, as published so far, will be regarded in non-German countries as mere official window-dressing. But it is rather a mistake to dismiss all such shop-window writing as matter devoid of interest or importance, simply because it lacks that particular form of interest and importance which belongs to veritable human documents of the frank and sincere order. It is by no means without other kinds of interest, inasmuch as, for example, there is often much to be read between its lines, and in the old sentences of inadvertent candor which it sometimes contains apart from which it possesses the interest attaching to indications as to

what those responsible for it want to be believed.

In all countries, including Germany itself, members of the Catholic Church will necessarily be offended by the tone of very much of Germany's window-dressing on this subject, since, by implication, and here and there by direct assertion, it attributes to his holiness methods and motives which are not only without offence but are in fact the reverse of it. This was, perhaps, inevitable, and something for which it would be futile to blame German officialdom, in view of the processes that have been at work in the fatherland during the past three years.

A German's Confession.

As a German professor recently admitted in Sweden, the people of Germany no longer pretend to any great interest in principles, ideals, ethics, or the right and the wrong of any given course, but are concerned only with the material prospect of success or failure, gain or loss, relief or further suffering, which any act or policy may contain. And it has always been characteristic of German speakers and writers and thinkers, of the German nation as a whole, to judge of other individuals and peoples entirely by themselves. That single characteristic is more than any other responsible for the various tragicomic collapses of German diplomacy, and for her wholly tragic blunders regarding the capabilities and conduct of other nations, which during the past three years have ranged against her so many new enemies, both of the openly avowed kind and of the class which is unable to declare its repudiation.

The Kölnische Zeitung (August 15) takes the line that the pope's proposals would involve Germany's evacuation of Belgium and France, and that her colonies would be returned to her. Blandly ignoring the Reichstag's recent peace resolution, this journal declares that this makes the proposals unacceptable to Germany.

Moreover, the status quo ante would not be re-established if we agreed to the exchange proposed by the pope. It is our duty, of course, to judge of the property of German merchants in all parts of the globe. It would not be the give-and-take settlement which the pope has in view if out of all our overseas possessions, war-devastated territories, and restored to our enemies the most important of our captured islands.

The Old Story.

The capitalizing of the last five words is not of course, as attributed to the Kölnische Zeitung, but to the present writer. The words are worthy of note as illustrating the point of view and attitude of mind which the German authorities have decreed should be enforced upon the German people during the later stages of the war; ever since, in short, the Allies began to draw level with Germany in a military sense, and

to wipe out her first overwhelming superiority in military resources. From that point on, all the earlier talk of conquest, of rich booty, of the dazzling rewards of victory, was resolutely tabooed, even by the Kaiser himself, and German window-dressing has been consistent in its reference to its purely defensive aims, its heroic sacrifices in the protection of the sacred soil of the fatherland, and its injured innocence generally. Thus, in the capitulated passage, Germany's savage and utterly ruthless invasion of the almost defenceless Belgium she was pledged to protect from invasion. It is actually described as a defensive operation undertaken in the course of "warding off their attack." And, even if the majority of the German people themselves can no longer direct such shameless mendacity, they are content with it as national window-dressing. And continue to think so meanly of the intelligence of other peoples as to believe that these shamelessly will assertions will deceive the rest of the world.

More Dressing.

The comment on the note of the Deutsche Tages Zeitung, the Kreuz Zeitung, the Tagliche Rundschau, the Vossische Zeitung is all worth consideration as official German window-dressing and internal German propaganda. The first-named journal includes in its remarks the following particularly interesting passages:

"The real freedom of the seas can only be secured for the German Empire when it has secured the freedom of the seas. The reduction of armaments is just as inconceivable for the German Empire as the security and independence of the German Empire and its frontiers on land. The complete evacuation of Belgium would mean having on the empire's frontiers an irreconcilable Belgium dependent on the German Empire. A fact which alone would make any likelihood of the freedom of the seas impossible."

Again, the words emphasized are not by the journal quoted, but by the present writer. There can be no good thing without force, says the official German mind, in effect, and all the world real- izes, of course, that "without" is the most important word in the German language. Germany is richer in pure Germanism than that, that the Wilhelmstrasse calls "the freedom of the seas," which means in effect that if Germany chooses to enter upon war with a power possessed of a navy equal or superior to her own, then it is unjust and unfair for that power to use its navy against Germany. In the same way, whatever might be said of reduction of armaments, but none of them think it conceivable that Great Britain would accept a German peace.

BECOMES LEGAL ADVISER TO CONTROLLER HANNA

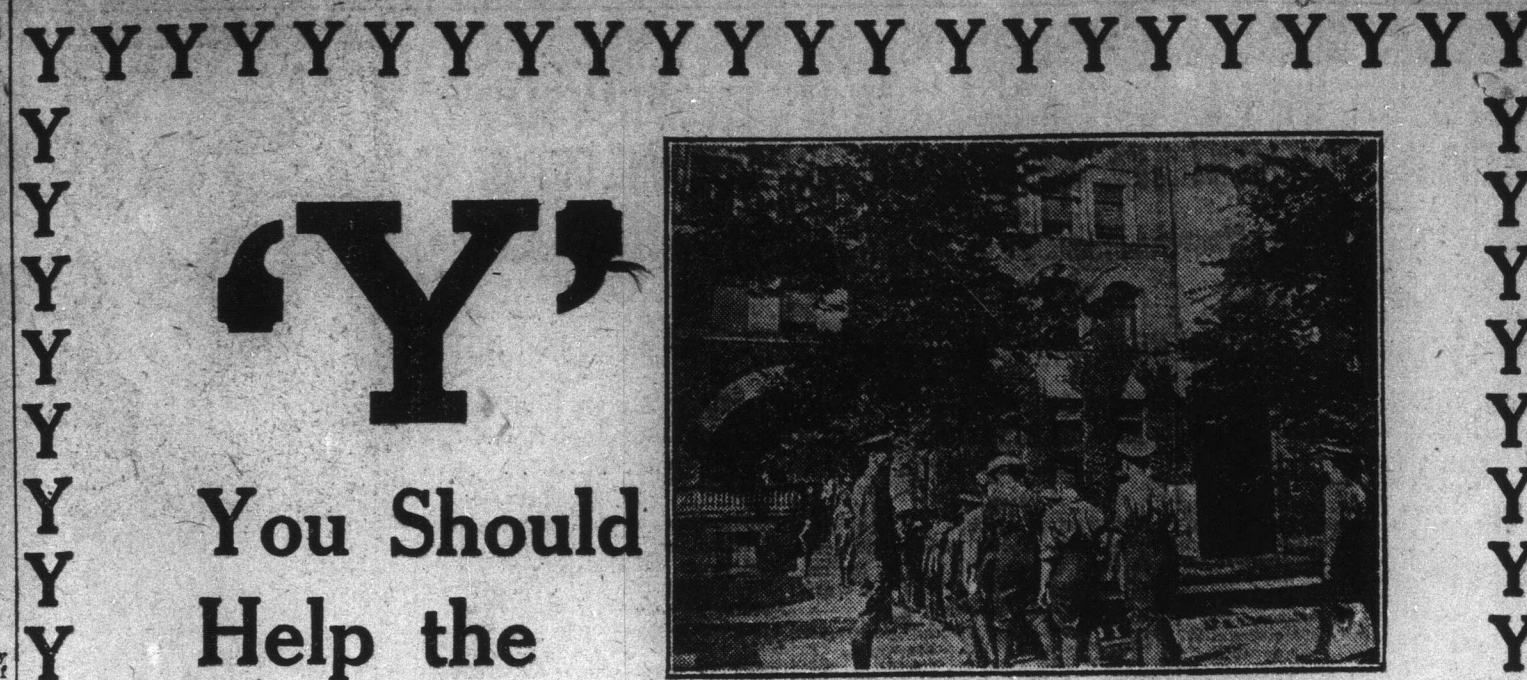
FRANK H. KEEFER, K. C., formerly of Port Arthur, and more recently of Toronto, Ont., has accepted Hon. Mr. Hanna's invitation to become legal adviser to the food controller. Mr. Keefer is giving his services without salary.

never do, because it would mean an "irreconcilable" Belgium; whereas, a Belgium permanently dominated by the good German sword by forced labor service, and by the machine-like operation of good German plans for the deportation of the able-bodied from one locality to another as required, would naturally be reconciled, safe and happy Belgium. As an argument against the policy of the restitution of stolen goods by a burglar who has secured the household to his own bed, and has every desire both to secure his plunder and evade any uncomfortable legal consequences, the Deutsche Tages Zeitung's contention is unanswerably clear and logical.

A Curious Outlook.

A similar lucidity, the same curious blend of the outlook of the child and the criminal, characterizes the comment of the Kölnische Volks Zeitung, August 15: "At the very moment when the pope directs to princes and peoples his urgent call to peace, there blazes up in Belgium and Northern France a battle let loose by that wildest dream of peace—Belgium. Is it contradictory when the pope at the conclusion of peace right and not might should rule, while on the other hand it stirs up the desire for a war which rests on pure brutal physical might? Peace could not be more greatly endangered than by a successful break through on the part of the German troops. The war is not a thing more for peace than ever before."

Regarding the temptation to capitulate to the last ten words quoted, one readily enough indorses them. Their truth is particularly obvious to the surviving British soldiers who took part three years ago in stemming the German tide of invasion, with all its attendant horrors and brutality. Undoubtedly the Kaiser's legions are today fighting for peace a good deal more than they were three years ago. But the German mind, again, in this passage of Germany's window-dressing on the subject of the paper note, one is forcibly reminded of the burglar or garrotter who anxiously "wondered" what the



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STUDENTS "STRIKE"; GAME IS CANCELLED

WOODSTOCK, Nov. 1.—Because of a strike by six members of the fifth year at Woodstock College, five of whom were players in the junior O. C. F. U. team of the college, a game which was next Saturday to decide the championship, has been cancelled, and although by this evening all but one of the students had returned to the college, it is not expected that the game will be played.

"Can't you set the day within a couple of months, Dorothy dear?"

"I think so, Clarence, but I will ask mamma and tell you the next time you come."

"You love me, don't you, Dorothy?" replied the young man.

"Oh, yes," was the calm reply. "Mamma says I am old enough to be in love."

That was all, except that Clarence went out and sent four American Beauty rose bouquets to the theatre. They were meant as fond adieux to four different "Sadies," and as a gentle hint that he would not be seen in the green room again.

It was one evening when Clarence and Dorothy were left alone in the parlor together. There was no clearing of the throat to set his voice in strain; there was no attempt at pathos or tenderness. Just as casually as if he were making a bet that he could speed his car to 70 miles per hour, the young man said:

"Dorothy, I love you."

"Yes," she replied, as if she had been expecting the declaration at any time for the past year.

"I will love, cherish and protect you," continued Clarence.

"And that will be so nice of you!"

Paris, and all the famous cities, but she hadn't a sparkle in her eyes. If any body had asked her if she loved, she would have answered:

"I don't know whether I do or not, but I will ask mamma, and then tell you."

Clarence mended his ways somewhat. He smothered just as many roses, and he spent just as much of his father's money, but he didn't go to the theatre quite so much, and when he did go, it was to escort Dorothy and her mother. And sometimes two or three other ladies besides. Yes; Clarence was becoming almost too good, and his father had some faint hope that he would yet become a Sunday school teacher.

He could boast to her, and she never replied with a word of doubt or censure. Other girls had boldly told him to "cut that out," but such aggressive expressions never passed Dorothy's lips. After several months she got as far as to say "I love you" to him, and then she would look out in the country in summer, and one in town in the winter, but she never spoke of them for some time. Clarence said that he had a friend who got married, and went on his bridal trip to Europe, and Dorothy replied that it must be very nice to see London and

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