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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

Still Fierce For War

ON the surface there appears to be no disposition on the part of the great powers to consider any terms of peace, that does not include the practical extinguishing of the enemy.

On the part of Germany the determination seems to be to continue the fighting outside her own territory, but if at any point her lines are broken through and the allies obtain a position on her soil, she is confident that it will bring annihilation to the invader, for her frontier is bulkheaded by fortresses loaded with death and lined by unknown numbers of trained soldiers. Her original plan was frustrated by the unexpected and heroic opposition of Belgium, but her original purpose has not changed. Austria-Hungary has suffered fearfully and we suspect she would listen to peace proposals, but she is alone in that.

France is as belligerent as ever and her confidence seems to strengthen daily. It is the same way with Russia and the winter blasts have no terror for her soldiers.

We think that the significance of the letter wired ten days ago, and signed by Asquith, Roseberry and Balfour calling on the National Patriotic association to increase its efforts, has not been fully considered on this side. One paragraph read: "There must be no weakening; no patched up truce that would expose our children to a revival of the German menace." That means that Great Britain is determined to crush Germany on land and to capture or destroy her fleet, and dictate the terms of peace which would include the forbidding of the creation of another such army or the building of another navy. That is the elimination of Germany as a military menace or a commercial rival.

All of which means a war to the death.

Surely not a very encouraging outlook for peace.

In the meantime both Great Britain and Germany are increasing their demands as to what constitutes neutrality and it begins to look as though both would be glad to see our country involved, not perhaps so much as a factor in the war, as to prevent our country from taking the steps which, when the war finally exhausts itself would make ours the foremost of commercial nations.

This is very different from what the premier, the prime minister, the lords and rich manufacturers and merchants of England did in our great Civil war.

They built, armed and manned ships to pre-empt upon our commerce. The compound marine engine had just been invented; they fitted out blockade runners to run the gauntlet of our blockade and supplied the material to the South which it has been estimated prolonged our war a year and

a half. Except for Queen Victoria they would have given the South their armed intervention. As it is, it will require all the genius of our government officials to keep our country from being involved.

Congress

CONGRESS will meet on Monday next. It should be a most important session. The war across the sea will be in the thoughts of every member; how it is affecting our country; what should be the management of our own affairs in order to seize the great opportunity presented; how to handle our own affairs in a way to secure safety from embroilment with any of the contending nations.

Next will come consideration of our own national affairs and whether any new legislation will be required to cure some of the evils under which the whole nation is suffering, as, for instance, the vast army of enforced idlers who want work.

We suspect, too, that it will be pointed out how ill we would be prepared in case an unexpected great war were to burst upon our country. Of course we shall know the president's views so soon as congress is organized and, judging by the past, we may expect, that if the president has any pet ideas, they will be crystallized into laws before the fourth of March.

We do not expect that he will have any new ideas on the currency question, nor that he will care to have any changes made in the tariff schedules. How he will deal with the matter of our merchant marine is being anticipated with a great deal of interest, especially in view of the present opportunity and in consideration of the fact that, up to date, all that he has ever advanced on that question, has so far proved to be nothing but glittering generalities.

All the people hope that at least regular and enduring communications between our country and South American ports may be inaugurated.

There cannot be much enlightenment on Mexican affairs expected. At least the past policy of the President does not warrant any anticipation of any change in the future.

The sending of our fleet to Vera Cruz was but a spectacular affair, its withdrawal lacks even that distinction.

The people will expect the president to discuss neutrality and its limitations in the forthcoming message, for just at this time that is a most important question, inasmuch as most serious consequences might follow a wrong understanding of it, or a conflict as to what would constitute a wrong under it. Great Britain, France and Germany are, as the stress of the war is felt, becoming very sensitive on the subject and all the record is being kept by Japan, for, possibly, future use. The war is widening in its scope daily, as the joining of Turkey with Germany with consequences which no mortal can anticipate, and conditions that no power can provide against.

We hope that the present congress will bestow appropriate honors upon Colonel Goethals,

both honors and a pecuniary grant corresponding with the work he has done. If "peace hath her victories no less renowned than those of war," Colonel Goethals is entitled to the reward due his magnificent work.

The forthcoming message of the chief magistrate is being looked forward to with exceeding interest this year.

Some Plain National Duties

THE war has already emphasized our need of closer relations with at least two of the great South American states—Brazil and Argentina.

When the present war closes the victors will come forth flushed with victory, perfectly prepared for war and eager to dominate the world's trade to make up for the tremendous losses they will have suffered. Those two South American states offer the best field that will be left except our own country.

If the tariff law remains as Mr. Wilson and his congress have written it foreigners will know that it means the transfer of quite \$400,000,000 per annum from our country to theirs, and their exclamation will not be unlike what it was when the Wilson tariff was pending twenty years ago: "If we can have five years of good picking of the United States it will place us where we want to be." Since then our people have increased thirty per cent, our commerce has doubled under the late tariffs. But the vacant land in Brazil and Argentina will be a mighty temptation to them. They will have hosts of desperately poor people and not much for them to do in their own country, and they will be in perfect position to attack the Monroe doctrine.

Hence while we are at peace it would be folly not to keep these possibilities in mind and put our own house in order. Our South American trade should be quadrupled and with it a closer walk with those people should be an object steadily pursued. The temptation of the victor in the European war to search for new fields will be just in accordance with the want of preparation of the nations it would like to attack.

It is a clear case that our country is not at all prepared for a great war. Of course we should eventually beat back as many invaders as might come, but the cost would be fearfully augmented in money and quite 1,000,000 of our best and bravest people would be uselessly sacrificed by not being ready for the onset. It is full time to have one year of every boy's education in a military camp.

Our army and navy officers should be on the alert as never before.

Can any more destructive instruments of war than those now in use be invented, and what are our present facilities for supplying a vast army with arms?

The present European war is more an artillery war than was ever dreamed of before. How are our coast defenses caparisoned in armor and guns? Have we any supplies inland to draw upon in an emergency?

For years we had been expecting a war with