

RETURNING AMBASSADOR AT CITY HALL



James W. Gerard

Gerard's Frankness Astonishes Highest Officials of Germany

By CARL W. ACKERMAN

James W. Gerard's diplomatic career in Germany was built upon business, frankness and a kind of "news instinct" which caused him to regard his position as that of a reporter for the United States government.

Berlin thought him the most unusual ambassador it had ever known. It never knew how to take him. He didn't behave as other diplomats did. When he went to the Foreign Office it was always on business. He didn't flatter and praise and bow and chat as other European representatives usually do.

One of the Ambassador's first victories in Germany was against a bill that had been introduced in the Reichstag providing for the purchase of American oil interests in Germany. Gerard discovered a joker and defeated the bill.

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British Capture More Trenches Near Peronne

Occupied St. Pierre-Vaast Wood After Nearly a Year's Struggle

7 German 'Planes Fall

French Occupy Outposts—Break Foe's Lines West of Monastir

London, March 16.—The British continued their advance to-day north of Peronne, in the Somme region. Following the victory of yesterday, Haig's troops occupied virtually the whole of the St. Pierre-Vaast wood, for which they have been struggling for nearly a year, and German trenches for two and a third miles on both sides of the wood.

The new British success increases the menace to the stronghold of Peronne on the north and to Transloy on the south. Both important places are rapidly being pocketed, and their fall is only a matter of hours.

The French forces in Macedonia continued their aggressive operations against the Germano-Bulgarian positions, and succeeded in breaking through the enemy's lines near Nijopole, west of Monastir.

British and Russians Encircling Turk Army

London, March 16.—The Turkish forces in Mesopotamia and Western Persia are rapidly being encircled by the advancing British and Russian armies.

General Maude reports that the British troops are moving steadily up the Tigris. On the left bank they have driven thirty miles north of Baghdad, and the Ottoman forces are still retreating.

The Russians in Persia also have pressed ahead, dislodging the enemy from fortified positions to the west of Kermanshah, and pushing forward at other points along the wide front.

New U. S.-Russian Treaty Now Possible

Washington Is Hopeful—Chance for Jews Seen

Washington, March 16.—The advent of liberal government in Russia makes an excellent opportunity for the negotiation of a new commercial treaty with the United States.

The State Department has been anxious to negotiate a new treaty, but the Russian government never could be brought to the point of relinquishing the right to exclude Jews.

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Belgian Relief Ships Safe from U-Boats

Germany Issues Order Exempting Them from Attack

The Belgian Relief Commission in New York City received a cablegram yesterday from London stating that the German government had instructed all U-boat commanders not to molest ships carrying food supplies of the commission, consigned to Belgium via Rotterdam.

At the headquarters of the commission it was stated that eighteen ships were now on the high seas bearing food and clothing from the United States to Belgium. The first are due to arrive in Rotterdam in a day or two.

British Destroyer and 3 Steamers Sunk

Twenty-nine Lost as Warship Hits Mine—Others U-Boat Victims

London, March 16.—Three steamships and a British torpedo boat destroyer of an old type were reported sunk to-day. The destroyer struck a mine in the English Channel yesterday, according to an official announcement to-night, and sunk with the loss of twenty-nine men.

The merchant ships destroyed were the French steamer Eugenie Perogalra, sunk by shell fire; the British steamer Lucy Anderson, 1,000 tons, sunk by fire from two submarines; and the Norwegian steamer Duvanger, 8,876 tons, which left New York for Rotterdam on January 22.

American Consul Hathaway at Hull sent the following dispatch to the embassy here concerning the sinking of the Lucy Anderson:

"British steamer Lucy Anderson, Hartlepool to Gothenburg, with coal, sunk sixty miles north of Rattray Head, March 12. Gunfire from two submarines; no evidence of nationality; no warning. Ship did not resist or attempt escape, but was shelled continuously while crew took to boats and rowed away. No measures saved crew. No passengers. Crew of eighteen, including two officers, were picked up and landed Aberdeen next day. Porto Rican, Placido Deace, aboard as cook."

Americans Go to the Front

Paris, March 16.—Section 14 of the American Field Ambulance, composed of students of Leland Stanford University, left to-day for the French fighting front. The section is in command of A. H. Muhr, of Philadelphia.

Drift of Shipping Away from U. S., Redfield Shows

Stone Inquiry Fails to Disclose Large Transfers from British Flag

Seamen's Act Blamed

Government's Entry Into Ship Business Also Reason for Sales Abroad

Washington, March 16.—Senator Stone's resolution calling for information regarding transfer of foreign built vessels to American registry failed to disclose any wholesale transfer of British or other Allied vessels to American registry. It did reveal the reason why President Wilson issued his proclamation of February 5 prohibiting the sale of American ships to foreigners without the approval of the Shipping Board.

Secretary Redfield's reply shows that whereas the drift was from foreign to American registry during the ten months immediately following the passage of the act of August 15, 1914, the drift from that time up to the present has been just the reverse. The Secretary accounts for this decrease by "the fact that during 1915 and 1916 practically all maritime nations enacted laws or issued decrees prohibiting the sale of merchant vessels under their respective flags to the citizens or subjects of other nations except by special privilege of the government concerned."

Loss of Algonquin Laid to Lack of Gun

Had Two Chances to Sink U-Boat, Captain Nordberg Declares

London, March 16.—"If I had been armed I do not believe the submarine would have got us," said Captain Nordberg of the American steamship Algonquin, sunk by a German submarine on March 12, in an interview to-day. He continued:

"We sighted the submarine when she was three miles away, before she opened fire. She was not submerged, and made a good target. If we had carried but one gun at the stern of the Algonquin I firmly believe we would have been able to give a good account of ourselves. If we had not been successful in sinking the submarine we at least would have been able to frighten her off. As it was, we were easy prey."

"I am convinced from the cautiousness displayed in our case that submarine commanders are taking no chances. The fact that when the U-boat came near the Algonquin it showed only the periscope until it was absolutely satisfied that we had no guns concealed is an additional reason for my belief that they do not attack armed vessels with the same freedom as unarmed ships."

"I am certain that if we had been armed and able to hold our fire until the periscope appeared alongside the Algonquin we could have sent the submarine to the bottom as sure as taxes."

Bomb Explosion in Boston Court

House Kills Two Janitor and Unidentified Man, Thought To Be Plotter, Are Dead

Building in a Panic

Blast Occurs in Anteroom 25 Feet from Where Judge Is Sitting

Boston, March 16.—A bomb exploded in the Suffolk County Court House late to-day, killing two men and injuring another. One of the dead was Louis A. Zelinger, a janitor employed in the building. The other, unidentified up to late to-night, was believed by the police to have been the bearer of the explosive.

The object of the plotter is uncertain, but because Judge William A. Loring's session of the Supreme Judicial Court was only twenty-five feet removed from the anteroom in which the explosion occurred, the authorities thought it may have been the mark for which the bomb was intended. It is believed that the explosion was premature, and that the bomb was dropped while being carried to the door which opened into the Supreme Court corridor.

Except for the shattering of windows, no damage was done in Judge Loring's court, which was in session. The anteroom, where the explosion occurred, and a lavatory were the only parts of the structure to suffer materially.

There was great excitement throughout the structure, where many courts were sitting, but order was quickly restored. Girl stenographers fainted, a jury which was locked up for deliberation in a room clamored for release and a court officer collapsed.

The unidentified dead man apparently was a foreigner, probably of Southern European origin, W. H. Watters, associate medical examiner, announced to-night. The clothing contained nothing which would assist in identifying him. So far as any official statement was concerned, the composition of the bomb was uncertain.

U.S. Near War, Is Unprepared Gerard Says

Surprised at Failure of Nation to Benefit by War's Lessons

Mitchel Attacks Work of Pacifists

Thousands Welcome Ambassador, Who Urges Universal Training

New York welcomed James W. Gerard yesterday. Harbor craft screeched themselves blue in the valves, flags were out in tens of thousands, cheering crowds choked lower Broadway. Trinity's chimes boomed.

The ambassador—the title still is his in his present status of "ambassador attached"—brought back with him a message, which he delivered to New York and the country at large from the 17th of City Hall after the formal reception.

Twelve thousand office workers, crowded into City Hall Park, heard his warning that the United States is on the brink of war and his expression of surprise that the lessons of the last two and a half years have not taught America to prepare against attack.

Words of Warning

Mr. Gerard's speech, all the more impressive for its brevity and for the directness which his official position demands, took the form of a reply to the welcoming addresses made by Mayor Mitchell and John B. Starnfield, chairman of the Mayor's committee.

"You must know," said the ambassador, "how deeply grateful I am for this reception to-day, how deeply grateful I am for the very kind words which you have said for me and for my country, and how much I am glad to see on the list of the reception committee the names of the German descent. It is but natural that citizens of German descent in the beginning of the war should have a sentimental feeling toward Germany, that they should be jealous through rose-colored glasses of that land which, however, they left because they did not have the opportunity of opportunity."

Gerard Has Faith in Loyalty

"We read to-day in the newspapers for the first time that there is a prospect that after the war the Germans will be given an equal share in their government. I believe that in our hour of trial we can rely upon the loyalty of our citizens of German descent, and if they would follow me I would be glad to go out with a regiment of them and win that fear of being that from behind."

"And I want to indorse every word that your patriotic Mayor said about the necessity of preparation. When I came back to this country it was a positive shock to find in the two years in which the world has been on fire that we have done nothing to prepare for a reasonable means of national defense. There is only one thing—universal military service or universal training. That nation that stands opposite us to-day has probably not more than 2,000,000 under arms. I have seen the Germans take prisoners in one afternoon more men than there are in the entire United States army."

"Doesn't it seem to you ridiculous that the two states of New York and New Jersey should have more soldiers in them than there are soldiers in our army? My companions from the 12th Regiment that have honored me by coming here to-day, and more men than there are in the entire United States army, are here to-day, and more men than there are in the entire United States army."

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SILVER MEDAL ROSES. We specialize in Roses for the Garden and for the Greenhouse. Our exhibit at the International Flower Show will interest you and convince you that we are Rose Specialists. Our Silver Medal Roses for outdoor planting are the finest that can be offered. All from large pots for May planting. CRIBSON CHAMPION—Velvety crimson. \$1.50 each, \$15.00 per dozen. PARADE—Flash pink. 75c each, \$7.50 per dozen. RADIANCE—Bright pink. 60c each, \$6.00 per dozen. BROWN HOOD—Rosy variety. 75c each, \$7.50 per dozen. COLUMBIAN QUEEN—White pink. 60c each, \$6.00 per dozen. RED RADIANCE—Clear, bright red. \$1.50 each, \$15.00 per dozen. Our Catalog describes Roses, Chrysanthemums, Hardy Plants, Ornamental Shrubs and Ferns. A card left at our exhibit at the Show, or mailed to our address, will bring it.

"Damned to Everlasting Fame!"

are the words used by the Chicago Herald to condemn the Senators who filibustered the Armed Neutrality Bill to death. Other papers throughout the country are scarcely less harsh in expressing their feelings.

There can be little doubt that this vigorous phrase represents in a measure the wave of anger that swept the country and aroused the majority of the Senators themselves to make a change in the Senate rules, to make filibustering tactics in the face of a great international crisis impossible.

Whatever may have been the motives of the filibusters, their action evokes much enthusiasm in the German press abroad. The Frankfurter Zeitung hails them as "fine Americans who remain uncontaminated by Wilson's blind devotion to England."

In our own country the Emergency Peace Federation bestows its admiration upon the filibusters and says that "we believe you represent a vast, tho unknown, part of the Americans whose earnest desire it is that this country should not be drawn into war directly or indirectly."

In THE LITERARY DIGEST for March 17th, every phase of the controversy raging over the Senate's action, is covered from every angle. Not only public opinion in America is shown, but that of Germany and England.

Elephantine Diplomacy

"An Elephant On A Tight Rope Is No Less Clumsy Than German Diplomacy," Is the Verdict of One of the Leading Allied Newspapers

Proclaiming the Independence of Arabia Are Our Railroads Ready for War? A Doughnut-shaped Life Boat The Passing of the Long-horned Steer Will Poland Save Her Art? Where the National Anthem Came From Putting China's Quack Doctors to Flight

How Zimmermann United the United States Garlic Flavor in Milk How to Be Too Clean The Cause of High Prices Dramatic Immorality Denied and Affirmed England Admonished in America's Favor America to Watch Over Israel

The Most Humorous Cartoons and Many Other Illustrations

Foreign Testimony to the News-Value of the Digest

In a recent letter to the editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST a European reader of this uniquely serviceable news-magazine makes the statement that the news in THE DIGEST is two weeks old when it reaches him, it is nevertheless so well presented and so impartially comprehensive in its scope that he is able to get a better idea of what is going on in Europe than by reading the press of that day in his own country, now at war. This piece of testimony is very much to the point, as it makes clear the fact that only the unbiased observer can accurately assemble and present the facts regarding any great issue, be it war, politics, or religion, and that no partisan periodical can afford a fair or wholly reliable view of them. THE DIGEST is such an observer, analyzing, comparing, recording all news of interest, holding a brief for no party and for no school. It gives you the undistorted facts. Read it and be convinced.

March 17th Number on Sale To-day—All News-dealers—10 cents

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