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New York Tribune

First to Last — the Truth: News · Editorials · Advertisements

WEATHER
Partly cloudy and much colder to-day; fair and cold tomorrow; fresh northwest winds.
Full Report on Page 12

Vol. LXXVII No. 25,972 [Copyright 1917—The Tribune Ass'n] TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1917 ONE CENT In Greater New York | TWO CENTS Within Commuting Distance | THREE CENTS Elsewhere

School Board May Discard German Books

Superintendents' Committee to Make Recommendation To-morrow

Publishers Expect To Lose Large Sum

Pro-Kaiser Passages Marked as Unfit by Investigators

Officials of the Board of Education yesterday decided to take prompt and drastic action for the removal of objectionable German textbooks from the public schools of the city. It is probable that these books, which many educators declare to be nothing less than German propaganda, will be ordered out within a week.

This action follows the exposure by The Tribune of the fact that many books used by New York pupils contain laudatory mention of the Kaiser and praise of German militarism.

The nine members of the Board of Superintendents to which the subject has been referred will meet to-morrow morning to form a definite recommendation, which is to go before the Board of Education to-morrow afternoon. None of the officials of the board yesterday expressed any doubt as to what the recommendation would be.

For many weeks the textbooks in the German language, which have contained the more flagrant pro-German sentiments, have been under scrutiny by a special committee. The committee has read from cover to cover more than a dozen of these books, and has marked the passages which they consider unfit to be taught to American pupils.

It was learned yesterday that one of the large school book publishers, learning of the contemplated action of the board, has decided not to publish any more German textbooks unless they have first been submitted to the authorities. One publisher said his company had resigned itself to losing many thousands of dollars, because it would be unable to sell certain books already published.

Dr. Gustav Straubenmuller, chairman of the Board of Superintendents, said yesterday that not all German textbooks listed for use in the public schools were actually in use. He said some which had been used before the war had since been dropped.

High School Books Praise Wilhelm I As German Hero

Wilhelm I. of Germany, grandfather of the present Kaiser, seems to have had that same naive, one might almost say neighborly trust in God that his grandson, Wilhelm II, has evinced during the war in communications, written and spoken, to his troops and his people.

Seventeen thousand New York high school students studying German may for instance read this glorification of Wilhelm I, as contained in a school text-book, "Wilhelm der Siegreiche, ein Kaiser und Heldenbild aus der Neuzeit der deutschen Jugend gewidmet" ("William, the Victorious, a Picture of a Modern Emperor and Hero, Dedicated to the German Youth"—By Karl Zastrow. Edited by E. P. Ash. The Macmillan Company:)

Kaiser Wilhelm was a great man as well as a prominent ruler. He lived and fought for his Germany, which he loved more than anything else, up to his last breath.

An unequalled soldier and general, he won victories without parallel in the history of all peoples. But the real greatness of all these victories must be found in the wise moderation with which he bore them. In the midst of the highest jubilation over victories he remained the simple, truthful soldier, who accorded honor to the Lord of Hosts and submits to Him.

"Do not scorn at the beaten enemy! Do not insult nor injure any one!" Such was his first thought when the trumpet blast of victory fell on his ears. Many rulers have shown themselves to be great in misfortune, but only a few of them were like Kaiser Wilhelm, great while lucky. True to his convictions, he could pray to the highest War Lord who leads the army of stars, because He had manifested Himself to him through many expressions and tokens. And as a Christian and a hero, paying heed to those tokens, the Emperor had acquired a keen ear for God's words, a keen eye for hints which made him always follow the right path.

Thus Emperor William the Victorious will live on among us, not only as the heroic unifier of Germany and as a model of rare loyalty, but also as a representative of true and practical Christianism, and his memory will be blessed forever.

Defence of an Invasion

In the same book occurs this passage (page 30) relative to the war with the Danes (1864)—a passage which has something of the familiar ring of the present German defence for the invasion of Belgium.

The Holstein question was indeed pushed to the foreground. Christian VII, King of Denmark, had died, and, thereby, the danger of the German Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein being completely incorporated into Denmark was imminent. Bismarck had become Prime Minister, in the meantime. He proposed that Prussia and Austria between them take care of Germany's

Continued on Last Page

13,000,000 Join The Red Cross in Christmas Drive

All Districts of Country Far Above Quotas—10,000,000 Was Goal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Christmas Eve finds the American Red Cross membership drive well past the goal of 10,000,000, with incomplete reports indicating that about 13,000,000 new members have been enrolled throughout the country during the past week.

The Atlantic Division, with a quota of 2,015,000, reported 2,390,000 Christmas campaign members, with many chapters not reporting and continuing their work this week. The New England Division, which has a quota of 984,000, reported that all sections outside of Boston and perhaps Western Massachusetts would exceed their quotas and that the excess would balance any deficiencies.

The Pennsylvania Division, with a quota of 1,192,000, reported 1,400,000 already enrolled, and that all the chapters intended to continue during the week.

The Lake Division, on a quota of 1,063,000, finished its campaign with over 2,500,000 enrolled.

The Central Division reported 1,646,000 enrolments. This division also will continue at work of its own accord, and the managers expect to pass the present enrolment materially. The division has a quota of 1,189,000.

The Northwestern Division, with a quota of 531,000, reported 475,000 members. In this division the weather was so extremely bad last week that enrolment will be continued this week.

New York City has enrolled all but 150,000 of its Red Cross quota of 500,000. Details of the drive on page 9.

Senator Newlands, Of Nevada, Dead Of Heart Disease

Activities in Connection With the War Believed to Have Hastened His End

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24. — Senator Francis Griffith Newlands, of Nevada, chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, died of heart disease in his home here to-night after an illness of a few hours. He was stricken while at work in his office in the Senate office building during the afternoon, but was able to go home, and the capital knew nothing of his illness until the announcement of his death.

No one realized the seriousness of the Senator's condition and a physician was not called until late this evening. Then the heart attacks had become acute. The end came suddenly at 10:15 o'clock, as Mrs. Newlands and her brother watched at the bedside.

For several weeks Senator Newlands, working almost night and day on his preparations for an investigation of war-time transportation problems, had been in a weakened state of health. He kept at his desk, however, and in spite of his 69 years, appeared alert and active.

The Senator was a native of Mississippi. He was born near Natchez August 28, 1848, and lived in the state until he went to Yale in 1867. After nearly two years at Yale he entered the Columbia College Law School here and graduated, being admitted to the District of Columbia bar before he received his diploma. From Washington he went to San Francisco, where he practised law until 1888. Then he became a citizen of Nevada and was elected to the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses. During his ten years as a member of the House he served on various important committees.

Succeeded a Republican

Succeeding Senator John P. Jones, Republican, in the Senate on March 4, 1903, Senator Newlands soon became an active member of that body, and when the Democrats gained control he was made head of the Interstate Commerce Committee. In 1908 he submitted his candidacy for reelection to the popular vote, and was returned by a large majority.

As chairman of the joint Congressional committee on transportation problems, as well as of the Interstate Commerce Committee, the Senator has been identified prominently with consideration of what the government is to do about the railroads during the war. He has conferred with the President several times, and at the President's request deferred hearings the Interstate Commerce Committee was preparing to start until after the Christmas holidays, when the President is expected to submit his solution of the railroad problem to Congress.

The Senator's chief interest for years had been in America's railway transportation lines, and in the development of national waterways, both for transportation and for greater fertility of land. Because of his close touch and deep interest in these questions he was universally regarded as the preeminent expert on them in the Senate, and probably in Congress.

Enjoyed Wilson's Confidence

As author of the Newlands act, which had provided a plan of land improvement in the arid West by development of waterways, he also was well known. He had for a long time pressed legislation for expenditure of many millions of dollars for waterway and irrigation improvements, recently witnessing partial fruition of his hopes in the appointment of a special commission authorized by Congress for a comprehensive study of American waterway development.

In his railroad legislative work Senator Newlands had enjoyed the closest confidence of President Wilson, and had been regarded as Administration spokesman on such matters in the Senate. There he was not a frequent debater, but always was given the closest attention when speaking. He piloted the Adamson eight-hour bill through the Senate during the last Congress.

Teutons Break Italian Line On Asiago

Rome Admits Alarming Reverse Along Critical Front

Diaz Rallies Men To Counter Attacks

Enemy Plans Enveloping Movement to Cut Off British and French

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Opening a sudden and overwhelming blast of gunfire on the Italian positions near the head of the Frenzela Valley, west of the Brenta River, to-day, von Below's batteries smashed a pathway for his storming infantry to drive straight through the Diaz defence zone clear to the rear support trenches.

But in officially admitting this alarming reverse in the Asiago sector Rome adds that the Italians are counter attacking the Teutons on their newly captured line and making "satisfactory progress." The defeat is explained as the result of a raking fire from both flanks, which rendered the defending trenches untenable.

Following his policy of alternately striking to the east and the west of Brenta, the enemy commander temporarily stopped his costly attempt to encircle Monte Grappa from the west and yesterday sent his troops in a successful assault against the Buso-Monte Valbella sector. This is a point on the Asiago Plateau, a little to the east of Monte Sisemol, the scene of heavy fighting when it was taken by the enemy some weeks ago.

Position Is Critical

The place selected for the attack is a critical position, for if the Austro-Germans can drive down the Frenzela, which enters the Brenta from the west, they will be well on their way toward the edge of the mountains and the beginning of the great plains.

The enemy plan, if successful in this, is evidently to attempt one of his great encircling movements. If he can debouch through the Frenzela and Brenta valleys in force he will try to sweep around and cut off the concentrations of Allied troops in the mountains to the east, between the Brenta and the Piave. A successful move of this character would involve, if not large Allied losses by capture, at least a great retirement from the Piave line to the Adige River front.

Intense Gun Firing

Diaz states that the artillery preparation for the hostile blow started Saturday evening and was careful and intense. In the hail of shells the Italians were forced back, but from the new positions they took up they are now delivering powerful counter attacks.

The Italian commander in chief also described to-day the routing of the enemy forces that had crossed the Old Piave, to the south of Gradenigo, in the marshy land north of Venice. Detachments of Bersaglieri, completing an attack they had begun several days before, drove beyond the stream remnants of large enemy forces that were making a desperate attempt to hold the ground they had taken on the right bank.

Baroness Held as Spy; American Lieutenant Arrested With Her

Secret Code Found on Woman Whose Husband Fights for Kaiser

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Dec. 24.—Baroness Iona Zollner, of New York, wife of a German army officer serving on the Flanders front, was held without bail for the Federal grand jury here to-day, on the charge of violating the espionage act.

Lieutenant John W. Spaulding, the twenty-two-year-old United States army officer, arrested with the woman at a local hotel last week, was sent to Fort Oglethorpe under guard after he had testified for the defence.

The charge against the baroness is based chiefly upon a code found in her possession and letters written by her to her sixteen-year-old son, Bedford Shope. The code, Spaulding swore today, was arranged so the baroness could be kept informed as to his movements until such time as he might be sent to France. One of the letters to the boy described minutely a trip to Fort Oglethorpe, the condition of the roads and the topography of the surrounding country.

Spaulding testified that he loved the prisoner and wanted to marry her, that she had paid his hotel bills and other expenses on various occasions and that she helped him to get a commission in the army after he had been compelled to resign from the Naval Academy on account of "bills."

Baroness Zollner denied the charges vigorously. She said she had been investigated at Washington and Annapolis, and was permitted to move about under the known status of an alien enemy.

Commissioner McAlester, who conducted the hearing, indicated that much of the evidence against the defendant had been explained away. He refused to accept bail, but advised counsel for the baroness to apply to the Federal district judge for a writ of habeas corpus.

About the same time Victor Reutner, an alien enemy summoned before the District Attorney because his wife's address was found in Baroness Zollner's effects, dropped dead at Knoxville.

British Clamp Lid Down on War News

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Official Press Bureau this evening announced that there will be no further communiqués issued until to-morrow afternoon.

Nation's Greeting to Its Fighting Men

Washington, Dec. 24.—These Christmas greetings were sent to the nation's fighting forces, abroad and at home, afloat and ashore, to-night:

By Secretary of War Baker

TO the soldiers in France and the soldiers in training in America and their families: The War Department sends a word of hearty Christmas greeting, of appreciation of the spirit of resolute courage which fills their hearts and of congratulation upon the opportunity which lies before them to do a great work for their country and for the world.

By Secretary of the Navy Daniels

CHRISTMAS greetings to all in the naval service. Country reposes confidence in its navy, is proud of the service it has already rendered in this war and has faith that it will measure up to the demands made upon it.

16 Dead, 98 Hurt When Car Runs Wild in Tunnel

Motorman in Pittsburgh Loses Control on Down Grade

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 24.—Fourteen persons were killed and every other one of the 114 passengers was hurt here late to-day when a Knoxville Street car ran away in a tunnel which connects the South Side business district with the South Hills. After a dash of almost a mile through the tube the car emerged at Carson Street and turned over on its side.

The car, which was of the latest low floor, steel type, was packed with city-bound shoppers when it left the station at the south end of the tunnel. A minute or two later the trolley is said to have left the wire and the lights went out. At almost the same instant, for some reason not yet determined, the motorman lost control and the car dashed down the steep grade, gaining momentum as the wheels slipped along the wet rails.

The passengers were thrown into a panic and their shrieks could be heard for some distance as the car shot out of the tube. A few feet from the mouth of the tunnel is a short curve. So terrific was the speed the car had attained that the wheels at this point left the track.

The car instantly turned over on its side, piling the passengers in a struggling mass inside. It did not stop, but, tearing along the sidewalk, struck a telegraph pole. The roof was ripped off, and men, women and children were scattered along the roadway. Even then the wrecked car kept going, finally bringing up in a little confectionery store near Smithfield Street.

Fourteen were killed outright, eight of whom were women, and one a little girl. Two died late to-night in hospitals. Some of the bodies were scarcely recognizable and identification proceeded slowly.

A statement issued by the Pittsburgh Railways Company, which owns the Knoxville line, said the car "was of the most modern and substantial construction and equipped with every modern device for the safety of passengers. We have been unable yet to learn just how the accident happened, but have started a searching investigation to ascertain the facts."

Rothapfel will run THE RIVOLI, Broadway at 49th Street, opens To-morrow Night. New York's Stateliest Motion Picture Theatre.—Advt.

Pershing's Troops Send Xmas Word To Those at Home

[By The Associated Press]

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 24.—Under the heading "A Word to Those at Home," the Christmas number of the "Oolala Times," a newspaper written and edited by the soldiers of a certain unit, prints the following:

"We are sorry we can't be with you in America this Christmas. We miss you. We appreciate the blessings of our own families and our own country as never before.

"Yet, since to insure the safety of us all, help in the cause of right, we must stay until the work is done, you should be glad to the bottom of your hearts that we can have so good and so Christian a Christmas.

"Most of us have helped to brighten your lives on other Christmas days, possibly by our gifts and our presence. Few this year can give what they desire, none can be with you.

"However, you may find some cause to rejoice in the fact that we are doing everything we can to brighten the lives of our friends, the French children."

In the same column the paper says:

"To all right feeling men the presence of children, especially when in holiday mood, is a pleasant thing, and apart from any spirit of benevolence à la Santa Claus, we are glad to welcome the youngsters for their own cheerful selves, and they should feel that they are conferring a favor upon us lonely soldiers by coming to share our Christmas tree.

"Some of us have had the good fortune to be received on such terms with the families here that a stranger might mistake us for sons or brothers, not newly arrived foreigners. These cordial relations will be still further promoted by the Christmas entertainments."

Wilson Scores Red Tape

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—War-time efficiency is being practiced as well as preached by the Government.

President Wilson has sent to all the executive departments copies of a letter recently addressed by Secretary Redfield to his bureau chiefs.

"Forget how things were done before the war, eliminate red tape," the letter said. "We must learn with the Germans that 'the war won't wait. Delay is the Kaiser's ally'."

Secretary Redfield has instructed all his bureaus to install machines for stamping on papers the day and hour of receipt so that delay in action may be traced to personal responsibility. He is refusing to sign documents not so stamped.

Find Hidden Arms On Bolshevik Ship In American Port

Officials Believe Munitions Were Intended for I. W. W.

A PACIFIC PORT, Dec. 24.—Federal officials to-day found packages of ammunition, several hundred rifles and a number of bags filled with revolvers buried under the cargo of hides in the Shilka, a Russian freighter which arrived here Friday night, under control of its Bolshevik crew. Officials said the cartridges found in the ammunition packages contained slugs such as used by the Germans on the Eastern front.

The consignment was probably intended, officials said they believed, for Industrial Workers of the World or for use of a raider in the Pacific.

"An investigation to determine the purpose of those in charge of the ship will be made immediately," the United States District Attorney here to-day said. "We know that the Shilka is manned by a Bolshevik crew, and apparently is in charge of a committee of five that took the vessel over after the crew mutinied a few days out of the Russian port."

Officials, continuing their search today, discovered a large quantity of liquor and a number of I. W. W. newspapers aboard, they announced.

If the munitions were intended for the I. W. W., officials said, the Shilka probably intended to unload her cargo here and then proceed to some prearranged obscure spot on the coast and put the rifles, revolvers and ammunition ashore.

Among the Federal agents working on the ship were some who said they believed the munitions were sent by the Bolsheviki to aid the I. W. W. to foment revolutions in the United States to further Bolshevik principles.

Captain Boris Dogal, master of the boat, and members of the crew probably will be interned, officials asserted. Search will be continued until the entire vessel and cargo is gone over.

Unverified rumors were circulated Saturday night that the vessel carried $100,000 sent by Bolsheviki to aid the defence of I. W. W. under trial in Chicago. Officials have found no trace of the money.

PHILADELPHIA TRAINS WITHDRAWN
On account of existing conditions it has been necessary to withdraw several New Jersey Central Philadelphia trains. Following will be schedule of week day trains to Philadelphia, on and after December 26th: Leave Liberty St., 7.00, 8.15, 9.00, 10.30, 11.00 A. M., 12.00 M., 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 10.00 P. M. 12.30 Ngt. West 23rd St. ten minutes earlier, except 12.30 Ngt., which leaves at 11.50 P. M.—Advt.

Kaiser Defiant On Eve of New Offer of Peace

Pope's Xmas Message Asks Children of U. S. To Pray for Peace

ROME, Dec. 24.—Pope Benedict has given to The Associated Press this Christmas message for the American people:

The Holy Father sends to the people of America his cordial greetings, and prays that they may take to heart, in this time of strife and suffering, the true lesson of Chrismastide—the lesson of God's unceasing love for mankind; the lesson of unfaltering courage and sacrifice of self.

More especially he calls upon the little children, to whom this day belongs, to pray with all their hearts to the Babe of Bethlehem that He may protect their loved ones and give back to the world that peace which He came to bring upon earth.

Berlin Quells Socialist Foes of Pan-Germans

Meetings Suppressed When Armistice Terms Are Resented

[*Staff Correspondence*]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Serious difficulties between the German imperial government and the majority Socialists, which has culminated in the suppression of Socialist meetings in Berlin, are reported in a radio message quoting a Zurich dispatch to a French news agency received by the government to-day.

The dispatch says that the conclusion of the armistice with the Maximalists was the occasion for the Socialist disturbances, which, in the main, took the form of bitter attacks on the Pan-German programme. The message, as made public by the Committee on Public Information, reads:

"Word comes from Berlin that the conclusion of the armistice with the Maximalists has, as a first effect, produced serious difficulties between the imperial government and the majority Socialists. The latter, in fact, advertise openly their ideas about peace conditions and those tendencies of which the Pan-Germanists and militarists complain.

"Numerous incidents have occurred. The prohibition of the meeting arranged for last Sunday in Berlin by the majority Socialists is not an isolated case. The communication of the Socialist party in the protest that was addressed upon the subject to the imperial Chancellor mentioned a large number of abuses committed by the military authorities against the right of holding meetings.

"The Pan-Germanists, on the other hand, reproach the Social Democratic majorities for their anti-national attitude. They complain notably of an article in the Chemnitzer 'Volkstimme,' in which is found this significant passage:

"'The members of the Centre, National Liberals and Progressives are trying to exploit, to the profit of their annexationist views, the principle according to which peoples should have control over their own destiny. Thus they are trying to combine the barons of the Baltic and the bourgers of Poland, with a view to concluding an arrangement which will be fatal to the needs of the proletariats on the East front. It seeks at this time to act as though this were a foregone conclusion.'"

"Vorwaerts," Ban Lifted, Defends Food Controller

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—The "Vorwaerts," the Socialist organ, reported to have been ordered to suspend publication for three days, appeared unexpectedly Sunday. It says its suspension was due to criticism of the provisioning of war invalids under the heading "Let Them Go Beg."

The "Vorwaerts" prints prominently a defence of Herr von Waldow, the Food Controller. It quotes him as denying having excused or tolerated certain conditions alleged, but as admitting that illicit trading has assumed proportions which threaten to endanger the food supply.

Prisoners Serve Week More to Aid Red Cross

TARRYTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Cash is scarce in the Westchester County penitentiary, as in most prisons, but there is a local credit system there which transmutes time into "credits," and the hundred inmates have voted, V. Everit Macy, Commissioner of Charities and Correction, announced to-day, to stay in jail an extra week each, making a gift of the "credits" thus accumulated to the Red Cross.

The aggregate amount of the gift will be $60. Some of the prisoners would have been released for Christmas, but they joined their companions in the decision to contribute an extra week in "stir." The men will form a surgical dressings class and coöperate with the Tarrytown Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Emperor Tells Troops God Is the Avowed Ally of German Cause

"Shining Sword" To Win, He Says

"Iron Fist" Will Teach England to Respect German Rights, Army Is Told

The Kaiser will make new peace proposals to the Entente to-day, according to dispatches from Rome.

Amsterdam dispatches affirm that the four Central Powers will make a joint reply to the Russian peace formula to-day. It is probable that this will afford the Kaiser the occasion he has been seeking.

The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk have resulted in serious disturbances at Berlin, led by Majority Socialists, according to advices received at Washington.

At Petrograd, according to Paris, Foreign Minister Trozky has told the French envoy that unless Germany signs a "democratic peace" Russia may start a new "revolutionary war" against her.

Secretary Baker warns the nation not to relax its war preparations because of the German peace manœvres.

Sword Will Hew Peace, the Kaiser Tells His Soldiers

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 24.—"The year 1917 has proved the German people has in the Lord of Creation Above an unconditional and avowed ally on whom it absolutely can rely," said the German Emperor in a speech to the Second Army, on the West front, Saturday, according to a Berlin dispatch.

"If the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace by battering in with the iron fist and the shining sword the doors of those who will not have peace."

The speech as received here follows:

"It has been a year full of events for the German army and the German Fatherland. Powerful blows have been delivered and your comrades in the East have been able to bring about great decisions.

"There has been no man, no officer and no general on the whole Eastern front, wherever I have spoken to them, who has not frankly admitted that they could not have accomplished what they have if their comrades in the West had not stood to a man.

Defeats Easily Explained

"The tactical and strategical connection between the battles on the Aisne, in the Champagne, Artois and Flanders and at Cambrai, and the events in the East and in Italy is so manifest that it is useless to waste words on it.

"With a centralized direction the German army works in a centralized manner. In order that we should be able to deliver these offensive blows one portion of the army had to remain on the defensive, hard as this is for the German soldier. Such a defensive battle, however, as has been fought in 1917 is without parallel. A fraction of the German army accepted the heavy task, covering its comrades in the East unconditionally, and it had the entire Anglo-French army against it.

"In long preparation the enemy had collected unheard-of technical means and masses of ammunition and guns in order to make his entry into Brussels over your front, as he proudly announced. The enemy has achieved nothing.

"I Don't Boast," Says Kaiser

"The most gigantic feat ever accomplished by an army and one without parallel in history was accomplished by the German army. I don't boast. It is a fact, and nothing else. The admiration you have earned shall be your reward, and at the same time your pride. Nothing can in any way place in the shade or surpass what you have accomplished, however great and overwhelming it may be.

"The year 1917, with its great battles, has proved that the German people has in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally on whom it can absolutely rely. Without Him all would have been in vain.

"Every one of you had to exert every nerve to the utmost. I know that every one of you in the unparallelled drumfire did superhuman deeds. The feeling may have been frequently with you: 'If we only had something behind us; if we only had some relief!' It came as the result of the blow in the East, where it is seen that the storms of war there are at present silenced. God grant that it may be forever.

"Yesterday I saw and spoke to your comrades near Verdun and there, passing through all minds like the scent of the morning breeze was the thought: 'You are no longer alone.'