

America Challenged on Seas by England After One Hundred Years

Britain Adopting Same Tactics Against Kaiser as Against Napoleon, Causing Crisis With U. S. Similar to One Which Forced War of 1812, Says Writer.

By OSCAR KING DAVIS.

It was American resentment at British interference with the ocean borne commerce of the United States that drove this country into the war with England in 1812. The British regulation and actions which incensed Americans in those days grew largely out of the stress of circumstances under which Great Britain found itself, as a result of warring with Napoleon Bonaparte.

Both the edicts of Napoleon and the orders in council of the British government resulted in intolerable interference with the free course of American commerce, and opinion in this country was divided as to whether we should fight France or Great Britain. Resentment at British impressment of American seamen and at other British injustices threw the balance against England, and we went to war for the redress of a series of grievances.

MENACING SITUATION ARISES AGAIN.

Now, after a hundred years of peace, a situation has arisen between the United States and Great Britain which contains the elements of possible disaster. This situation, like that prior to 1812, arises out of British interference with American commerce on the high seas. As in 1812, the British action is part of its effort to defeat a enemy, the continent of Europe, this time Germany instead of France.

The American course in 1915 is every whit as clear as it was in 1812. This does not mean that we ought to declare war against Great Britain, but it does mean that we are bound to sustain the policy to which we have been committed throughout our history. In an emergency under which it is now acting, this policy was historical with Great Britain. It was the policy which has made this critical juncture with the United States.

Holds Ships May Be Purchased.

The United States has maintained the right of a neutral to purchase the ships of a belligerent, and it is bound to operate them in proper neutral commerce, always provided that such purchase is in good faith. The transfer must be genuine and complete. It cannot be part of a secret bargain by which the belligerent seller retains control or interest in the vessel, or by which ownership of it is to revert to the seller at the close of the war.

However neutral, citizen A has the right to buy the ship of a belligerent citizen B and employ it in his own commerce just as much as she has the right to buy clothes or food and wear or eat his purchase.

In the days of wooden sailing vessels the American flag was the best. It was better than any other people and were better than any other people. Their merchant marine was the best. Conditions, however, changed with the introduction of iron steamships. Then England came to the front. Its iron was cheaper than America's, and its labor cost less. Changes in the governing of the employment and the condition of life of seamen also operated in favor of the British merchant marine.

The result was that British ships could be built and operated more cheaply than American ships. British ships gradually drove American vessels out of the ocean carrying trade.

The development of the German merchant marine has had the effect, so far as we are concerned, of accentuating the disappearance of American ships from the seas. It has not materially changed our situation. But it has made tremendous inroads upon the British carrying trade.

German Flag Disappears From Seas.

The outbreak of the present war in Europe caused the almost immediate disappearance of the German flag from the seven seas. At the same time the bottling up of Germany largely shut off its commerce, even by means of neutral vessels.

This there was suddenly presented to Great Britain an opportunity to regain her position as the chief competitor in the trade which it had lost to Germany, and also to made inroads upon the commerce that Germany loses through the war.

The United States, as the chief neutral nation and principal producer not engaged in the war, is naturally now the chief competitor of Great Britain not only for the commerce of Germany but also for that which Great Britain loses by not being able to maintain its industries in the peace.

This situation was recognized at once upon the outbreak of the war by the American government and its business men. It was apparent that a peculiar opportunity was offered to this country for the development of its commerce. At the same time the situation presented an opportunity for the recovery of carrying trade and the re-establishment of a merchant marine.

The American flag had disappeared from the carrying trade of the world because of American legislation. Under our system it not only costs more to build ships in this country than in Europe, but we have required ships sailing under the American flag to be constructed by American citizens, and that we have refused, until within a few years, to permit our ports to purchase foreign built ships and bring them under American registry.

The act of Congress to provide for the opening and carrying of the Panama canal contained a provision in section 5 for the admission to American registry of seagoing vessels of any tonnage which were to engage in trade with foreign countries, and which were wholly owned by American citizens or by corporations organized and chartered in the United States, and of which the president and managing directors were American citizens, provided the vessels were not more than five years old at the time of the application for registration.

Limit Removed by Congress.

This presented the opportunity for the purchase by American citizens of newly built foreign vessels. But when the war furnished its much greater opportunity for the expansion of American shipping, it was discovered that the Administration to repeal the five-year limitation.

Accordingly a bill was put through Congress which removed the limitation on the purchase of foreign vessels by American citizens, and which gave the Administration to repeal the five-year limitation.

Finger in Jaw Holds Policeman

Man in Fit Suddenly Shuts Teeth When Under-First Aid Treatment.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Jeremiah Mahoney, one of the biggest policemen in Harlem, pried open the jaws of a man who was trying to get hold of the man's tongue as a part of the first aid treatment given to a man who had his jaws were clamped suddenly and they caught Mahoney's little finger.

He was unable to open the jaws again. A crowd quickly gathered that was so large that traffic was blocked. Several men picked up the prostrate man and carried him, with Mahoney's little finger still in his mouth, to a police station.

There Dr. Schaeffer opened the jaws and found that Mahoney's little finger had been so severely crushed that he had to go to the hospital for treatment.

erty of a belligerent. It was purchased by Edward N. Breitung, an American citizen, and the loaded with cotton and Galveston with the announced intention of sailing for Rotterdam.

The form given out for publication at the British embassy in Washington, the position of the British government in that connection is as follows:

"In connection with the transfer of the Dacia from the German to the American flag the British government, through the chief British agent in New York, has been informed that the shippers of the cargo, have found it impossible to agree that the transfer, under the circumstances in which it has been effected, is valid, in accordance with the accepted principles of international law."

The statement goes on to announce that if the Dacia sails it probably will be captured by British warships, and if it is captured, the British government will seek to hold it as a prize.

United States Protects Seizure.

Already Great Britain has seized several foreign built vessels that had been transferred to the American flag since the outbreak of the war, in accordance with the provisions of the act of August 1914. In each case our government has protested, not on the ground that the transfer was distinctly within the citizenship of the United States, in which case the American position announced by the passage of that act, but on the ground that the ship, when seized, having belonged to a foreign corporation, the majority stock of which was owned by American citizens.

In the case of the Dacia that subtler question that can come into controversy, if our historical position be maintained, is the food cargo, which is sold and purchased. Of course if it can be shown that Mr. Breitung is not the bona fide owner of the ship, the sale is a secret reservation in the sale by which it is to revert to the Hamburg-American line, the vessel would not be the American flag or to American protection.

The natural presumption is that before the State Department, authorized the hoisting of the Stars and Stripes on the Dacia it has satisfied itself that its purchase by Mr. Breitung was in good faith and bona fide.

Another natural presumption is that the British government, in view of the friendly relations existing between the two nations, would be inclined to give faith and credence to the authorization of the sale of the Dacia to American registry. But it is already clear that Great Britain prefers to refer the matter to the State Department, at least in this case.

Our presumption is also set up that, wherever possible, Great Britain means to contest the application by American citizens to the State Department, in this case, for the admission of the Dacia to American registry.

Under the circumstances the natural question is: "Why has Great Britain so suddenly and vigorously changed its position?"

Two Reasons For Change.

Under the circumstances the natural question is: "Why has Great Britain so suddenly and vigorously changed its position?" Two answers are forthcoming at once to that question. One is from sources friendly to the British government, and the other is from sources friendly to the Germans.

The pro-British answer is that it is the prime necessity of the war for Great Britain to shut off all supplies from Germany that could be converted to its advantage in prosecuting the war. Money being a prime necessity in carrying on war, the British naturally seek to prevent money from getting to Germany. As the sale of the numerous German vessels intended for various uses would furnish a large amount of money to the Germans, Great Britain seeks to prevent that sale, and to prevent the United States from recognizing the transfer of any of these vessels to the American flag.

The German answer is that it is not so much the prevention of money from going to Germany that Great Britain is so anxious to prevent, but the expansion of American carrying trade. Those who give this answer assert that the United States is now carrying on all its own trade and commerce and to secure as much as it can of the trade of the world that were Germany before the war.

They assert that Great Britain's desire in this regard is to keep its government in deliberately willing to bring on strained relations with the United States in order to further this purpose. They believe that Great Britain is willing to push the United States to the utmost limit in carrying out the policy of the United States, but that vigorous opposition on the part of the government will cause a change in the British attitude.

Would Even Force War, Is Claim.

It is even asserted that Great Britain is willing to force matters to the point of actual war with the United States, relying upon its treaty of alliance with Japan for assistance in case affairs should come to that emergency.

It is also pointed out that Japan has long had a series of serious grievances against the United States, and that she cherishes the belief that some day it must fight us for redress of these grievances. This is the belief that the United States government would not oppose such action.

It is pointed out that as long as the United States is superior to that of Japan the Japanese could not hope to make a successful landing upon the western coast of the American continent, but that, operating in conjunction with the British, the Japanese would be able to land upon the coast, and they would enjoy the facilities of a prepared landing place on the Canadian coast, and they could thus help Great Britain to hold Canada against the American invasion.

It is also pointed out that if both wrong, and is there a third explanation of the British course, which is now, however, it does not now appear, but enough has already become clear to show, however, it does not now appear, but enough has already become clear to show, however, it does not now appear, but enough has already become clear to show, however, it does not now appear.

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ROOSEVELT MAKES REPLY TO BARNES

Gives Specifications Asked for in Libel Action Against Former President.

SYRACUSE, Feb. 28.—The local attorney for Theodore Roosevelt, in the libel action brought against the former President by William Barnes, Jr., today received copies of the bill of particulars which Colonel Roosevelt has filed in reply to Barnes' demand.

Barnes called for a specification of the several matters in regard to the administration of the State government of New York with relation to legislation, and, during certain years, with relation to canals, highways, prisons, hospital work, hospitals, civil service, and administration generally, and by reason of the padding of State pay rolls and by the creation of unnecessary offices has been inefficient, wasteful, and in some instances corrupt.

Mr. Roosevelt replies that the periods referred to are the years 1911, 1912, 1913, and 1914. He says that Mr. Barnes is fully cognizant of the facts concerning the several matters in which he has based his information on an editorial published in Mr. Barnes' newspaper, the Albany Journal, on July 1, 1914, and also on the publication of the platform adopted by the Republicans in the last State campaign.

"The portion of the platform specified in that which charges the Democrats with the creation of the Senate in 1912 with legislation during the four years they were in power."

References to the charge that in 1908 to 1914 there had been cooperation between the Democratic and Republican parties in the creation of legislation, Mr. Roosevelt specifies as follows: "The action of the State senate in 1907 as to recommendation of Governor Hughes for the removal of Otto Kelsey, superintendent of insurance."

"The action of the legislature in 1911 relating to the building of State roads, known as expedited road legislation."

"The action of the legislature with regard to direct primary legislation in 1912, the regular and special sessions in 1913."

Boy Scout Scribes

To the Scout Editor: A dozen of the members of Troop 11 at the American and German churches in the Church last Monday night. We met at Twenty-second street and Minnesota avenue and later were met by Mr. Kilduff at Eleventh and M streets. When we arrived at the church we helped dress the uniforms, which had been so kindly donated to us.

Some of us have been making a lot of smoke lately trying to make a fire without matches. We have succeeded in getting a fire going, but we have been unable to get a flame, although we hope a little practice will give better results.

Our scoutmaster, Mr. Alanzo Morris, expects to form a troop of Girl Scouts in this neighborhood soon.

To the Scout Editor: The scouts of Troop 21 met at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church Monday morning to take part in the Second division field day.

The first of our sealed orders told us to go to the southeast. Pennsylvania avenue southeast. There we opened our second order, which told us to go to Minnesota avenue. We then opened our third order, which told us to go to the afternoon.

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GREY-HAIRED AT 27 NOT A GREY HAIR AT 35

I Am One of Many Living Examples That One Grey Hair Can Be Restored to Natural Colour and Beauty.

I SEND YOU THE PROOF FREE

Let me send you free full information that will tell you how to restore your grey hair to the natural color and beauty of youth, no matter what your age, and the cause of your greyness. It is not a dye nor a stain, but a natural color restorer.

It is not a woman who became prematurely grey and old looking at 27, but through a scientific friend I found an excellent natural color restorer of grey hair, and I have arranged to give you a free trial of it, and to send you a free of charge to any address you wish to restore the natural shade of youth to any hair.

They tell me that as long as the United States is superior to that of Japan the Japanese could not hope to make a successful landing upon the western coast of the American continent, but that, operating in conjunction with the British, the Japanese would be able to land upon the coast, and they would enjoy the facilities of a prepared landing place on the Canadian coast, and they could thus help Great Britain to hold Canada against the American invasion.

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Too Cold to Die In River, He Says

Youth Jumps Right in and Turns Around and Swims Right Out Again.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—As the wind roared along the Harlem river and a thermometer registered 22 degrees, a watchman in a shanty on a dock was about to throw another shovel of coal on the fire when the door of the shanty flew open and a young man, drenched from head to foot, stumbled in.

"It was too cold," he slurred; "I couldn't do it."

"Do what?" asked the watchman.

"Down myself," answered the young man, shaking his head as he spoke. "I jumped over the pier, but changed my mind, after I got in, so I swam back."

"Warm yourself," said the watchman, indicating the fire. Then he called Patrolman James Nolan. Nolan arrested the man on a charge of attempting suicide, and he was taken to the hospital.

"I've been working fifty-four hours a week, too much for any man," the young man said, "and I was intending to drown myself, but there were too many people there."

Warns America Against "Bluffing" Too Much

"We've all been telling ourselves we can whip the world, but we had better not talk easy unless we are willing to fight," warned Col. James Morris Morgan at the midwinter dinner of the District of Columbia Commandery of the Naval Military Order of the Spanish-American War last night at the Army and Navy Club.

The average American, said Colonel Morgan, "believes you can furnish a regiment of Boy Scouts with guns and whip three regiments of Germans with a few brigades of old-stamp guards thrown in for good measure. He believes you can arm a regiment of clerks and whip the world, but we had better look out. There are no times to bluff either ourselves or the other fellow."

Coast Guard Man Quits To Avoid Vaccination

Because he refused to submit to compulsory vaccination against smallpox, Lieut. Samuel Peacock, of the coast guardship Miami, has sent in his resignation to Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

In his letter of resignation, Lieut. Peacock said: "I do not desire to submit to vaccination, and I have no objection to the Government's fringement upon individual constitutional rights."

Meyer and Witherspoon To Debate On the Navy

Former Secretary of the Navy George von L. Meyer and Congressman Samuel W. Witherspoon will debate on the subject of naval needs before the Economic Club, which will be held at the Hotel St. Francis, Washington, D. C., on Wednesday, March 3.

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15c jar Pure Ohio Honey, delicious quality. 10c

15c Delicious Peanut Butter. 10c

15c Genuine Spanish Stuffed Olives, large bottle. 10c

15c Grape Fruitola Marmalade—a delicious preserve of pure grape fruit. Something new 10c

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25c Peroxide Tooth Powder, whitens the teeth. 11c

25c Rapid Corn Cure—guaranteed to cure corns in 48 hours or money back. 9c

25c Laxative Cold Tablets. Really cures a cold in 24 hours. If not satisfactory, money cheerfully refunded. 11c

SCOUTS GET FIRST TASTE OF SPRING

Turnout Especially Large on Washington's Birthday; Several Hikes Taken.

Boy Scouts here got their first real taste of spring on Washington's birthday. Division 2 went to Randall Highlands early in the day "under sealed orders" and were the guests of division 3 from 6:30 till 10 o'clock in the evening. Division 1 had a hike and inspection.

Scoutmasters of division 2 opened the first of their sealed orders at 6:30 o'clock in the morning on Washington's Birthday. This told the troop where to go and the time to open the second order. The second order directed them to the spot where the activities started.

The third order told them that there were some messages and a number of boys with red bands on their arms hidden within certain boundaries. The troop went to the messages and boys and bring them to a given spot. Each message counted five points, and each boy who brought a message captured twenty-five points. Scout Utz was captured by Scout Hurr, of troop 3, and Scout Hurr by Assistant Scoutmaster Gorman, of troop 21. Both of these troops captured red bands in addition, which made the total for the troop 100 points, the only one to reach 100.

The tie for points between troops 21 and 3 was decided by a toss-up, the former winning. In the evening the boys of division 3 had a hike which lost the team the cake which had been presented to them.

Boy Scouts Asked to Help at G. A. R. Camp

William F. Gude, former president of the Chamber of Commerce, and chairman of the Committee of One Hundred for raising the G. A. R. encampment next fall, has asked the Washington Boy Scouts to do their part in entertaining the 100,000 visitors which it is expected the encampment will bring to this city.

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Root To Continue Active in Affairs

Senator Will Not Retire to His Home in Clinton, March 4—May Live in New York City.

CLINTON, N. Y., Feb. 28.—Senator Ellhu Root, although he recently passed his seventieth birthday, does not intend to indulge in seclusion upon retirement March 4 from public life, but will continue active, it was stated today at the Root estate.

For this reason he has decided not to make his permanent residence at his homestead here on College Hill, his boyhood home, as had been expected. He has taken a house in Albany for the coming summer because of the constitutional convention, and after that will probably take up his residence in New York.

The Senator is proud by close ties to his home here. He was born on the college campus in a building now known as Knox Hall of Geology. He has lived on his beautiful estate here during the coming summer because of the constitutional convention, and after that will probably take up his residence in New York.

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"Business as Usual"

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The war has not had any effect on the business of Mr. Hyman. Despite the fact that she may be caught by the Karlsruhe, the Oceanic, which sailed for Bermuda, carried forty-six bridal couples.

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