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GERMAN REPLY UNSATISFACTORY

Officials, newspapers, and people of the United States have expressed keen disappointment at the answer which the German government has returned to President Wilson's second note. Few outside of the pro-ally papers, have given any evidence of anger. The Imperial government is very polite in its phrasing, but affirms its contention in regard to submarine warfare as applied to the sinking without warning of enemy merchantmen. With the German government it is not a matter of international law, but a matter of expediency. Nothing that can in any way injure the allies will be left undone. If neutrals get in the way—well, so much the worse for the neutrals. In particular the acceptance of responsibility of the sinking of the Lusitania by Germany was a blow to those hopeful of an early and amicable settlement of the points at issue.

The American government cannot approve of the German encroachment on the rights of neutral nations. It is freely predicted that President Wilson will reassert the principles set forth in the two previous notes and outline a course of action designed to force respect for the rights of Americans while on the high seas. The United States went to war with England and France early in the eighteenth century to maintain the freedom of the seas; this government obviously will not yield to any nation at this stage of American development any essential right for which American blood has been spilled. To preserve unimpaired to posterity the freedom bequeathed by those who founded the Republic is part of the American code from which no departure need be expected by nations which find it convenient to restrict that freedom. America is not weak; America is not non-resistant.

The crisis in the relations between the two countries has caused grave concern in Washington. The people expect President Wilson to assert the country's rights; but the people are willing for the president to do this in his own way, without the hampering influence of intense public opinion. There is no hate for Germany in the hearts of the people, and there is still a genuine wish on the part of everyone, save a handful of jingoes, to yet meet the wish of Germany without conceding essential rights. No one can fail to see that Germany is fighting for her very existence and that measures are being urged by her rulers which the public opinion of that country would not sustain, were it not for the strain under which all labor. A modification of the submarine program, as demanded by the United States, would give the allies some advantage, it must be conceded; on the other hand, it is plain that, to declare the cargoes of ships belonging to the allies sailing from American ports would be to disclose valuable military information to Germany.

With the conflicting interests, it is certain that the only safe thing for the United States to do is to maintain the rights of neutrals as outlined by international convention when the contravention of those rights affect this country. What barbarism the belligerents practice against one another is no concern of ours.

The German people are much incensed against Americans, Miss Jane Addams says, on account of the shipment of munitions from the United States to the allies. The German government, however, has not pointed out the course as unneutral. Prince Jagow, foreign secretary, admit that the right to ship munitions to any belligerent is unquestioned by the Imperial government. The German government is too wise to place itself in an anomalous position on this score. Krupps sold the munitions to Spain that killed Americans; but the United States did not protest on that account.

A break with Germany would be a great calamity; but with Germany rather than the United States rests the responsibility for what must happen through the continued infringement of American rights and privileges. Germany, it is feared, thinks only in terms of organized force; for the United States the militarists have only a profound contempt.

METAMORPHOSIS OF AN IDEALIST

Miss Jane Addams has returned from Europe with a new philosophy of life. What she saw and heard at the woman's peace congress at The Hague, and what she saw and heard in the various belligerent countries which she visited, has forever destroyed the old child-like faith in the ability of nations to exemplify the Christ-life as it is construed by David Starr Jordan, Charles M. Sheldon, William Jennings Bryan, and others who hold as naught the terrible forces of human nature—the cosmic power more relentless than the forces of nature which manifest themselves in cataclysmic destruction.

Like a great many idealists, Miss Addams had built up a beautiful world around her—with service to the unfortunate as her part in the great joy of living. That the rosy tints which she saw were illusions, seen only by herself or others in her state of mind, did not occur to her. Miss Addams imagined that all the warring nations needed was to be told what they must do to be happy and at peace; they would then proceed to bind again the mighty arms of Mars, she thought.

The women at The Hague talked peace. The Teutonic delegates, however, wanted peace on a quite different basis from that which the delegates from the countries of the allies desired. Both wanted peace on approximately the same terms as their kinsmen in the trenches, and they were willing to pull hair to get it. "Europe has gone mad," Miss Addams exclaimed in her dismay at the appalling spectacle. For the first time she stood in the presence of a cosmic force, the existence of which she would have denied in the peaceful halls of Hull House. The knowledge which she gained through the destruction of her fancies has made Miss Addams a stronger force for good than she could have been while blinded by her former sophistical philosophy. She bears a real message to America, and she can do her people much good by bringing light on a world-old problem that is Stygian in its hopeless darkness.

THE SUBMARINE

The submarine is now hailed as the ruler of the waves. The death knell of the super-dreadnaught is being sung. No doubt but what the submarine will cause a readjustment of the relations of the various fighting units of battle fleets, but that it has caused the havoc ascribed to it is not borne out by the facts.

Germany has made the utmost use of the submarine, yet the unarmed merchant fleets of the allies sail on every sea, carrying the normal commerce of the nations at war. Even the fishing fleets of the North sea still gather in their harvests. It is true that proud battleships, as well as humbler trawlers, have met destruction at the hands of the newest of the hidden perils; but the command of the sea still rests and will continue to rest with the super-dreadnaught. If it were otherwise the merchant fleets of Germany would still be abroad instead of at the bottom of the sea or rotting in harbors. The battle fleet of Germany, too, would not be lying in the Kiel canal if it could venture out under the convoy of submarines.

However, there is no denying the efficiency of the submarine method of warfare as an adjunct to the older and better known methods. The United States first developed the submarine and it may be that he Yankee inventive genius will make it a far more effective weapon than at present.

The chair of "piffle" in a mid-western university has been offered to William J. Bryan, according to recent rumors.

The Graphic's idea of an unprofitable business is catching and feeding Mexican revolutionists.

BRIEF AND BREEZY

The Palm Beach suit is monarch of all who survey it.

Maybe what Mexico needs is a change of climate.

It is possible for a man to be a failure without having failed.

There is always a mystery about how the people across the way live.

Standing behind the president looks like an all-summer's job but that is the place to stand.

As Mr. Bryan continues to talk that "ex" to his secretaryship it appears more and more becoming.

Perhaps the Yaques are merely fixing up another job for Gen. Hugh Scott.

Evidently a few water tight compartments would not be amiss in a canoe.

Torture is the regular way to get a confession of guilt out of an innocent man.

Now that real summer is here, the summer girl is entitled to be taught to swim all over again.

These modern battles about Waterloo may be bigger than the original, but they are far less important.

In the last analysis, the price of peace is likely to be reckoned in dollars and cents and not in pounds, marks, rubles or francs.

Our new secretary of state will kindly abstain from contracting that Chautauqua habit.

If one man's credit isn't good he can easily cut down his expenses.

President Wilson must find John Lind and Col. House very restful after a cabinet meeting.

One fancies that if one were in that deadlock on the Western front, one would dig a few artesian wells, mobilize the fire department and flood the enemy out of its trenches. But perhaps that is too humane for a war of "rightfulness."

When a man starts on the downward path he seldom buys a return ticket.

The easier a man takes things the easier it is for him to let them slide.

Sometimes a man's silence speaks volumes for his ignorance.

The dry books are usually the ones that satisfy the thirst for knowledge.

A new Independence comes to us this year—Independence of the wars, and hatreds that the lands of the unfree do not possess.

From the way he got into the foreground of the picture, one would imagine that Champ Clark was a June bride.

Why do so many curiously assorted couples choose the inconvenient hour of 2 a. m. in which to have their automobile wrecked?

The decision of the circuit court of New Jersey, to the effect that the steel company is not an unlawful combination has been a fine tonic for the business of the country which has been climbing faster and faster ever since. The decision means that the "war on business" because it is large has ended, and all large concerns are now feeling easy and spending money and employing labor accordingly. This is a billion dollar country and it requires billion dollar industries to carry on its work and supply its needs.

Industrial activity and old general prosperity throughout the United States are greater today than they have been for ten years, and the tide is still rising.

Somebody ought to start a school to teach vacation travelers something witty to say on the picture postcards they send to people back home.

Emperor William's claim to the British throne would recall the best traditions of William the Conqueror's time, if the later William can put it over.

There is reason for regret that the world is not more amenable to Calculus and Logarithms and such other things as the new graduate has prepared himself with.

There will be a pretty boom in the automobile business when the manufacturers invent a collapsible kind that can be accommodated in the special limitations of a six-room flat.

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