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### BRITISH OFFICER BITTER AT NATION

#### Says Germans Are Winning on Points While England Talks.

### A PLEA FOR CONSCRIPTION.

English Smugness and Arrogance Decried by Man on the Firing Line. Asserts Nation Must Forget Traditions, Awake and Organize to Win the War.

A remarkable letter has come to the Daily Chronicle from the front, presumably written by an officer in a Lancashire regiment. It follows:

"I cannot help but start with abuse, although you are only one of those 'in touch with the vast anti-conscriptionist mass of British opinion,' as your leader writer puts it. Damn British opinion, sir! Damn the vain, self-complacent English smugness and English arrogance! To your 'vast mass' the idea of defeat is quite inconceivable, for are they not the boys of the bulldog breed, the descendants of countless heroes, free men in a free country, who just won't be slaves, the liberators of Belgium? And so on ad nauseam!

"So colossal is British arrogance that our brains and imagination are swamped. We still seem to think that the Germans have made war to gratify us, so that we may show them what fine fellows we really are.

"Probably you, too, have never entertained the idea that we are losing this war. Yet the bald truth remains that the Germans are winning on points, and we go on talking, talking about the 'big push' to be delivered next spring, according to the Times' military correspondent. (Please observe that we have given up the idea this year. We are still wearing down the 'baby killing Hun'.)

Advantage With Defense. "If you could see trenches hammered to hell by hundreds of guns, hours of smoke, dust, blood and noise, and then go across to take these same battered lines, only to be met by a hail of bullets, to return, leaving your friends and men lying dead outside, it might make you realize what an enormous advantage lies with the defense.

"The French have battered for five weeks—I have heard it day and night—net gain, two miles!

"The bubble of breaking through has burst, but we are too deaf to hear the 'pop'.

"You answer with the German advance in Russia and then go on to the financial problem. Of course Germany cannot last; of course she will be starved in a few months; of course she has no cotton, no copper, but she has got brains and method and uses both.

"And we muddle along in our well worn grooves, our party politics, our newspaper dictatorship, our racing, our brides in their baths.

"I have been ten months in France fighting for that—the thought almost makes me vomit.

"Don't talk about the 'glorious traditions of our race.' Only fools fight for traditions; the wise man fights for realities and the future.

"This long winded preamble leads me on to your crowning folly—your fear and hatred of conscription.

"I shall be quite frank. Had conscription passed twelve months since I should have left England. Now, if they don't have it, I shall leave the country. Rats have the foresight to leave certain ships.

Calls Englishmen Fools. "Circumstances alter cases, but I fear that they will never give the Englishman sufficient insight to see what a fool he really can be.

"And you, in touch with your vast mass, won't have national service in the nation's cause because 'all that is characteristically English dies if English freedom perishes.'

"Those worn out myths! None of us is free, and you know it. Smith was not free to drown his brides. We are all slaves of the community, and some think, of the country in which we live. "Will you leave your dear old principles for a moment and look at things from another point of view?

"In a great national crisis it must be taken for granted (I assume that the nation is virile) that every man and woman is willing to serve the country. In other words, every man and woman is a volunteer.

"If you deny this hypothesis you damn the country and 'your vast mass of British opinion.'

"Probably your 'principles' will not be shocked by this statement. Well, then, every man and woman is willing to serve. To take full advantage of this willingness it must be organized—in a word, conscription. That awful bogie word which gives some little Liberals and some little Conservatives and some little Socialists bad dreams.

"I know that I am not writing to a child, but conscription does not mean that every one is a soldier. It means that George, who is an engineer, engineers for the state; Tom, who is a skilled workman, works for the state, and Harry and Bill, who are fit to fight, fight and perhaps die for the state. The state calls her children and allots to them their tasks. What monstrous, wicked, bloody oppression!

"And you must go on unblushingly with your old volunteering muddle. George, the engineer, may join the R. A. M. C.; Tom, the skilled workman, may fight, and the Harrys and Bills may become politicians and newspaper editors, for all the country seems to care.

"Of course, one volunteer is equal to four pressed men. Our copy books say so. Therefore it must be true. "Anyhow," said an English soldier, 'I hope I never meet a German volunteer.'

"When you think of the Germans, their wonderful self sacrifices, their wonderful courage and fortitude and unanimity, doesn't it make you blush for your own country? Throw away your principles, man, throw away the lumber of the past and look things in the face.

"Don't blather about God upholding the cause of the just and the bull-pluck pulling us through. I am tired of pulp and muscle hall sentiments. Realize that the Germans are a better and a more virile race than we are and try to teach your vast mass of British opinion to surpass them at their own game.

"I am an Englishman, and the chances are that I shall never see another year, yet our national sentimentality, our conceit, our petty squabbling, our policies, our lack of method have made of me one of the most ardent pro-Germans in Europe.

"I cannot say why I have treated you to this round of abuse. You are no worse than others, if anything a trifle better than that loutish Northcliffe crowd, with their party political jobbery.

Bound by Traditions.

"But you, sir, are blinded by principles, which is nearly as bad—bound hand and foot by past traditions and the utterances of statesmen now happily dead, but unfortunately not forgotten. Cannot the Daily Chronicle think for itself, or must it still be bound by the opinions of, say, Gladstone? Really, even such a demigod as he can get out of date.

"Could you but realize how nauseating it is to read any London daily—the mouthpieces of the nation! (In black letters, please—with their quibbles, their meanness and their follies! You are better. That is why I take the trouble to write you this; but, good God, you're bad enough!

"I am abusive, but when moved superficial politeness is jettisoned, and candidly, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to drive these things into your head with a mallet; the distance, however, is too great. Even the Germans and their deadly earnestness cannot convince you.

"This letter is not intended for any publicity, though it would be amusing to see some of your public reading it, nor is it intended to draw forth any reply. The labor of writing it would not be grudged if I knew that you had read it and thought for five minutes on what I have said.

"We have such a colossal task before us that poor mortals like me are apt to grow discouraged at home still so unmoved about their godlike business. It is they who need help, not we.

"In conclusion I shall quote Mr. Walter Long (Morning Post, July 10): 'It would not have met the situation to have simply pressed more men into the service unless we could have put in their hands the rifles and ammunition without which they would be useless to take part in the war.'

"There you have the fallacy in a nutshell. Surely Long must know that national service does not create every man into the ranks when we cannot equip them our voluntary system did that from August to December. If there is national service they are called up when required. You know that and he knows it, yet your damnable politics befouls your mouths.

"The Liberals are bound by principles; the Socialists by the word 'freedom'; the Conservatives have no principles and no traditions since 1906. If there were an ounce of ability in their broken camp they might break fresh ground, but the soil is barren.

"I am asking my friend to transmit this letter to you, as it would be lost in the ordinary channels. My thoughts and their mode of expression may be crude, sir, but they have the virtue of being honest and outspoken. I am, sir, yours very truly.

"LANCASHIRE."

Dog Saves Girl From Snake. Don, a collie dog, jumped between a six-year-old girl at Caldwell, N. J., and a coiled snake in time to receive the snake's fangs and save the girl, but died after killing the snake.

Munitions From an Old Bell. The Great Growler, a forty-four ton bell cast in 1711 from captured Turkish cannon, has been taken from the tower of St. Stefan cathedral, in Vienna, to be made into war material.

### STEEL TRAIN CARRIED RECORD CARGO OF GOLD

#### Forty Armed Men Guarded Fifty Millions.

New York.—A special train carrying \$50,000,000 in treasure, one-third in gold and two-thirds in securities, which had been shipped by the Bank of England from London via Halifax to this city, arrived at the terminal of the American Express company at Thirty-third street and Tenth avenue in seven steel cars garrisoned by forty armed men.

The treasure crossed the Atlantic in a battle cruiser accompanied by a flotilla of torpedo boat destroyers.

The gold, which is worth about \$30,000,000, weighs approximately seventy-five tons. The cost of shipping it to this country, in the upkeep of the naval forces, in the elaborate guard maintained on its railway journey and in loss of interest is said to amount to about \$170,000.

When the armed train left Halifax it was preceded by a pilot engine for the purpose of testing bridges and trestles and to frustrate any attempt to wreck the treasure cars by dynamite. This precaution was suggested by the exploit of Werner Horn, the German reservist, who attempted to blow up the St. Croix River International bridge on Feb. 2 to stop shipments of munitions for the allies from this country to Canada over the Canadian Pacific railroad.

News of the arrival of the greatest cargo of treasure ever carried by a single ship did not get out of Halifax because of the rigor of the British censorship. It was learned, however, that before the treasure had been landed one day's delay ensued, for the reason that Admiral Beatty had orders to deliver the shipment directly to the American Express company, which had no offices of its own in Halifax and was represented there by the Dominion Express company. Admiral Beatty cabled back for instructions and was ordered to make the delivery to the Dominion Express company.

In this case one day's delay means a cost of thousands of dollars. The interest on the valuable shipment at 5 per cent would be \$2,750 a day, which was lost. The cost of keeping the fleet on the strand for an extra day and the expense of maintaining the express company's train and guard was also a heavy one.

Make It Six and Get Interest. "Jones has owed me \$5 borrowed money for a year. I hate to ask him for it."

"Try my plan. Pretend to have forgotten it and borrow \$5 of him."—Boston Transcript.

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"The Millionaire Baby," the story which spread the fame of Anna Katherine Green throughout the country, has been made into a six reel Red Seal Play by the Selig Polyscope Company and includes in its cast such stars as Harry Mestayer, Grace Darmond and John Charles. The story is well known and when it appeared in one of the large magazines and in book form was very popular. If anything, the picture version of this great author's work appears to be even stronger than it was in fiction form and those who visit the Rex Theatre, where it will be shown on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 2, 3 and 4, are due to receive a rare treat.

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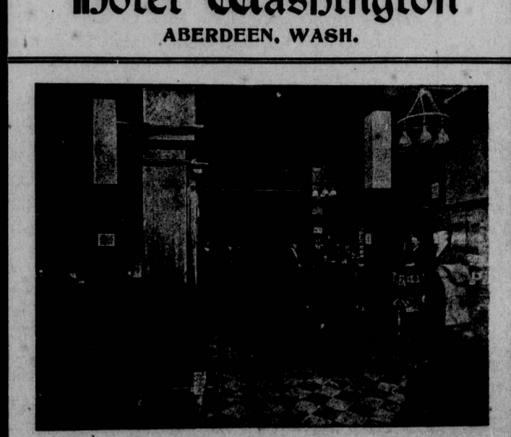
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