

The Lusitania Incident.

Why Not threaten England as well as Germany?--Was it all Right to Accept Passengers on Floating Arsenal that Germans would Likely Destroy?

The jingoes have sure had a hot time of it during the past two weeks. Just what all the noise is about it is hard to tell. But I have a suspicion that the purpose is to drown the damning facts that are being brought to light by the Industrial Relations Commission.

One of these facts is that Rockefeller rules the civil and military government of Colorado and that, thru his press agent, he dictated letters sent out by Gov. Ammons to the president and the governors of states for the purpose of "clarifying the situation" concerning the Ludlow horror.

We have had commissions and commissions and commissions. Millions of dollars of our money have been wasted in this way. Every time the people become aroused over the arrogance and lawlessness of the master class, a commission is appointed to investigate. The commission starts with a white-wash brush in each hand and drags, drags along until the people tire and forget it.

But the Walsh commission is different. It is accomplishing what it was authorized and paid to do. It has thrown more light on industrial conditions in the United States than all else combined. And it isn't light that the master class wants. Recently press reports hinted that president Wilson wanted the commission to disband. And it may be that the sinking of the Lusitania was seized upon to kick up a dust to another it.

It may be that I am all wrong. I don't know much about the war game—and I don't want to know. Neither do I know anything about diplomacy—except that it is a secret process by which the innocent by-stander is hit. Yet it seems to me that the administration at Washington is making as big a blunder over the Lusitania incident as it did over the Heurta refusing to salute the flag.

There are usually two sides to any question. The administration seems to have discovered but one side of the Lusitania affair. The Lusitania was a merchant ship flying the British flag. On board she had large quantities of ammunition and war supplies to be used in destroying German life. The Germans knew this and their ambassador in this country published notices in all the leading newspapers in the east warning the people of the danger, and if they took passage on the ship they did so at their own risk.

It is argued that to torpedo a hostile merchant ship without first providing for the safety of the passengers and crew is contrary to the established rules of warfare. That is true. But all rules of warfare are being smashed in this slaughter. Former wars were only child's play as compared with this one. The submarines are all new, and no provision has been made as to their regulation. In war as in peace, capital don't bother much about "regulation."

What business had these Americans sailing around in the forbidden war zone at this time? Press reports tell us that there were 115 of them and all but 17 were first class passengers. This means that they were of the wealthy and were out for a "war thrill" for the want of something more useful to do.

But is England to share no part of the blame? Why did she accept these passengers, knowing that she had on board a cargo of war material and that German spies were all about to report this? Why have not the jingoes insisted that President Wilson direct a note to England forbidding the carrying of war supplies on passenger steamers that claim protection under the rules of war?

As I see it, if the administrations contention is correct, then all England will have to do is to come over here, load a merchant ship with war material, hire a few Americans to sail as passengers and go her way under the protection of Uncle Sam. And if Germany interfered with this arrangement, we'd fight. In the last issue of the Appeal Allen L. Benson writes:

"At first we heard but the distant thunder. The lightning that flashed over Flanders seemed far away—so far away. The air in America was still—so still. It did not seem as if the storm could come our way.

The storm is coming our way. The wind is approaching hurricane speed and hour by hour the sky is growing darker. Only the gods know what is in store for the United States of America.

The importance of everything is relative. When the house is not afire, it may be wise to reflect that stone does not burn so easily as wood. When the house is afire, such reflections are futile. The thing to do is to turn in an alarm.

I who write and think of little

else but Socialism and its related subjects write today of the great danger of war that confronts the United States.

In my feeble way, I have often criticized Mr. Wilson, believing that the public good required such criticism. If possible I would rather praise than criticize any man. It is now more than possible—it seems to me that it is the duty of every American—to give grateful recognition to the president's continued efforts to keep us out of war while preserving for us some shreds of national self-respect. No president ever bore so great a burden—not even Lincoln. Mr. Wilson is bearing it like a man. Language stops at that.

We are at the edge of a great war whirlpool that has already engulfed most of Europe, part of Asia, and may yet conceivably engulf the world. We have never yet engaged in a war of purely European origin. We have stood 3,000 miles aloof from such quarrels, and our safety has been due to the fact that we have stood aloof. If we cannot, without forfeiting our self-respect (and perhaps the respect of others) keep out of this war, we shall share in the hatreds it is engendering—and never before were there such hatreds engendered. Once we become embroiled in the affairs of Europe, we shall be as subject as any European nation to the wars of Europe. The Atlantic once protected us, but it protects us no longer. Warships and troopships can cross the Atlantic in an amazingly short time.

Germany and Austria are the only nations in the world that seek to justify the sinking of the Lusitania. From every other land—north, east, south and west—comes only severest censure. The great judge of the human race (Germany and Austria excepted) unite in declaring the government of Germany guilty of wholesale murder in the first degree. A Danish newspaper, the Hovedstaden of Copenhagen, phrased it well when it said: "The torpedo that hit the Lusitania also hit us and wounded the human feeling of the whole world."

I am in love with life. I regard war as but a great synonym for horrible death. But I do not regard the great judge of the human race as a prize to be bought at any price. Slavery is a greater calamity than war. Life is not worth while when one cannot go his peaceful way in peace. Merely to breathe is not to live. To live means to be let alone—means, first, to be let alone—to be secure from attack, so long as one attacks no other. The hulk of the Lusitania contains the body of many an American woman who was going her way in peace. The conditions that brought about the death of these non-combatants is intolerable. The world may be shocked. But what are we to do? Are we to declare war on Germany? Is not the outraged opinion of the world sufficient reason for us to believe that Germany deserves punishment at our hands?

Before we answer these questions, let us discover, if we can, why the world is so shocked at the destruction of the Lusitania. The wholesale killing of men, women and children is no new thing. On the contrary, it is a very old thing. We are shocked, it would seem, because, in the case of the Lusitania, they were killed in a new way—in the submarine way. If they had been killed in accordance with the principles of international law, they would be no more nearly dead than they are now, but we should not be so shocked. We should feel that, according to the rules governing the place and time of their departure.

Now, whether we would have it so, the submarine is here and, incidentally, an American, John P. Holland, invented it. Such international law as we have was not intended for submarines and cannot be observed by them. No submarine, without threatening its own existence, can give more than momentary notice of attack, nor can any submarine take aboard the passengers or the crew of a ship. The frigates and the battle ships for which international law was framed could and did fulfill these requirements but the submarine cannot and does not.

If the seas were open to German battle ships and they were to encounter English merchantmen, it would be taken for granted that the Germans would obey the international law that was made for battleships and cruisers by taking aboard the passengers and crews of doomed ships. But the seas are not open to German battleships. Germany has a great navy that she cannot use. Germany's only power on the sea is in her submarines. She must use them or nothing.

Germany is using her subma-

lines in the only way they can be used. Submarine warfare is, perhaps the most merciless warfare that ever was waged. It spares neither women, children, the sick or the aged. It shocks the world which is accustomed to seeing men, women and children slaughtered only in certain accepted ways, and brutalizes beyond measure, those who engage in it, because we forget that Germany has already been brutalized is indicated by the fact that the German press applauded the destruction of the Lusitania and German school children celebrated it. All of these things we see because we forget that Germany is at war with a new weapon, fighting for her life. But if the United States were fighting for her life and the submarines were the only implement she could use at sea, can we be certain that the submarine would not brutalize the United States?

I am not trying to justify the crime of Germany. I am trying to show how Germany was driven by events to the commission of crime. Modern implements of warfare tremendously increase the opportunity for brutality. History records no instance of a nation going down because it preferred death to a breach of international law. Nations fight for their lives will stop short of no act of brutality that seems likely to preserve their lives. Nothing is more nearly certain than that, so long as war is tolerated, inventive genius will make it more and more brutal. If war persists, the time will come when the sinking of Lusitania will be recognized by international law. The world always recognizes what it cannot prevent.

The Lusitania, so far as the public knew, was a passenger ship the fastest in the world except her sister ship, the Mauretania, and the largest ship afloat at the time of her destruction. Yet, the Lusitania set out upon her last voyage heavily laden with munitions of war. She carried 1,200 cases of cartridges, several thousand empty bayonet shells and more than \$200,000 worth of copper with which it was intended to make more shells to say nothing of other war materials. All of these materials were intended solely for the purpose of killing Germans, and, even under international law, Germany had a right to capture or sink the ship, provided only that safety were insured for the passengers and crew.

I live in New York, saw the Lusitania the morning that she first came into port, have been over her from top to bottom, and have generally kept fairly well informed about the ship—yet I never dreamed, until she was at the bottom of the sea, that this great passenger ship was being used to carry ammunition to Europe. The public generally had no such knowledge.

What shall we say of the criminal quality of a government that permits its munitions of war to be imported on its greatest passenger ship when it knows that the ship must pass through a zone swarming with submarines? The German government well knew what was on the Lusitania. The German Government knew that the shot and shells were intended to bring about the death of German soldiers. Great Britain has battleships at large to prevent such importations into Germany. Germany had nothing but submarines to prevent such importations into England—and Germany, fighting for her life, used her submarines on the Lusitania.

What shall we say of Great Britain's act in secretly loading a passenger ship with war materials that made it perfectly subject to German submarine attack? Why, we should say as we say of Germany's destruction of the Lusitania, that a nation fighting for its life will commit any crime that it regards as necessary to the preservation of its life.

If the Americans that went down with the Lusitania had known they were going aboard on a floating arsenal, I should say we should do nothing. If the mere presence of neutral passengers—or of non-combatant passengers of a belligerent nation—were sufficient to protect both the ship and the ammunition, it would scarcely be worth while to lay down any rules about contraband. But, owing to the great criminality of Great Britain, the American passengers did not know they were sailing on an ammunition ship. If they were murdered by Germany (as I believe they were) they were no less certainly betrayed into death by Great Britain.

It is a bad mess. Responsibility for the loss of life aboard the Lusitania is plainly divided. Some parts of our duty, however, are fairly clear. We should not go to war with Germany over the Lusitania, though we should

tell her exceedingly frankly that destruction of American life in violation of law must cease. But we should also tell Great Britain that American ports shall no longer be used by passenger ships that carry munitions of war. Germany has a right to try to prevent the importation of guns and ammunition into the territory of her enemies, and it is an outrage that passengers and ammunition should be carried on the same ships. The government that orders the torpedoing of a passenger ship is only a little more criminal than the government that puts passengers and ammunition on the same ship. As between doing two thousand passengers to death and duping them to death, there is, perhaps, a difference, but it is not great.

Waterbury, Conn., May 24.—Capt. Richard P. Hobson issued the following statement: "I have information that indicates an English conspiracy to bring about the Lusitania tragedy and to make it as appalling as possible, especially to the American people, for the purpose of bringing Americans into the war on the side of England.

"In the present crisis, we can do no more than make a thorough investigation and place the responsibility, boiled down, our difference with Germany, revolves around the principle of international law to submarine warfare. The principle is that the right of warning and immunity of lives is enjoyed by merchant vessels in return for and because of their unarmed nature, and their non-resistance to search, seizure or even destruction.

"In submarine warfare, the fragile construction and floating buoyancy of the submarine makes such vessel vulnerable to the ram attack of merchant vessels so that an order to those latter to resist and ram submarines makes them in submarine warfare, in reality, war vessels armed with the ram, and cancels their right to warning and immunity of lives for the double reason that they are really armed and they offer resistance.

"I believe these and believe yet, that Mr. Warner was put on the sewer job to prevent me from connecting with it, and that it was a sort of gentlemen's agreement," as I fail to find any record of it. Yet a claim of \$372.70 was put in for it. Looks like he might have made it even money. Why the nine cents? It will be remembered that in the fall of 1912 two Republican judges of the county court were elected and Mr. Murray was succeeded by Mr. Warner, January 1, 1913. So I looked up Mr. Warner's final settlement with the old court. On December 30, 1912 I find this record: "John E. Warner, county surveyor and ex-officio highway engineer, allowed the sum of \$1,662.17 out of county revenue fund for services as such county surveyor, etc., from May 1, 1912 to Dec. 29, 1912."

After this order was made Mr. Warner had but one more day to serve. The same court that appointed him in May, 1912, to look after court house construction was then in session, and all but the presiding judge would go out of office after the next day. Why was no bill then presented? I feel sure that there are a great many people in the county who would like to understand this transaction, and if any of the parties connected with it can throw any light upon it, space in the Kicker is free. Otherwise there might be some mean enough to suspect that the taxpayers of the county paid for Mr. Warner's automobile or its equivalent, without getting anything in return.

The Portuguese do business in a hurry. Friday a revolution broke out there and by Saturday evening a new government was formed. Only a few hundred lives were lost. The new government is radical. Portugal is a republic, but it was only so in name, sorter like this country or Mexico Italy and Spain are both seething with unrest, and unless they get into the war game pretty soon, internal trouble is expected. Things are happening these days. Since the above was put in type, Italy has joined the war game on the side of the allies. This puts a few million more men and boys subject to the slaughter pen, and their mothers, wives and sisters subject to outrage and rape. Let us pray some more—provided it doesn't interfere with profits.

HOW THE PEOPLE RULE. Pikeville, Ky., May 22.—It was announced in the circuit court today that conviction of 100 men and two women, who were charged with vote-selling and buying some time ago, will be set free.

It was also announced that the remaining indictments, numbering close to 1000 against citizens in this county, in which the same charge is made, will not be taken up by the court.

This announcement follows a recent ruling of the court of appeals that two witnesses to a specific act were necessary to convict a person for alleged election bribery. About 1100 indictments were originally found against 800 men. Claim as superintendent of con-

struction of the new court house, \$588.25.

"Now comes John E. Warner, the claimant in the above entitled matter and, as a compromise and to avoid litigation, agrees to accept the sum of \$755 in full payment of the claims heretofore presented."

This record was signed by T. F. Frazer, presiding judge. The associate judges were W. C. Bowman and Matt Thomas. James McPheeters, clerk, and John McWilliams, attorney for the people.

Very naturally, when a fellow comes along and insists on having \$961.04 of your coin, you want to know some of the whys and wherefores. Searching thru the record I found this entry made on May 9, 1912:

"Ordered by the court that the record of April 6, 1911, relative to the appointment of H. H. Hohenschild, architect, be amended as follows: That in lieu of a supervisor be appointed to inspect the construction work on the new court house, the expense of which was to be equally borne between the court and the architect, the following arrangement is entered into: The architect agrees to make two or more monthly trips of inspection to the building and, in the interim, John E. Warner, county surveyor, is appointed to inspect the work WITH NO ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION other than that allowed as compensation for his present services as county surveyor."

This record was also signed by T. F. Frazer, presiding judge, and J. V. Bandy and Joe Meyers were the associate judges.

This record of his appointment seems to make it very clear that he was to receive no additional pay beyond the \$1,500 a year he was drawing as highway engineer. Yet a claim of \$588.25 is made two years after he retires from office.

Next I searched the records to find where, when and why, and at what cost he had been appointed sewer commissioner. The sewer was built in January and February, 1913—after Mr. Warner went out of office. No record of such appointment could I find. I called to my assistance County Clerk Pearman and he went over the index, but we could find nothing of that sort.

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IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

We are told by some well-meaning people that liquor is responsible for 90 per cent of the crime. But these people can't see very far. It would be nearer the fact to say that property is the cause of the burglaries, robberies, thefts and swindles have as their basis the desire to possess property. Let me cite three murders over a little property. Wm. Wilson was a wanderer, and Tom Logan, a railroad detective, undertook to arrest him at Mounds, Ill., on a charge of having broken into a box car. As I remember it, Wilson was at his camp when Logan approached abruptly and was shot. Wilson claimed that he did not know that Logan was an officer, but he was tried and sentenced to hang. He escaped from the Cairo jail and, last week, in an attempt to re-arrest him, both the sheriff of Butler county and Wilson were killed. And all being the result of Wilson taking a little property from the railroad.

Jackson Items.—The prospects for a good wheat crop have taken on a sudden and hopeful slump in the past two weeks, until today hardly more than half a crop is expected. Up to that time the prospects were good, the fields generally have a good color, but the recent change is marked. The cause of the trouble is twofold; insects and the weather in the early spring. It has developed that the Hessian fly damaged many fields while in other fields the straw-worm is causing the grain to fall. On Tuesday Mr. Barber, the U. S. entomologist in charge of the station at Cambridge, in company with Farm Adviser McWilliams and J. P. Mabrey made a tour of the country north and west of Jackson, and in that distance found not a single normal field.

Matt Grissom of Piggott, Ark., had set a trap for a rat in an unoccupied room, and hearing a noise during the night, which he supposed was made by a rat trying to extricate itself from the trap, started into the room carrying a lighted lamp. Instead of a rat, however, it was a dog which was caught in the trap and, in its effort to free itself, it had overturned a can of gasoline and when Grissom opened the door the gas took fire from the lamp and the flames enveloped him and he was burned with the dwelling. His wife, the only person in the house besides Mr. Grissom had a very narrow escape.

Joe Morris, of Mississippi county, was in Benton Monday. He is a farmer and lives near Walter, Shively, whose house was recently dynamited by night riders. Asked if it was true, as reported in the press, that detectives had been previously put on the job, he said he had heard nothing of it and did not believe they were. He says there are now four men in Charleston jail accused of the crime and that the evidence against them was very strong. The motive for dynamiting the house was because Shively employed negroes.

Greenville Journal.—Billy, the six-year-old boy of William Huggins, of Kime, was almost instantly killed Tuesday afternoon by being run over by a big iron roller used by Mr. Huggins in rolling his plowed field. Mr. Huggins had stopped his team in the field and had gone to the fence to talk to a passerby. While he was gone, Billy attempted to climb into the roller seat, but fell in front of the roller, scaring the horses which dragged the heavy roller over him.

In Ozark county Henry Wescher, a ten year old boy, was sent to the pasture by his father to get a mule. He tied the halter rope around his waist and while leading the mule the wind blew the boy's hat off, frightening the mule which started to run, dragging the boy on the ground. Running across the field, the frightened animal jumped a high wire fence, jerking or breaking the halter rein from around the boy and leaving him lying lifeless.

The jingoes fellow in Southeast Missouri seems to be the editor of the Charleston Enterprise. He sure wants to fight right now. I move that he be sent to "the front" at once. Also, all of the rest of the jingoes. But I fear it would turn out about like the Sikeston militia when some joker sent a fake command for them to go to Mexico. They took to the tall timber.

Campbell Citizen.—A 50 cent piece of silver and two copper pennies nearly as large as the half dollar, were found in a field near Clarkton a few days ago. The silver piece was coined in 1821 and had milled on the edge "50 cents." It is said that this particular spot of ground had been used as a burial ground until nearly one hundred years ago.

East Prairie Eagle.—Last week the Eagle told of Fred Scott killing 513 rats. This week he says he killed 47 at the same corn crib. Stick to the unmuzzled Kicker.

A Cape paper tells a long story about a young girl who is working at Chaffee stealing a hat. The girls name is given, together with the names of her parents. It was a great story and no detail was omitted. Had the same thing, or worse, happened to a girl of the "better class," the whole thing would have been smeared over, or entirely suppressed. Last October an official of this county was arrested in a hotel at Cape. None of the papers mentioned it. All of them were "seen." The Kicker does not deal in police court filth, but the capitalist papers regard this as "news" and should not be so one-sided. When the poor are arrested, we are told that it is done to "protect society." When an officer who doesn't understand his business happens to land one of the "better class," we are told, if we are told anything, that it is an "unfortunate affair." It all depends on who you are.

More than 50 years ago Jo Grass of Perry county had a daughter who was engaged to Henry Volkner. Grass did not look with favor upon the union and told his daughter that if she persisted in her devotion to Volkner he would cut her out of inheritance in his estate. The girl remained true to her lover and they were married, and about seven months later her father died. His will provided that she was to have but \$120 of the estate, and when the settlement was made she was paid the amount by the administrator in gold. The shining coins were laid away and never disturbed, and only came to light when the inventory of Mr. Henry Volkner's estate was made over fifty years later and is now held by one of the children for the mother, who prefers that it be in his hands than in her keeping.

The general store of Peter Dirabarger, at Bisco, was destroyed by fire Friday night. The loss is reported at \$5,000 with \$1,500 insurance. It is not known how the fire originated. Mr. Dirabarger is a native of Scott county and has been in business at Bisco for some time. He had only recently stocked up for the spring trade.

Poplar Bluff Citizen.—Mrs. Nora Gibson and her baby boy George, were killed east of Hartwell Sunday evening in a terrible storm, during which a heavy limb broke loose from a tree and fell on the pair. The mother and son were riding in a buggy with their husband and father, who escaped uninjured.

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THE CAPE OPTICIAN
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NEW HAMBURG, MO.
June 23, July 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 24.
At Dr. Schindler's.
KELSO, MO.
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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.
Notice is hereby given that Letters of administration upon the estate of Andrew McMullen deceased, have been granted to the undersigned by the Judge of the Probate Court of Scott County, Missouri, in vacation, bearing date the 10th day of April, 1915.
All persons having claims against said estate are required to exhibit them to me for allowance within six months from date of said letters, or they may be precluded from any benefit of such estate, and if said claims be not exhibited within one year from the date of the publication of this notice they will be forever barred.
AMOS C. McMULLEN,
ED. A. McMULLEN,
5-22-17 Administrators.
Read the unmuzzled Kicker.