New York Tribune.

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More German-American Sophistries About Belgium's Neutrality.

An imitation is always more extreme in its characteristics than the original. So we are not surprised to find many of our German-Americans (Bernhardi with his brutal candor always calls them American Germans) going to greater lengths in argumentation than do the real Germans back in the Fatherland.

We quoted recently Mr. Herman Ridder's remarks on the foolishness of living up to treaties as evidence that some of our German-Americans are eager to out-Bernhardi Bernhardi when it comes to making waste paper out of international compacts. Herr Ridder almost praised Italy for construing the treaty underlying the Triple Alliance so as to escape any obligation to fight in this war on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary. He even showed a disposition to excuse Italy in case the latter should decide that it was to her advantage to forget all about the Triple Alliance stipulations and to declare war on her former associates.

Bernhardi in his famous book expressed the fear that Italy would avoid the obligation of giving military aid to Germany in the next European war. But neither he nor any other German back in Germany has ever admitted that Italy would be justified in fighting for selfish reasons on the side of Germany's enemies. However scornful they may have been of the inconveniences of treaty arrangements where Belgium was concerned, they have never risen to that height of consistency and philosophy from which they could applaud Italy for treating the Triple Alliance compact as a "scrap of paper." "Morally emancipated sister, go in peace," said Mr. Ridder. But according to reports from Europe, the Kaiser, voicing the natural though illogical feeling of his subjects, telegraphed to the King of Italy: "Win or lose, Germany will never forgive your perfidy."

Now we have in Mr. Ridder's newspaper a second example of the extremes of reasoning to which our German-American friends are capable of going. The Hon. Peter S. Grosscup, of Chicago, has contributed to the "Staats-Zeitung" an article intended to prove, not that Germany broke the Treaty of London and the law of nations in violating Belgium's neutrality, yet did it solely because of alleged military necessities, but that no treaty was broken and that no moral wrong was committed at all. Here are two extracts from Judge Grosscup's article which must fill even the most daring home apologists for the invasion of Belgium with envy and amazement:

> Now with all these facts in mind what was, not the technical but the moral obligation of Germany to Belgium? By going across Belgium she was not forcing war on Belgium; for although Belgium was under no duty to Germany to grant her transit, she was under no duty to England or France to resist it by force. . . . Indeed, Belgium's right not to be molested, even by troops in transit, was not that of "guaranteed neutrality" at all, resting on treaty, but of territorial inviolability, resting on the fact that she was an independent nation—the same right that I have to exclude you from my house, not because you have agreed with some one else to let me alone, but because the law gives me the right, on my own account, to be let alone.
>
> Some abstract rights have to yield, on occasion, to greater concrete needs. Whether Germany was morally right in attacking France is one question; her military necessities, in case she was morally right in the attack, is another and a different question. And that public opinion lacks all sense of proportion which holds that however morally right the attack on France may have been, and whatever the necessity of going across Belgium, there is a moral wrong in trespassing on Belgium's abstract right of territorial inviolability, compensation being guaranteed.

When the great powers of Europe—of which Prussia was one—established Belgium as an independent state and guaranteed her neutrality they necessarily put Belgium under obligation to all of them to do her utmost to maintain that neutrality. That was an essential part of the bargain, and Belgium's honor was pledged to repel, as far as possible, any attempt to violate her territory. Moreover, as a signatory of the Hague treaty of October 18, 1908, regarding the rights and duties of neutrals, Belgium was bound to reject Germany's demand for the free passage of German troops across her soil. That treaty contained these provisions:

> Article II—Belligerents are forbidden to move troops or convoys of either munitions of war or supplies across the territory of a neutral power.
>
> Article V—A neutral power must not allow any of the acts referred to in Articles II and IV to occur on its territory.

Belgium could not have fulfilled her international obligations or preserved her national honor if she had not rejected Germany's ultimatum and resisted the German invasion. She put duty above safety and risked the terrible sacrifices since exacted from her. Her heroic example will live as long as the world lasts. To say that there was no treaty violation by Germany and "no moral wrong in trespassing on Belgium's abstract right of territorial inviolability, compensation being guaranteed," is about the most shameless piece of sophistry which the war has produced.

We prefer to this degraded apology from a German-American source the frank, honest declaration of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in the Reichstag: "We are breaking the law of nations." We prefer the brutal argument of Bernhardi that treaties cannot bind a nation against its military or other interests. We prefer Dr. Dernburg's statement of the German position in a letter which we publish in another column of this issue:

> We consider it wrong to break a treaty of neutrality and we regretted it, and thereby it does for German ethics not make a bit of difference whether France broke that treaty first or not. In fact, the Chancellor said we had to break it, since he had positive information that France was ready for the invasion. It does not excuse the deed except as showing the absolute necessity for it.

These are at least apologies which do not dodge the question of Germany's aggression and consequent moral guilt. They put the necessities of strategy above the obligations of international good faith. They do not try to gloss over Germany's high-handedness by miserable hypocrisy.

We are glad for the sake of German intellectual straightforwardness to set Bethmann-Hollweg, Bernhardi and Dr. Dernburg alongside our pettifogging Chicago jurist. So far as extenuations of Germany's crime against Belgium go, those "made in Germany" have so far an honorable superiority over those made in the United States.

The Last Chance to Register.

This is the last day of registration. Any citizen who has missed registering hitherto must register now or forfeit his vote this year. Sometimes a vote doesn't seem worth much, but thousands of women in this country are working night and day to get the suffrage. Men who have it should not disregard it.

Registration day is also enrolment day. After registering the voter should also enroll, or declare his membership in a political party, on the blank furnished at the polling place. If this is not done he may not participate in the primaries next year, and so loses the right to have his say about the nominees of the party whose ticket he votes. This is just as important as voting on Election Day. Register and enroll to-day—it's the last chance.

Glynn, Bensel, Sohmer and Tammany.

Governor Glynn is wrong when he says: "The question to be decided by the voters this fall is not the propriety of Mr. Bensel's actions in a particular proceeding in a particular county, but it is whether or not my administration of the affairs of eleven million people merits my continuance in office."

The question is whether a Tammany-dominated Democratic organization which furnished the votes which alike nominated Governor Glynn and State Engineer Bensel shall be put back into power in the state. The Governor cannot separate himself from Bensel and Sohmer. They stand or fall with him; he stands or falls with them. His administration, as he is fond of terming it, is no better than the weakest official who held office with him, especially as that official is running now on the same ticket.

Back to Common Sense Neutrality.

It is good news that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan have seen a light on the neutrality question. The earlier view that loans might not be made by our bankers to any of the belligerents was based neither on reason nor on international law. Had the rule been intended as a temporary device to prevent the withdrawal of gold it might have been defensible. But stated as Mr. Bryan stated it, that "loans by American bankers to any foreign nation which is at war are inconsistent with the true spirit of neutrality," the proposition was absurd.

The present withdrawal of the prohibition represents the waiving of a preposterous idealism in favor of reviving commerce and a little hard business sense. Unless such credits are permitted any large scale sale of American products to the warring nations is extremely difficult of execution. There is here a distinct promise of more profitable business for Americans—and, it is perhaps not too much to hope, the indication of a dawning appreciation of business needs on the part of the administration.

A Pay-as-You-Go City.

The speech of Mayor Mitchel to the Credit Men's Association is the first clear explanation to the public of the Board of Estimate's new policy for financing future public improvements of the non-income producing class. Under this scheme a new park to be opened next year would be paid for one-quarter by direct appropriation charged up against revenue from taxes and three-quarters in fifteen-year bonds, to be amortized by annual payments out of the tax levy.

A non-income producing improvement the following year would be paid for one-half in direct appropriation and one-half in bonds, one the third year by three-quarters direct appropriation and one-quarter bonds, and one the fourth year by a straight appropriation to be met from taxes. Thus in the fourth year the city would be paying as it went, for the amortization of the outstanding bonds would be cared for out of the annual tax levy. Beyond that point it is the hope of the Board of Estimate that the present bonded indebtedness may be reduced.

This is a farseeing, sane policy which should have the support of every taxpayer. Unquestionably it will raise taxes beyond the present rate for many years. But buying temporary improvements with fifty-year securities is a penny-wise-pound-foolish policy which, while it may make a low tax rate now, is in the end gross extravagance. It is certain that, with improvements financed out of the annual income of the city, there would be much more interest on the part of taxpayers in expenditures of all kinds. There would be a livelier participation in hearings of official bodies on contemplated public works and a closer study of the budget and of department work.

All this would tend to produce greater department efficiency and to bring about a condition under which the city's dollar would purchase a dollar's worth of work or materials. There are "professional property owners"—that is, real estate speculators—who will doubtless oppose any policy which means a larger tax rate, however proper or logical it may be. Nevertheless, this one is so sensible, so much like what each family of ordinary ways of life has to do, that it seems certain it will have the backing of a great part of the public.

The Conning Tower

"Chacun à Son Goût."

AD MAECENATEM.

Horace: Book I, Ode 1.

"Maecenas atavis edite regibus—"

Maecenas of the bluest blood,
  My guard revered, my glory noble,
One man acquires Olympic mud
  Upon his racing automob'le,
And winning of an earthly prize
Exalts him to the well-known skies.

Another finds applause is sweet—
  The praise of Rome, as loud as fickle;
Another takes his joy in wheat,
  In watching it from seed to sickle;
And in his granary he stores
Sweepings from Libyan threshing-floors.

The man who loves to plough the field
  Has no desire to plough the ocean;
His farm delights he will not yield
  To sailor joys. Perish the notion!
The trader trembles at the gale,
Yet, once on land, longs to set sail.

One there may be that doth recline,
  Flushing his arid pipe thoracic
With beakers—ay, with bowls!—of wine;
  The brand? The best domestic Massic.
Recline, as I began to say,
Beneath a tree for half a day.

Some love the wars that mothers fear,
  The toot of trump, the blare of bugle;
Some like to hunt the boar or deer,
  Unmindful of the ties conjugal.
For me nor hunts nor war's alarms;
For me nor motor-cars nor farms.

Ivy for me! The grove for mine!
  Where nymphs and satyrs hold high revel,
Where I can join the gods divine,
  A bit above the lowbrow level.
And if you say: "Some bard, this guy!"
My soaring head shall touch the sky.

"If they wear shoes that are more sensible," says the Evening Journal, discoursing on the feminine apparel follies of 1914, "they immediately wear dresses that compose them to consumption, pneumonia and other diseases." Still, there are frequently advertised in the Journal medicines that are good for ever so many illnesses.

Verbal evolution is always a fascinating theme. "The Kaiser," we read, "is preparing to hurl against the British the flower of the Bavarian troops." Yet hurling the flower is one thing, and throwing a bouquet is something else again.

OH, THESE DELICATE, SENSITIVE WOMEN!

[From the Manchester (Vt.) Journal.]

Whereas my husband, Clark Wilkins, has posted me, claiming that I left his bed and board without just provocation, let me say he cut me up with a hand axe; choked and kicked me, and I had to flee for my life, and I think I had some provocation for going.

MARY WILKINS.

Dorset, Vt., Oct. 1, 1914. adv.26-2

"In yesterday morning's Times there appeared . . . the translation of a poem by Ernst Lissauer, originally printed in Jugend. The following lines in reply reached the Times office early yesterday afternoon, evidencing a speed of production truly remarkable, considering the technical excellence of the composition."

Thus the treasured Times, introducing a poem by Beatrice M. Barry, in which "deep" and "discreet," "waste" and "place," "fields" and "seal," and "alone" and "home" are supposed to rhyme. Miss Barry may have, as the Times says, considerable speed, but she is shy on control.

TO ADVERTISERS:

Our shop is *never* up against
A job that has us faded;

We've Jenson (18-pt.) Condensed,

Also DeVinne Shaded.

Every time one reads the details of another "rare" book swindle one feels that Barnum, in estimating the birth-rate, was too conservative.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

[From the Norwich (N. Y.) Sun.]

Teams 9 and 11 under Captains W. Eaton and Gibson respectfully bowled last night at the Norwich Club.

In the contest on the Norwich Club alleys last night between teams 17 and 18, under Captains Bonney and M. L. Hunt, respectfully, the former won the first and second games and the Hunt team the last one.

In the contest between teams five and six under Captains Harry Hunt and A. G. Jones respectfully, it is probable that the latter will take two of the three games played.

Carlyle, perhaps, originated the symbol of tin-canning. "A conquering young hero," he mentions in "Sartor Resartus," "to whom Fate has malignantly appended a tin kettle."

"I have an athaletic young friend," writes Kalona, "who wants me to take a copy of '—— and ——' down to your office to have it authorgraphed." A thousand, if you like, Kalona.

Ignorance of the Metrical Laws Is No Excuse.

If my lyrics are not what they ought to be,
  If the meter of my blamed effusions halts,
And if every line I scribble is N. G.,
  If my manner of expression teems with faults,
If—to make it brief—my pomes are on the blink
  I have got a rattling fine excuse, because
Only seven little months ago, (just think!)
  I didn't even know what METER was!

EDAR.

Eavesdropped in Row R, Park Theatre: "Didn't them clams set well?" "Oh, yes, they were charming." "I'm awful fond of clams." "Me too, I love all shell-fish."

PERPETUAL MOTION; OR, ONE OF THESE SHOULD BREAK A RECORD.

[From The Thousand Islands Sun.]

Mr. Miles is one of the most enthusiastic motor boat men on the river and has several speed boats, each one being several miles faster than the other.

If the Rev. George W. Scripture were not pastor of the Kenwood Heights, N. Y., Church the space devoted to chronicling the fact might have been given to something even less enticing.

Carranza is not out, but his wildest partisans wouldn't call him safe.

Speaking of sunshine—and what is more lawful?—Hasn't the weather been puffickly awful?

F. P. A.

THE MOTHER OF PATRIOTISM.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

ENROLL AS WELL AS REGISTER!

The Urgent Duty of the Independent Voter.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Permit me to invite your attention and that of your readers to the necessity of independent thinking men enrolling when they register.

An enrolment blank should be handed to each man in the place of registry after he has answered the questions put to him and signed his name to the registration book. The booth is there for the purpose of enabling him to mark the enrolment blank in secret. An envelope is provided in which the enrolment blank is then placed.

I have heard it stated several times that some voters are unaware that an enrolment blank should be handed to the voter when he registers, and therefore they leave the place of registry without even knowledge that they had an opportunity to enroll, so that they may take part in the primaries next year. It is on the days of registration that the machine politician does his best work to maintain himself in power, for he and his co-workers get out as many of their friends to enroll as possible, and in no instance do they solicit the independent thinking man's enrolment for obvious reasons.

To rid the state and parties of political bosses it is imperative that the independent thinking man enroll when he registers, so that he will be allowed to participate in the primaries of his party next year.

FRANKLIN BROOKS.

New York, Oct. 14, 1914.

THE BELGIAN INVASION

Dr. Dernburg Replies to Ambassador Jusserand's Denial.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The French Ambassador in his statement of the 12th inst. declares the testimony as to the presence of French troops in Liege and Namur before July 30 a "mere fabrication." I have given my sources; the responsibility is theirs. But if I consult my own judgment I value the testimony of disinterested persons higher than any strong denial from French official sources. The ambassador will excuse me if I say I cannot accept his statement without accompanying proof, especially if, as he will doubtless agree, such official statements have repeatedly been found hardly absolutely correct. So, for instance, he has denied the throwing of bombs into Nirnberg before the outbreak of the war on the same day when Mr. Pulitzer, of "The World," gave in a letter he wrote from Ausbach (near Nirnberg) on August 2 the full details. I cannot inform the ambassador why it took France ten days to come to the help of Belgium. The 45th Regiment is stationed at Cambrai, and from there, according to my map, there are 100 miles to Namur as the crow flies. Perhaps the explanation is that the Belgians have been left in the lurch; perhaps that his excellency is not correctly informed.

But the ambassador does not in the heat of his argument quite grasp the German point of view. It is simply this: We consider it wrong to break a treaty of neutrality and we regretted it, and thereby it does for German ethics not make a bit of difference whether France broke that treaty first or not. In fact, the Chancellor said we had to break it, since he had most positive information that France was ready for the invasion. It does not excuse the deed except as showing the absolute necessity for it. But the Chancellor was apparently mistaken in his information. France was not only ready to invade Belgium, but it had actually done so. Certainly M. Jusserand has not proven the contrary, and so I will stick to the information of the "house superintendent" and the other sources cited.

BERNHARD DERNBURG.

New York, Oct. 14, 1914.

PRAYER VS. PREPARATION

The Danger of Trusting Too Implicitly to Treaties.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As Germany (which heretofore has been considered one of the most civilized nations of the world) deliberately violates treaties and ignores her agreements to the rules of modern civilized warfare, what can be expected of other nations?

Germany has set a bad precedent, and it seems to us that Secretary of State Bryan and his peace treaties are a serious menace to this country. While the peace treaties are binding upon an honorable nation like the United States, any nation may violate them, as Germany violated her treaties, calling them "a mere scrap of paper." While the United States is waiting a full year, as the treaties require, before declaring war, the enemy can quietly prepare to capture unexpectedly the country.

Even Mexico, if given a year in which to prepare and to secure the aid of Japan, could conquer this country if it struck an unexpected and unprepared-for blow, while Bryan and other peace fanatics were talking and praying and hoping for peace. Far more important than praying for peace is to be prepared for war, and to remember that "the Lord helps him who helps himself."

FRANKLIN D. CLUM, M. D.

Cheviot, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1914.

"Keep Your Pledge."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Please accept my warmest thanks and admiration for the cartoon, "Keep Your Pledge," published in The Tribune of this morning, Tuesday, October 13. The point of view shown in this cartoon is of the highest moral importance, and should be, in my estimation, kept before the people of this country, who so pride themselves on their civilized ethical attitude toward humanity.

KATHARINE D. M'CORMICK.

New York, Oct. 13, 1914.

A Chance to Help Belgium.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There must be many people in this great city who would like to help the suffering Belgians in some small way. I would beg your paper to point out that for the Belgian Relief Fund benefit on Monday afternoon, October 26, at the Cort Theatre, some hundreds of seats are to be had for as low as $1.50 and $1. Those holding seats in the second balcony will be, for this occasion, admitted at the main entrance and given entire freedom of the house.

ANNIE NATHAN MEYER.

New York, Oct. 15, 1914.

The Tribune wishes to remind its readers that anonymous letters cannot be printed in this column. For our records and as an assurance of the writer's good faith, name and address must be signed in every case. These will not be published if the writer so requests.

NAME FIGHT UNSETTLED

Bronx Suffragists Must Await Action of Supreme Court.

The legal fight between two bodies of Bronx suffragists for the exclusive right to use the name Bronx Woman Suffrage League is still undecided, the Appellate Division yesterday refusing to enjoin one of those factions from using the name and leaving the matter to be settled on the trial of a suit pending in the Supreme Court, Bronx County.

The Bronx Woman Suffrage League asked Justice Brady for an injunction to restrain Anna Horvat Holbert and Amy Warner Hotchkiss from using the name Bronx Woman Suffrage League and Women's Political Union. They also demanded $1,000 damages. Justice Brady denied the injunction and the plaintiff organization appealed to the Appellate Division.

Justice Brady held, when the case was before him, that because of the contradicting affidavits submitted by the opposing factions and the bitterness that marked the proceedings, the question of the righ, to the disputed name should be left to a trial court, and the higher court yesterday sustained that finding.

TAFTS AT CAPITAL; SON WEDS TO-DAY

Ex-President to Stay in Washington for Bar Association's Meeting Next Week.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Oct. 16.—Ex-President and Mrs. William H. Taft arrived here this evening to remain until the early part of next week. To-morrow they will attend the marriage of their son, Robert Taft, to Miss Martha Bowers, and Mr. Taft will attend the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, of which he is president, next week.

The wedding at St. John's Church at noon to-morrow is the occasion for the first large meeting of the Taft family in Washington since Mr. Taft's administration closed. Robert Taft, Miss Helen Taft and Charles Taft, the children of the ex-President, are here, as are also Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Taft, of New York; Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati; Horace Taft, Mr. and Mrs. Herron, Miss Herron and other relatives from distant cities.

Miss Boardman met Mr. and Mrs. Taft at the station to-night and accompanied them to their hotel. During part of their visit Mrs. Taft will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. Garrison McClintock, who will give a dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Taft on Monday night. To-morrow night they will be the guests at dinner of Mrs. Richard H. Townsend, and on Sunday night, following a large benefit concert for the Red Cross, they will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Boardman at supper.

Robert Taft was joined in Washington by all the members of his wedding party and entertained his best man, George Harrison, of Washington, and his ushers, Charles Taft, Stephen Philbin, of Houston, Tex.; Stanhope Bayne Jones, of Baltimore; John Herron, of Pittsburgh; Carl Lohman, of Akron, Ohio; Walter Logan, Adlian Van Sinderen and Harry Bingham, all of New York, at dinner at the Metropolitan Club to-night.

Mrs. Lloyd Bowers, mother of the bride-elect, entertained Miss Helen Taft, the maid of honor and other girl friends of the bride at luncheon and dinner to-day.

JENKS SEES WAR AS SPUR TO ART

Professor Predicts Artistic Revival—Says U. S. Must Overhaul Resources.

An artistic revival of great power, the most important in many decades, will follow the war, according to Professor J. Whipple Jenks, who spoke on the struggle at New York University, Washington Square, yesterday afternoon.

"Art springs from emotion," he said, "and millions of Europeans are to-day wrung by grief and exalted by patriotism. From their emotion will spring artistic achievements comparable to any that have gone before.

"Over against this still problematic advantage we must set the indubitable present loss to art and science, whose masters will fall at the front.

"Other effects of the war, becoming visible even now in this country, are the changed attitude of our people toward the army and navy. In the face of the obvious danger to any power concerned in the present contest which might have permitted itself carelessness in regard to its army and navy American opinion is changing. The question, Are we prepared? has taken on new and more forceful meaning.

"Our business opportunities are growing more and more apparent, though to establish ourselves in markets held exclusively by Europe we must be content with smaller profit, we must get better terms of credit and we must take more care in packing our goods.

"Our army and navy, unfortunately, will be stimulated in a desire for conquest. Such desires make for war, but against them we must balance the completer preparation to which the war will incite them and which makes against it.

"Everywhere, here as well as abroad, we see signs of low human emotions roused by the contest. Hatred, jealousy and contempt—we see them all. Yet at no other time do we see such outpourings of unselfishness and heroism as in war."

Next week's lecture will be held in Judson Hall, Washington Square.

AT SOUTHAMPTON.

Southampton, Long Island, Oct. 16.—Miss Eleanor Lamson is spending a few days with Dr. and Mrs. Holbrook H. Curtis at their cottage in Great Plains Road.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Burrall Hoffman have closed their cottage on First Neck Lane and are now at Tuxedo Park.

The Rev. and Mrs. George Jaffreys Russell returned on Thursday from Asheville, N. C., where they spent several weeks.

Mrs. Rinehard H. Williams, jr., is at the Irving House as a guest of her sister, Mrs. E. Stewart Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Boardman returned to New York this week.

Mrs. H. M. Day and daughter, Miss Laura Day, have closed their cottage in the Dunes and returned to their home in New York.

Dr. and Mrs. Peter B. Wyckoff left this week for Mendham, N. J., where they will spend the remainder of the autumn.

Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Copley Thaw, who have been occupying their new summer home on Gin Lane, will remain here until November 1, after which they will go to their country estate in Sewickly.

Mrs. B. L. Ronalds, who occupied the Pierson cottage on South Main st., has returned to New York for the winter season.