

The Washington Times

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MENTAL STRABISMUS

The President has said that he was waiting for an "overt act" before taking the final step that should make us at war with Germany. Yesterday he was quoted as saying that while he could not define an overt act yet he and everyone else would know it when they saw it. If the sinking of the Laconia was not an overt act, if we have not been sufficiently offended to take that last, long delayed step which all have postponed in the hope of returning German sanity, then we are all suffering from mental strabismus and none so severely afflicted as the President himself.

UNINTENTIONAL CONFESSION

The Association of German-American Pastors of the United States is agitating for a day of "prayer and repentance" in all the churches of the country to ask forgiveness for "America's share in the bloodguiltiness of war." The "crime" alluded to is the sale of munitions of war by our manufacturers to the allies. It is to be hoped that while the association is concerning itself with the salvation of American munition makers it will not neglect to include prayers for the German munition makers who supplied Spain with all the guns, powder, and projectiles she asked for during the war with the United States. So far as we recollect, these worthies who are so upset about the souls of American munition makers manifested no such concern about the souls of the Kruppis in 1898, and consequently no prayers have been offered up for the latter in this country.

GIANTS, LITTLE AND BIG

It is quite plain that Germany does not want war with Holland. The authorities at Berlin are quite as anxious as those of The Hague to keep out of it. Hence the extraordinary efforts of the German mind to throw the blame for the sinking of the Dutch ships on England and the whining expressions of regret which fill the columns of the German newspapers. Germany is afraid to add Holland to her foes. The population of the continental Netherlands is 6,500,000; that of the United States of America about 103,000,000.

BRYAN—MARPLOT

So Bryan is rushing northward from Florida to Washington to save the country yet again. Paul Révere, Phil Sheridan, and John Gilpin in a Pullman train, all combined in the person of the "peerless." The touch of heroic self-sacrifice is added in the statement that he has cancelled five lecture engagements. The hiring of a special train with orders to break all speed limits would have been dramatic, but the extra cost, considering the sacrificed lecture fees, was too much.

It is about time to explode the myth of Bryan's influence in Congress. The Bryan coterie in the House can be counted on the fingers of one hand and include Bob Henry, Callaway, and Cyclone Davis, all lame ducks from Texas, who will cease Congressional activities this week. Vardaman and Kirby in the Senate may still yield him allegiance. But Bryan's course in the last four years has about dissipated the rest of his following.

Four years ago, he had been selected Secretary of State by the incoming President. His support of Wilson at Baltimore had reinstated him with the saner element of his party. As he had been endorsed by several million voters, in three Presidential campaigns, for the position of Chief Executive, it was impossible to know in advance that he was to make the most incompetent administrator that ever occupied a Cabinet position. His blunders made the Department of State the laughingstock of five continents. His competition on the lecture platform with yodelers and trained dogs to supplement his salary added the touch of the sordid to the ridiculous portrait. His grape-juice advertisement and his miniature plowshares completed the inane picture.

Then came the war in Europe and what had been a comedy became a tragedy. His stratings of peace at any price served only to convince belligerent nations that they need respect no American rights if it were inconvenient to do so. He signed the first Lusitania note, then nullified its

effect by his "explanation" to Count Dumba, duly repeated to the German foreign office. His refusal to sign the second Lusitania note was followed by his resignation amid universal applause. While this desertion of his post, and the consequent impression of divided counsels, was despicable, nevertheless it may be said that nothing in all his official life became him like the leaving of it. His recent presence in Washington when the German ambassador was handed his passports was connected with another criminal blunder, the sending of Barthelme's message to Germany, "explaining" some more. And now, with Germany again convicted of murder of American citizens on the high seas, Bryan is hurrying to Washington to put his meddling pacifist fingers into the international situation.

The knowledge could never penetrate his walls of self-importance, of course, but the opposition of Bryan to the President at this juncture is in all probability the one thing necessary to crystallize public opinion both in and out of Congress to the President's support.

AN OVERT ACT OR WHAT?

The sinking of the Laconia is a crime of precisely similar type to the destruction of the Lusitania. Only the extent of the tragedy is less or different.

The Laconia, like the Lusitania, was an English ship. She was torpedoed and sunk without warning. She was struck with two torpedoes to hasten her sinking. No effort was made by the miscreants in the German submarine to give the people on board her a chance for their lives or to extend aid to them after the catastrophe.

Thus it happened that a number of noncombatants, apparently thirteen, were drowned or perished from exposure. Of these at least two were women. On board the ship were six American passengers and twenty Americans in the crew. Of the thirteen known dead, several were Americans, two women, a mother and daughter, were passengers; some men were deckhands or coalpassers.

It was after the torpedoing of the Lusitania that President Wilson through Secretary of State Bryan cabled his famous note to the German foreign office, in which he intimated that the American Government would not "omit any word or any act necessary to the performance of its sacred duty of maintaining the rights of the United States and its citizens and of safeguarding their free exercise and enjoyment."

In his speech to Congress on February 3, President Wilson said he could not bring himself to believe that such an outrage as this would again be perpetrated by the Germans. "Only actual overt acts on their part can make me believe it even now," he insisted. Well, it seems we have the overt act! Or can humanitarian finesse find apologies and excuses for the Laconia murders as for the Housatonic and the Lyman M. Lay outrages—for instance, that it "was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected?"

Or shall we now, at last, "seek to stand true alike in thought and in action to the immortal principles of our people?" Shall we "seek to vindicate our right to liberty and justice and an unmoistened life?" It would seem as if the President and the Congress had reached a crisis in our international relations. Will they rise to its demands upon their patriotism and courage?

THE SHAME OF IT

Discussing "informally" such details of the murder at sea of the men and women—including a number of Americans—who perished by the sinking of the Laconia by a German submarine, certain Federal officials remarked that included among the dead were two American women from the Middle West, a section of the country where cowardly pacifism has had its most offensive exhibition. This suggestion is of the same kind with the classical idea that making railroad directors ride on the cowcatcher would prevent railroad accidents. The bitter shame of it is in the fact that any decent American citizen who has enjoyed the great reputation for honor, manhood, and decency which until now that citizenship has always implied should be capable of such sneaking cowardice as has been shown by the majority in Congress of the United States, which we must believe fairly represents the disgraceful present attitude of great clots of individuals in many American communities. That is the bitter shame of it all.

DISAPPEARANCES

In connection with the present vain search for a young woman who disappeared from her parents' home in New York the police statistics of similar cases are interesting. They show in that great city about 4,000 persons who drop out of their accustomed places in life suddenly and unaccountably enough for their cases to be reported. Of these some 1,500 are women and girls; only half as many as the men and boys who disappear. The fact that the propor-

tion of missing is so much slighter among the feminine sex lessens likelihood that there is any prevalent effort to abduct girls. The chief causes of their rare disappearances must be sought in other directions. Most of the missing girls are lost because they "want to be," in the phrase of a member of the police familiar with the mass of cases. About 83 per cent of the girls and women reported missing return, are found, or are otherwise accounted for, so the generalization as to the intention of disappearing rests on a broad base of fact. In a big city it is a thousand times as easy to vanish as in a country village, so that persons are tempted to give the slip to family or friends on the slightest of reasons.

Of the most detestable forms of abduction, of savage murder and of impenetrable mystery, the disappearances of girls in the past ten years yield noted instances. They are the exception, and indeed, the almost irreducible minimum.

"AN HEIRLOOM FROM FREDERICK THE GREAT"

The imperial chancellor, von Bethman-Hollweg, is oppressed with the sense of America's ingratitude to Germany. The President's brusqueness in breaking off relations at the mere threat of wholesale murder of peaceful American citizens, is deeply deplored. Heretofore the United States has been honored "as an heirloom from Frederick the Great."

The chancellor argues that neutral rights have been disregarded by both sides, but is unable to see the force of the distinction which he quotes as follows: "England, they have satisfied themselves, destroys only material values, which can be replaced, while Germany destroys human lives which are impossible to replace."

Nevertheless the chancellor has stated the case with accuracy. The American people do have a regard for the sacredness of human life that seems alien to the Junker intellect. They have not been unmoved at the wholesale slaughter of non-combatants of other nations. The patience of the Government of the United States when outrage succeeded outrage, and broken pledge followed violated word has been misunderstood. It is in vain now that Germany appeals to the friendly relations existing between the two countries for more than a century. The same appeal by the President of the United States has been answered by the murder of more Americans upon the high seas.

And the Frederick the Great business has been slightly overdone. Our Revolutionary trouble with Great Britain came because a stupid King of an imported German family occupied the English throne and his arrogance prevailed over the wisdom of real Englishmen like Pitt. Britain was able to hire Hessian soldiers against America with the result that the "tradition of Hessianism" has given a characteristic word to our language. In our second war with Great Britain, Prussia was the ally of England in her contest with Napoleon. Americans have not forgotten the German attitude toward Dewey at Manila and the later Venezuelan incident, constituting a threat against the integrity of the Monroe doctrine. If it were not so comical, we should be inclined to resent the revival of Bismarck's quotation, that America is an "heirloom" of the great Frederick.

The trouble is that there is no successor of Bismarck in Germany and that no one will ever style the present Emperor, William the Great. Our dealings are with the Prussian junkerism of today that has made Germany the Ishmael of the nations. The only interesting note in the present chancellor's lucubration is that of desperation, and the gleam of recognition that Germany has outraged the conscience of mankind.

The esteemed mother of Harry Thaw, a woman of many sorrows, has made an application in the courts of Pennsylvania to have her son committed to an insane asylum. She asks the considerate treatment of the press "for me and mine" hereafter. The "best should be silence."

The New York Sun reminds us that the Spanish ambassador who is now representing American interests at Berlin, Senor Polo de Bernabe, is the one to whom passports were handed in Washington when the Spanish war was begun. The sequel of that break might be illuminating to his imperial majesty.

It fares the land to hastening his prey where guns accumulate and men decay.—San Francisco Chronicle. But parlous indeed is the state of the land where pacifists accumulate and men decay.

If the cook of the Housatonic, who enlisted in the United States navy "to get a shot at the son-of-a-gun" who sunk his ship, was in a hurry, he should have joined the British or French navy.

Mob spleen is again vindicated by its action in increasing the scarcity of food by destroying the visible supply.

It is pertinent to observe that a good part of yesterday's Senate session was taken up with the discussion of the oleomargarine question, by way of pouring oil on troubled waters.

Don Marquis' Column

On the World's Highway. John, quizzically—Where you goin', Sam? Sam, pensively—Looks 's if I was goin' straight to war, an' gosh! how I dread it! —W. S. M.

The Thoughts of Hermione.

Don't you think there has been a spiritual quickening over the whole world because of the war? The love-liest man talked to us the other evening—to our little group, you know—and he told us about some of the most wonderful things that it was doing to Art! Not, of course, to American art. And, I suppose, it would be terrible for America to go into the war just on account of Art. Although, of course, Spiritual Impulses are wonderful, aren't they?

So many things are happening nowadays that it is terribly difficult to Orient oneself in relation to Cosmic Truth, don't you think? And one must take care that one's Soul does not lose its Polarity, must one not? Polarity! Polarity! What would we do without polarity? It is simply wonderful!

Often I ask myself: "Am I Polarized? Or am I not Polarized?" I was asking that of Fothergill Finch only the other day, and Papa heard me and asked very sarcastically if we were taking up Arctic explorations this winter. And Polarization has nothing to do with Arctic explorations at all, really!

Isn't it distressing to think of all the Food Riots this winter? I never let my interest in Art and Esthetics take me too far away from my Sociological Studies or my Humanitarian Work.

So when we heard about the riots Fothergill and I got into one of Papa's cars and drove along with the sufferers. To study them, you know, and show our sympathy, and all that sort of thing. It's wonderfully interesting.

I was thinking what I could do for them—in a practical sort of way, don't you know—when it occurred to me that Legt was here and it would be a graceful thing to show sympathy with their Cause by giving up something more than usual this year during Lent. Last year I gave up stingers during Lent. I never could drink more than one of them, anyhow.

But this year, out of sympathy for the food rioters, I determined I would give up some favorite article of diet. So I am doing without soft cheese and Bar le Duc. I am very fond of it, too.

But one must sacrifice. Especially for the lower classes. Sacrifice! Sacrifice! Isn't the spirit of sacrifice wonderful!

The doctor said it was making me too fat, anyhow, the cream cheese. Isn't the science of food perfectly fascinating? We've given several evenings to calories and vitamins lately—my little group of advanced thinkers, you know.

If the poor people would only learn more about vitamins and calories I am sure they would be able to get along better with their food problems. I spoke to one woman at the food riot the other day about it. She had a baby in her arms and was crowding quite close to the car. The baby looked frightful and messy, and I was afraid my Pom might catch something from it. But I hated to tell her that, so I made Fothergill protect the dear doggie while I talked to her about her baby—I wanted her to see how generally sympathetic I was, if you know what I mean, for if there is anything I hate it is superficiality.

"Your baby needs more vitamins," I said. "Why don't you go home and give it some vitamins? Of course, I'm in sympathy with your marching, in a sociological way, but in a scientific way, I can't understand why you take the baby out into the cold—and there must be a frightful number of germs about today—when what it needs is to stay home and digest vitamins."

She was quite rude. Really! That is one trouble I have found in trying to minister to the needs of the lower classes. They are so apt to misunderstand. Just the same, I am going to organize a class on the East Side and teach some of the poor things about calories and vitamins. Preach to them, you know, about food values. They eat some of the meeziest things!

And the poor little Pom caught cold, after all. He has been sneezing ever since. If he got any germs from that baby I shall never forgive myself. He couldn't eat his soup last night, poor little doggie! Don't you just dote on dogs? They take to me at once. And so do babies. Even the messy little thing in the food parade leaped toward me though, of course, I wouldn't let it touch me.

They get my Spiritual Aura, if you know what I mean. Papa, who makes some very coarse jokes at times, says that he has noticed that many creatures of less than adult human mentality seem to hang round me, and then explains that that includes Fothergill Finch. I've discovered a new poet, by the way. But I can't tell you about him now. I must hurry to the costume's. I am planning a fancy dress dance for mid-Lent. Every one will wear a costume representing some favorite article of food he is giving up.

Papa says that I should give up prunes and disguise myself as Fothergill Finch. Poor, dear Papa! He is so single-minded, for a successful man! He never seems to realize that when he makes a remark of that sort it is going to cost him something before I forgive him! DON MARQUIS.

Commercial Problems As Result of European War

A Non-Technical Explanation of the Big Questions Confronting Business Men At This Time of World's Upheaval.

By SAMUEL WANT.

As pointed out in the preceding article there has grown out of the European conflict a purely American conception of international force for the purpose of reducing to a minimum the danger of future wars. The plan, credited to Theodore Marburg, of Baltimore, Md., and Hamilton Holt, of New York, is embodied in the purposes of an organization known as the League to Enforce Peace, of which ex-President Taft is the active head.

The purposes of the league, as thus far outlined, are to create an international police force which will be charged with the duty of preventing a resort to arms after the close of the present war until the matters in controversy have been first submitted to a court of arbitration or conciliation for adjustment. It is not proposed to attempt to prevent future wars altogether. The plan simply attempts to accomplish that result, as nearly as possible, by prohibiting a resort to arms in the heat of a controversy without a prior resort to an impartial tribunal created for the settlement of international disputes.

The league's plan contemplates the establishment of a court of arbitration for the settlement of such disputes between nations as are susceptible of adjudication in that manner. Another tribunal, to be known as the court of conciliation, is provided to hear controversies on questions which the nations do not regard as justiciable in the ordinary way, such as matters of honor, and peculiar national problems such as the Monroe doctrine and naturalization problems.

The international police force intended to be created will prevent a resort to arms before one of the above methods has been resorted to. It will not prevent a resort to arms if the work of the tribunal employed proves unacceptable to the contending parties.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Interesting Events of Importance Scheduled Today.

- Meeting, California State Society, to arrange for election in inaugural parade, New Ed-bitt, 8 p. m.
Illustrated lecture on rifle shooting, Major W. C. Harline, under auspices of the Smithsonian Institution, Edinb. Club auditorium of New National Museum, 8 p. m.
Concert, United States Soldiers' Home Band Orchestra, Stanley Hall, 8:30 p. m.
Meeting of National Association of Suburban Citizens Association, Sherwood Presbyterian Church, 8 p. m.
Meeting of National Association of Washington and assistants to assign troops for ins-urgency parade, Board of Trade rooms, 7:30 p. m.
Meeting of membership committee, Chamber of Commerce, 4 p. m.
Addresses by Congressmen London and Callaway at meeting of the National Socialist, Pythian Temple, 8 p. m.
Discussion of "Municipal Ownership of Street Car Lines," by Congressman Cramer, before Single Tax Association of District, Public Library, 8 p. m.
Old folks' concert, First Congregational Church, Tench and G streets northwest, 8 p. m.
Class day exercises, Graduate's Association in school, 8 p. m.
Discussion of "Disposition Should Be Made of the Year Book," City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmacopoeia Association, at home of Mrs. C. H. W. at 1101 1/2 street northwest, 8 p. m.
Concert by Washington Municipal Orchestra in honor of athletic team, Central High School, 8 p. m.
General meeting of Teachers' Club, 602 Eleventh street northwest, 7:45 p. m.
Philippine recital in native costume by Miss Sylvester Guadalupe, Studio Hall, 8:15 p. m.
Illustrated lecture, "The United States in Devastated Poland," by F. C. Walcott, under auspices of District of Columbia Red Cross Chapter, Continental Hotel, 8 p. m.
Meeting of Kilt Carson Post, No. 2, Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., at G. A. R. Hall, 1417 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, 8 p. m.
Opening of headquarters of Association of Op-posed to Woman's Suffrage, 1213 Pennsylvania avenue northwest.
Masonic-Harmony Lodge, No. 17, 5:45 p. m.; Grand Lodge School of Instruction; Wash-ington Commandery, No. 2, and Brookland, No. 11, Order of the Eastern Star, Odd Fellows' Hall, 8 p. m.; Columbia Encampment, No. 1.
Rehearsal of Piesano, No. 7; Harmonists, No. 9, and Federal City, No. 35; Bohemian Club, No. 1.
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Red Men—White Eagle Tribe, Occochee Tribe and First Eastern Tribe, 8 p. m.
Scientific Temperance Exhibit, auspices of Anti-Saloon League of America, 1238 New York avenue northwest, 7:30 p. m.
Amusements
Belasco—"Alone at Last," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
New National-John Drew in "Major Pen-nington," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Polka-New Foll Players, in "Romance," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
R. P. Kautsky-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Gayety-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
Loew's Columbia-Photoplays, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Strand-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Garden-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Tomorrow
Meeting, Cathedral of Light Citizens' Associa-tion, at St. Albans Parish Hall, 8 p. m.
Dance, Junior Helpers of the Hebrew Home for the Aged, 1414 Madison Temple, 8 p. m.
Patriotic ceremonies, by talent of the In-ternational Department, at the Hotel, 8 p. m.
Cutter Powell, Hotel Portland, 8 p. m.
Semi-centennial celebration, Howard Univer-sity, 8 p. m.
Banquet, Nebraska State Association, New Edinbitt, 8 p. m.
March dance, Kastle Club, Arcade, 8 p. m.
Lecture, "Banking and Finance," Milton C. Dennis, before Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Banking, 1214 F street northwest, 8:15 p. m.
Entertainment, Grand Tyler Home and School Association, Tyler School, Eleventh and G streets southeast, 8 p. m.
Annual meeting, Twentieth Century Club, All Souls' Church, 10:30 a. m.
Address by Judge William H. De Lacey at Scientific Temperance Exhibit, 1238 New York avenue northwest, 8 p. m.
Masonic—Naval Lodge, No. 8, 8:15 p. m.; Lafayette, No. 9, and William R. Single-ton, No. 30; monthly meeting, board of re-lief, Eastern Chapter, No. 5, Order of the Eastern Star.
Odd Fellows—Columbia Lodge, No. 19; Cov-enant No. 22.
Rehearsal—Friendship, No. 5.
Knights of Pythias—Franklin Lodge, No. 2; T. Caldwell Company, No. 7, Uniform Rank.
National Union—W. H. Collins Council, No. 1.
Red Men—Logan Tribe, Sioux Tribe.

EXAMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

- U. S. Civil Service to Hold Competi-tive Tests.
The United States Civil Service Commission announces the following competitive examinations together with the monthly salary, location of present vacancy, and date of the examination:
Junior chemist in radio activity, \$1,200 to \$1,500, at Golden, Colo., March 21.
Cotton entomologist, \$1,000 to \$1,500, for duty in the field, April 4.
Field station aid, \$720 to \$1,000, for duty in the field, March 21.
Soil physicist, \$1,320 to \$1,650, Bu-reau of Soils, Washington, D. C., March 21.
Chemist, \$1,400, Watertown Arsenal, March 21.
Dentist, \$1,500, Indian Service at Large, March 21.
Mining engineer, chief of coal min-ing investigations, \$4,000, headquar-ters, Pittsburgh, Pa., March 27.
Mechanical engineer, \$3,500 to \$4,000, Springfield, March 27.
Apprentice plate cleaner, transfer-er, and engraver, \$500, Washington, D. C., March 14.
The above positions are open to males only. The one below is open to both sexes.
Aid in paleobotany, \$1,200, Wash-ington, D. C., March 21.

TRIED TO FIRE SHIP

German Engineer Started Blaze on Gasoline Tanker.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—When Capt. John Carleton, of the tanker Silver Shell, brought his vessel into port from London yesterday he heaved a sigh of relief as the revenue cutter came alongside, and announced that he was on the verge of offering up a prayer of thankfulness. For now, he said, he was free from submarines, a squabbling crew and an incendiary second engineer, who had tried to help Germany by setting the tanker on fire.

According to Captain Carleton, this second engineer, A. Partsch, was a German by birth and an American by naturalization. "And the naturalizing process didn't take well," said the captain, "for on the outward voyage he poured gasoline on some clothing in his cabin and tried to send up the ship. And we with a cargo of gaso-line aboard!"

INDIANS TO ENTERTAIN

Carlisle School Pupils Will Sing and Play at Casino.

As a fitting close to a week of patriotic demonstrations by the Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior has arranged three special entertainments to be given entirely by Indian pupils of Carlisle School, at the Casino Theater. Next Sunday afternoon and evening, the best musical talent will be in evidence in sacred concerts. The soloists will represent the different tribes of American Indians. Miss Alta Printup (Tuscarora) will sing "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." John "Big" Mesiah, president of the school, will be James Garvin (Sioux). Mrs. Kathleen Woodward (To-wam-pah, Osage), and Miss Roberta Seneca (Cayuga).

On Monday evening a drama entitled "The Feast of the Red Corn" will be staged by nearly 200 Indian boys and girls in full native costume.

ALUMNI AID STUDENTS

Relate Experiences After Leaving the Armstrong School.

To give the students of Armstrong Manual Training School a more direct contact with the business world, scores of alumni returned to that school today and discussed with the students problems that are encountered after leaving school. Alumni who were prominent in the life of the school related their experiences after graduation. The exercises were under the direction of the officers of the alumni association. John H. Williams, president of the association, was the principal speaker. Arthur C. Newman, principal of the school, also spoke. "Alumni Day," as the occasion was called, is the first of its kind to be held at the school. It is proposed to make the exercises an annual affair.

A musical and literary program was given.

LETTERS TO TIMES FROM ITS READERS

Repudiates Interview in Morning Paper, and Makes Plea to Women.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: It is too bad to have to state that a Washington morning paper's grotesque interview with me is totally imaginary, for it would be interesting—if true.

Some nineteen years ago I was adjutant general of the National American Woman's Cuban League, formed to help us to "Remember the Maine"—and I am proud to know it did so. Today the efforts of many seem to be to "Forget the Lusitania, the Sussex, Belgium, and the War of Frightfulness" generally, and help on by pacifist talk the clever Teuton plots and machinations.

During the Spanish-American war I believed, as I now believe, that a physically fit, patriotic woman, ready and anxious to "do her bit" in any field of usefulness—to help with all her might to uphold the tottering honor of her country, on land and sea, is much more available material from which to make a soldier, than many of the meek and gentle, little gentlemen who make pretty pacifist speeches, and seek most diligently for a means of escape—"preventing horrible war"—that they may not be in danger of "getting hurt."

Every city in the country needs protection. Why should not some of Columbia's splendid daughters band together to give that home protection, we, as a nation, already so badly need? Women have shown their nerve, heroism, and fearlessness, on a thousand battlefields in Europe, under shot and shell, as unarmed nurses. Does it require so much greater nerve to face the enemy on more equal terms? Let women band together as airplane scouts, ambulance drivers, observers, machine gun corps, and in other necessary positions which must be completely filled in their own home cities—and so release for active service the best of the great warriors they have brought into the world. America in this time of hyphenate clever and traitorous propaganda has need of every true son and daughter, to give that devotion and consecration which makes the safety purchased at the price of national subservency and cowardice. Better a thousand times a dead Edith Cavell than live forever a craven pacifist of the peace-at-any-price variety who knows not the meaning of the words National Honor.

ALICE LEE MOQUE.

Urges Necessity of Coordinated Action by Neutral Nations of World in Submarine Crisis.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: In this time of crisis, the first step is to endeavor to remove the cause of danger; and the cause of danger, that which threatens any moment to plunge this country into war, is the ruthless campaign of submarine blockade, on the other side of the water, which is sinking ship after ship, American vessels included.

To this effect we need the co-operation, as unanimous as possible, of all neutral nations everywhere, through a firm protest, or if need be boycott, or through the general severance of diplomatic relations, with the country implicated, jointly, by all neutrals, which should support loyally its President, a man of peace, in his efforts to avoid war, and do so with perseverance.

A joint break of the neutral nations everywhere, severed with the neutrals, which alone means strength, far from being necessarily followed by war, according to the mistaken idea, would on the contrary, if strong enough, mean the preservation of peace—and a first step toward the end.

To this effect may I urge on all those who love peace sufficiently to work for it effectively, the need of acting on the lines I suggest. Since the dawn of this latest crisis, I have been sending in the name of women, telegrams and letters on these lines to the neutral governments to this side and the other side of the water. Rather than be divided into two camps, the one for war and the other for theoretical peace, let us unite to make real peace possible, thus strengthening rather than weakening the situation. Let us all, we women, especially, strive to influence God and man, whether individually or by means of societies having branches abroad, in the neutral lands, so that they all help us to keep both this country and the other neutral ones out of the conflagration, which is an international danger and is rapidly advancing toward us all. It is the one thing now to be done, and is worthy of every persevering effort toward the common good.

LUCY THOUMAIAN, R. de V. (Mrs.)

Asks Support for Bill to Compensate Residents Who Lost By Acquisition by Government of Property for Enlarged Capitol Grounds.

To the Editor of THE TIMES: Your readers will be interested in the following facts about the efforts being made to do an act of justice by relieving the small property owners who suffered serious losses in connection with the acquisition by the United States of the land for the enlargement of the Capitol grounds.

I believe that you will approve the measure proposed, which is only to pay interest on the amounts withheld during a term of years from the small property owners in this section. Senator William E. Chilton of West Virginia, who has taken an active and kindhearted interest in these property owners, has an amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill which provides only for the payment of interest to these small owners for the time during which these payments were deferred.

This amendment will be offered in the Senate, and will, we feel confident, be supported by Senators who have given the matter consideration. Although this payment will not meet the losses which these property owners have sustained, they are willing to accept this in full settlement of their claims. They are advised that the payment of interest on deferred payments in condemnation cases is a well-established principle of law. President ENLARGEMENT of the Capitol Grounds Association. Washington, February 28.