

Éire

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Tuesday, November 24, 1914.

Leat-þiginn.
One Halfpenny.

GRAND ORIENT DECLARES FOR ENGLAND.

A great Masonic (Grand Orient) demonstration was held in Rome on Sunday, presided over by Signor Nathan, ex-Mayor of Rome, who denounced Germany, Austria, and Turkey, and eulogised the Allies, styling England the Protectress and the Land of Liberty. Signor Nathan declared that if Italy continued neutral she would have no voice in later days. The army and the fleet were ready and their duty was to join the Allies.

The meeting was for the purpose of publicly proclaiming the programme of Italian Freemasonry on the present war.

"LA CORRIENTA."

The overdue British steamer, "La Corrienta," is now announced to have been captured by the "Kronprinz Wilhelm," together with the French sailing vessel "Union." The crews and passengers have been landed at Monte Video.

THE BELFAST CASE.

The release of Wm. Stanley, of Dublin, charged with being in a prohibited area at Belfast, has been ordered by the British Viceroy.

KETTLE ALL OUT FOR O.

Mr. James Cosgrove, Co. Councillor, Portumna, was selected yesterday as British Parliamentary representative for East Galway, to the electors of which Mr. T. M. Kettle issued an address appealing to them to return him against the "pro-Germans." The votes were divided between Messrs. Cosgrove, Finnerty, M'Donnell, Larkin, and Sir H. Grattan-Bellew, Mr. Kettle receiving none.

GERMANY SENDS COAL AND FOOD TO BELGIANS.

According to the "Lakal Anzeiger," 10,000 tons of coal have been supplied to the gas works at Brussels and 10,000 bags of grain for the inhabitants of that city. Another 10,000 bags of grain has been sent from Antwerp for distribution among the people of Charleroi, Mons and Liege.

"KARLSRUHE" MAKING FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

It is reported in New York that the German cruiser "Karlsruhe" is preparing to make a dash for the North Atlantic to attack the British steamship routes. The "Karlsruhe" has already captured seventeen British merchant vessels. She has manned four of them with prize crews and uses them as scouts over an area of 150 miles. When a vessel flying the enemy's flag is sighted the "Karlsruhe" is notified by the scouts and dashes in and captures it.

ENGLISHMEN AND THE WAR.

FOOTBALL BETTER THAN FIGHTING.

According to the London "Weekly Dispatch," recruiting parties met bitter disappointment at the football matches in London on Saturday. At Chelsea ground there were several speakers, including Colonel Burn, M.P. Out of many thousands of eligible young men only one responded to the call to arms.

Appeals made at the other football centres on Saturday resulted as follows, according to the London "Times":—

Liverpool—"Scores."
Cardiff—Six.
Nottingham—None.
Brighton—None.

15,000 BRITISH TROOPS REPORTED DROWNED.

According to the German official news reports from Holland state that 15,000 British troops were drowned in the Yser Canal during the recent fighting between Bixschoote and Dixmude.

REPORTED INVESTMENT OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

It is announced in Berlin that reports received from Durban state that 3,000 Boers are in the vicinity of Bloemfontein, and fears are entertained for the safety of the garrison.

SOLDIERS WHO RESPECT EACH OTHER

A Paris despatch to the "New York American," dated November 9, tells the following story:—

A hare, startled by rifle fire, bounds wildly along the space between the French and German trenches. Instantly every rifle aims at the animal, which is shot.

Impulsively a Frenchman jumps out and hastens to seize the game, having visions of a tasty evening meal. That does not suit the Germans, who, momentarily suspending their rifle fire, shout: "Tobacco! Tobacco!"

The Frenchmen comprehend at once that the Germans will allow them to appropriate the hare if they leave the tobacco in exchange.

Whereupon the Frenchmen collect cigarettes and tobacco. One goes out, lifts the hare and leaves in its place a respectable packet of tobacco for the Germans. Could anything be more chivalrous or sportsmanlike?

WHAT'S UP?

A letter signed by the present and the two living ex-Prime Ministers of England, together with four others, was published on Saturday in all the London papers, in which it is declared that "given steadfast and unwavering fortitude on the part of the whole British people, we believe the victory will be ours. But, come what may, there must be no weakening, no wavering, no patched-up truce that would expose our children to a revival of the German menace, probably in circumstances far more terrible for the Empire than those which face us to-day."

PERSIA.

"THE SMALL NATIONALITIES."

In the "New Statesman" Mr. H. W. Brailsford, the famous war correspondent and critic of British foreign policy, writes:—

"Russia is violating Persian neutrality in her campaign against Turkey. One of her two armies from the Caucasus, as both the Russian and the German official telegrams state, is marching on Van through the Persian province of Aserbaijan. Persia has already protested against breaches of her neutrality by Russia. The Oriental Belgium had also its "scrap of paper," the Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, which guaranteed the integrity and independence of Persia. We can hardly, after the war, ostracise Germany as an outcast while we embrace Russia as an ally."

KERRY VOLUNTEERS.

First County Convention.

The Initial meeting of the Irish Volunteers was held at the Drill Hall, Basin View, on Saturday, at 12.30, Mr. D. J. O'Connell, M.C.C., Caherciveen, presided.

The following were also in attendance:—Tralee: P. J. O'Connell, J. D. O'Connell, solicitor; P. J. Cahill, E. O'Connor. Listowel: P. Landers, M. Griffin. Churchill: Patk. O'Donnell. Ballyferriter: P. O'Brien. Dingle: Desmond Fitzgerald. Dromod: T. O'Reilly. Castleisland: C. J. Browne. Scartaglin: D. Jones. Cordal: Kerry Brosnan. Caherciveen: D. J. O'Connell, M.C.C. Currans, M. O'Connor.

Mr. Eamonn O'Connor read the correspondence.

The Chairman (Mr. O'Connell) having thanked the meeting for asking him to preside and having dwelt on the movement, said that the first business on the agenda was the co-option of three members.

The following were proposed and elected unanimously—Messrs. J. J. McKenna, M.C.C., Listowel; Austin Stack, Tralee; W. H. O'Connor, Castleisland.

The following officers were appointed:—

Chairman of the County Board: Mr. J. J. McKenna, M.C.C., elected unanimously. Vice-Chairman: Mr. D. J. O'Connell, M.C.C., Caherciveen. Hon. Secs.: Messrs. Eamonn O'Connor and P. J. Cahill, Tralee. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W. H. O'Connor, Castleisland. County Delegate to the General Council of Irish Volunteers—Austin Stack, Tralee.

Some names were suggested to the Volunteer Committee in Dublin to be co-opted on the County Board. These names will be submitted to Headquarters for examination.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Board on Saturday, December 5th.

Mr. Michael Griffin, Listowel, moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Mr. C. J. Browne, Castleisland, seconded.

The Chairman replied and the meeting adjourned.

AMERICAN COPPER ORE CONTRABAND

Two Norwegian steamers have been brought into Glasgow by British warships charged with carrying copper ore from America to Germany.

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IRELAND.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1914.

CURRENCY.

Current Humbug.—He would rather be beaten in Cork almost than win anywhere else.—Wm. Redmond, M.P.

Current Sleepiness.—Sinn Feiners and political Gaelic Leaguers . . . cannot point to a single instance in which they have risked a night's sleep solely in Ireland's cause.—Thomas Halligan, J.P., Skryne, Co. Meath.

Current British Brilliancy.—Either the Russians win or they do not.—Colonel Maude.

REMARKABLE—VERY.

The Press Association, in sending out the message that five German and Austro-Hungarian prisoners had been killed and others wounded in a disturbance at the detention camp in the Isle of Man, stated that the disturbance arose out of the quality of the food supplied to the prisoners. It is now apparent that the British official theory is that the prisoners were trying to escape. The theory is very interesting. The prisoners were armed with mugs and plates. They were under the guard of soldiers armed with carbines; they were in a detention camp on an islet in the sea surrounded by England, Ireland and Scotland. If they escaped from the prison their only hope of preventing recapture was to seize a ship, or, failing a ship, open boats, and get away in them past the coast of Great Britain to Germany. If the theory be true, then decidedly the Germans are a most extraordinary people.

TRUTHFUL WILLIE.

We find these two paragraphs side by side in yesterday's "Independent." Comment would be painting the lily:—

A German Prisoner of War Dies.

A German prisoner of war, who died from natural causes, was buried on Saturday in the new cemetery, Templemore, with full military honours. Every mark of respect was shown the deceased. A firing party of the Leinster Regiment, with reversed arms, preceded the hearse, then followed 100 soldier and civilian German prisoners. Rev. D. Kielly, P.P., with cross and acolytes, attended at the graveside, where the "Benedictus" (in Latin) was chanted by the Germans, and other hymns, in their own vernacular.

Mr. W. Redmond and "Force in Future."

. . . So far as he was concerned, whether on the soil of Ireland, or whether it might be on another soil, he would fight, and ask his countrymen to fight to the death to defend Ireland from the invasion of men who were **destroying religion and civilisation in Belgium and France** (cheers).

THE "TELEGRAPH" SERGEANT.

Some doubt having arisen as to the veracity of "Sergeant-Major Jack Mullany," the "Evening Telegraph" publishes in part facsimile the precious letter—addressed to one Hand. In it the sergeant himself says: "I am Sergeant-Major of over 600 men." Who can longer doubt so unique a Sergeant's testimony?

RECRUITERS AND REDMONDITES.

The following is the text of the circular addressed to the Redmond Volunteers, distributed outside the Catholic churches in Dublin on Sunday:—

TO THE IRISH NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS.

You are in arms for the defence of your

country. It is for you to consider what the obligation which you have freely laid upon yourselves entails. At this moment **your country is threatened by enemies more powerful and more hostile** than any who have attacked her in the past. Their victory would mean the **complete conquest of Ireland**, the end of her claims to be a **self-governing nation**, and her subjugation to the rank of a conquered German Colony. Nothing stands between your enemies and an invasion of your country but the **Allied Forces both on land and sea**. If they are defeated **no Volunteer force, however good, will keep back the doom of Ireland**. Do you want it to be said that the Irish Volunteers left their kinsmen and their allies to do the fighting on the plains of Belgium and France?

One of your Committee, Professor KETTLE, has already joined the Irish Brigade, many of your comrades are already in its ranks. **Ireland expects you to follow their example**. The place to **defend your Country is on the battlefields of Europe**.

Men of Ireland, do not fail your Motherland.

THE CHOICE OF TIPPERARY.

The other day the "Freeman's Journal" published the following piece of doggerel on its leader page:—

RECRUITING SONG

Of the Irish Brigade, 1914.

The scribes may write, "This is England's fight,"

And safe at home they'll stay, boys;
But we know this fight is for Freedom and Right!

And our place is out in the fray, boys.

Chorus:

Out to the front! Shall they say we're afraid
To die for our home and our Sire-land?
Out to the front, with our own Brigade,
Fighting for dear old Ireland!

There are some who boast when the foe's on the coast

They will meet him and beat him sure, boys;
But they won't get the chance, for we'll beat him in France.

"Prevention is better than cure," boys.

The coward's name and the coward's shame,
We'll blot from old Ireland's page, boys;
But the glory of those who uphold her fame
She will blazon from age to age, boys.

Chorus:

Out to the front! Shall they say we're afraid
To die for our home and our Sire-land?
Out to the front, with our own Brigade,
Fighting for dear old Ireland!

This specimen of truth and poesy is, we believe, from the pen of Monsignor Arthur Ryan, who was too modest to sign his name to it. There will be more room for the big graziers if Tipperary boys go out to the war. The other piece of verse is from the pen of the late Dr. Robert Dwyer Joyce. The Premier County will make its choice between them:—

TIPPERARY RECRUITING SONG.

Street Ballad.

'Tis now we'd want to be wary, boys,
The recruiters are out in Tipperary, boys;
If they offer a glass, we'll wink as we pass—
We're ould birds for chaff in Tipperary, boys.

Then hurrah for the gallant Tipperary boys,
Altho' we're "cross and contrary," boys,
The never a one will handle a gun,
Except for the Green and Tipperary, boys.

Now mind what John Bull did here, my boys,
In the days of our famine and fear, my boys;
He burned and sacked, he plundered and racked,
Ould Ireland of Irish to clear, my boys.

Now Bull wants to pillage and rob, my boys,
And put the proceeds in his fob, my boys;
But let each Irish blade just stick to his trade,
And let Bull do his own dirty job, my boys.

So never to 'list be in haste, my boys,
Or a glass of drugged whiskey to taste, my boys;

If to India you'll go, 'tis to grief and to woe,
And to rot and die to like a beast, my boys.

But now he is beat for men, my boys,
His army is getting so thin, my boys,
With the fever and ague, the sword and the plague,
Oh! the devil a fear that he'll win, my boys.

Then mind not the robbing ould schemer, boys,
Tho' he says that he's richer than Damer, boys;

Tho' he'll bully and roar, his power is o'er,
And his black heart will shortly be tamer, boys.

Now isn't Bull peaceful and civil, boys,
In his mortal distress and his evil, boys?
But we'll cock each caubeen when his sergeant are seen,
And we'll tell them to go to the devil, boys.

Then hurrah for the gallant Tipperary boys,
Altho' we're cross and contrary, boys,
The never a one will handle a gun,
Except for the Green and Tipperary, boys.

RECRUITING YARNS.

In the current issue of the "Connacht Tribune" there appears a report under the captions: "Men at the Front;" Galway gives nearly 400 Recruits," "Remarkable Statistics," "Which will open the eyes of those who say Ireland is not doing her share." Then follows a list of the principal towns in Connaught with the number of recruits who have joined Kitchener's Army indicated in figures after each town. In this list Gort is credited with sending thirteen, although not one man has volunteered from Gort, except two or three ex-Army men. Yet the "Connacht Tribune" fails to inform its readers of this fact. Presumably we may accept the remaining numbers with the same degree of accuracy.

In another column we find a paragraph in which a man named Martin Shaughnessy is reported to have "volunteered for the front, and hopes within the next few days to join the Irish Brigade." This statement is utterly false, calculated to give a flip to recruiting, which is a dead letter in Gort. Mattie Shaughnessy has no intention of leaving his employment in the British Petroleum Co. to face the uncertainties of a war he has nothing to gain by.

In the same column of this truthful journal it is reported "the Gort Volunteers are split into two camps." This is another mendacious yarn; there has been only one corps in Gort which was duly affiliated under the original Provisional Committee, but which has now, unfortunately, been allowed to lapse.

RHYMES FOR THE TIMES.

When Colonel Moore reviewed his tour
He bravely showed his mettle;
And facts leaked out which plugged the spout
Of Mr. "Em'ty" Kettle.

In days of old this Patriot bold
Was "guilty" of sedition!
Now, out of job, the Saxon bob
Has changed his mind's condition.

And since we find he changed his mind
And twisted his old "handle,"
Those German spies—to "Em'ty" lies
They cannot hold a candle.

This Galway seat (who said defeat?)
Will put him in good fettle,
And then he'll sing "God Save the King"—
Brave Tommy Atkins Kettle.

K. O'DOHERTY.

THE WAR TAXES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "ÉIRE."

A Chara,—I read with interest "Colmcille's" letter in to-day's ÉIRE regarding the new taxes levied by the British Government to enable them to carry on this Holy War and extend their civilisation (Bachelor's Walk style) across the Rhine and to Berlin itself. I think your correspondent is right in saying that the time is opportune for an anti-revenue campaign. In fact, I would add that it is the duty of every Irishman (or should I say every Irish Irishman) to take a solemn pledge against tea-drinking. Not only would they be improving their own health (for tea-drinking is beyond doubt an injurious habit, and many medical men attribute to its excessive use the appalling increase in lunacy) but they would be doing their "little bit" for the country which needs them.

It is of interest to note that in 1773 a tax was placed upon all tea imported into Britain's American colonies. The taxation was forcibly resisted, and in Boston some young men boarded the tea-ships that lay in the harbour and pitched their cargoes overboard. Three years later the American colonies were free.

Hoping my point of view will meet with the approval of many of my countrymen.—

RISTEARD MAC EOIN.

THE WAR DAY BY DAY.

The Battle in Poland.

The present centre of the war is the eastern, not the western theatre, where Germany fights to put Russia out of action until spring. So far the conflict has gone in favour of the Germans who, following up their victory at Kutno, have advanced to the line of Lowiez-Skierni-Wice, and are, therefore, once more approaching Warsaw, against which another German army is advancing from the south. It is futile to prophesy what will happen. All that is clear is that the Germans have again astonished their foes by their strategy and tactics, and that at the moment they are in a favourable position. On the other hand, defeat for the Russians will be not only disaster to themselves but probable disaster to their Allies in the west—this explains the consternation that prevailed in London when the news that the Germans were again on the line Lowiez-Skierni-Wice—therefore the Russians may be expected to make a tremendous effort for victory or at least to avert defeat. Whatever happens in the next few days in Poland will materially influence the whole future of the war.

South Africa and Egypt.

The utter unreliability of the news from South Africa is so notorious that no serious attention can be paid to such stories as that De Wet's following is reduced to 25 men. All that is to be deduced from stories of this nature is that the defeats inflicted on the British and reported on Saturday have been so severe that it is necessary to invent offsets. As I have already said, above all parts of the world, as little news of any British reverses as possible will be allowed to come from South Africa or Egypt, a consideration which makes all the more significant the Turkish official report permitted by the British censorship to be published in England yesterday, that the Turks have reached the banks of the Suez Canal, defeating the British on the way between Katasa and Kerlibe and capturing the English camel corps and the Genedarmes in the British Service. If the Turkish account be true it is a grave matter both materially and in prestige for England. The Suez Canal in the hands of Turkey cuts England's main connection with the East and will probably compel a new disposition of her fleet. It will also considerably hamper Japan in any idea of sending an army into Europe.

C.

THE PRESENT STATE OF GERMANY.

According to the English Press Berlin is mourning, frightened, half hungry, and stagnant in business. The American journalists in Berlin give a very different account of the state of the German capital. The correspondent of the New York "American" writes:—

They still eat wheat bread in Berlin. Amusements proceed with little sign of abatement. Few posters to call men to arms are in evidence and there are many able-bodied men on the streets in civilian clothes.

These conditions are in striking contrast to those in neutral Holland, where all people are compelled to eat bread containing 75 per cent. rye and where almost all walls are covered with official announcements relating to mobilisation and the regulation of prices.

There are surprisingly few soldiers in the streets. Now and then a column put in an appearance off for the war. Beside the men march their women, not so cheerful.

Business seems normal. Shortly after the mobilisation some of the large amusement places, concert halls and vaudeville houses closed. Many have been reopened for the winter. The cafes are crowded and the many artists out of work represent curtailment rather than closures.

Among shop and factory employees the percentage of unemployment is lower because of the men taken to the front. Official figures recently issued show only two to six per cent. more unemployed than normally, while in certain trades, requiring men of exceptional physique, there was a shortage.

In the hotels and restaurants the "speisekarte" is no longer a "menu." There has been little reduction in the quantity and no deterioration in the quality of the food. Nor are the prices materially higher. Many of the big restaurants have made no change.

The war is not exactly popular. The feeling seems to be that war is a very disagreeable business which must be disposed of thoroughly.

In the crowds may be seen many women in mourning, but Press and public are Spartan.

GERMANY AND IRELAND.

"Never invade it with a view to Conquest."

The London "Daily News" yesterday published the following message, dated "Rotterdam, Sunday":—

An impudent manifesto to the Irish nation is published in the semi-official "Norddeutscher Allgemeine Zeitung."

It appears that this previous attempt to seduce Ireland, and galvanise into an appearance of life the domestic differences to which Germany pinned her faith at the commencement of the war was called forth by what is described as "an interview at the German Foreign Office with Sir Roger Casement, the Irish Nationalist leader," whose report on the Putumayo atrocities, while he was British Consul at Rio, brought him into public notice.

Whether this interview ever took place, or whether Sir Roger Casement in even in Germany, may, of course, be questioned. In any case the statement now published must be given with the utmost reserve, and will be accepted with all possible caution. . . . (Passage deleted by the Censor.)

"The German Imperial Government wish absolutely to deny that churches, priests and towns would be interfered with by the German Army. The German Government takes this opportunity of declaring to the Irish nation that it only seeks the welfare of that nation, its country, and its institutions.

"The German Government declares that it has never had the intention of capturing or destroying any institution whatsoever in Ireland. If the chances of war should bring German troops to the coast of Ireland they would not land as an army of invaders, who came to rob and destroy, but as the fighting power of a Government clothed with only good will towards the Irish nation, the national welfare and liberty of which alone Germany desires."

THE GERMAN OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

Sir Roger Received at the Foreign Office.

The German official wireless news issued from Berlin yesterday contains the following references to the alleged interview:—

"Sir Roger Casement was received yesterday at the Foreign Office in Berlin, and said that statements had been published in Ireland to the effect that victory for the German arms would result in great loss to the Irish people, whose homes, churches, priests and land would be at the mercy of an invading army, actuated only by motives of pillage and conquest. These statements, coupled with the recent speeches of Mr. John Redmond, had caused apprehension among the Irish regarding the German attitude in the event of a victory for Germany in the present war.

"The Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by order of the Imperial Chancellor, officially declared that the German Government repudiated the evil intentions attributed to it, and only desired the welfare of the Irish people, and their country. Germany, he said, would never invade Ireland, with a view to its conquest, or the overthrow of any Irish national institutions, and should fortune ever bring the German troops to Ireland's shores, those troops would land, not as an army of invaders to pillage and destroy, but as forces of a nation inspired by good will towards Ireland, and her people, for whom Germany desires national prosperity and freedom."

The "Daily News" adds:—"The Press Bureau permits publication of this message, but it should be clearly understood that it emanates only from German sources. We give it with all reserve."

THOMAS DAVIS

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GERMAN ATROCITIES.

On Saturday the Recruiting Press was filled with tales of German atrocities culled from the "Belgian Official Commission Report." We take the following criticism of that report from the New York "Staats Zeitung":—

Of the 120 octavo pages of "The Case of Belgium in the Present War—An Account of the Violation of the Neutrality of Belgium and of the Laws of War on Belgium Territory," not more than sixty-three and a half pages are devoted to the testimony of the witnesses examined by the official Commission at eight sessions.

Eighteen witnesses—or twenty-three per cent. of the whole number—give only hearsay testimony. Two of the statements, the most important of all, are anonymous; two others are not signed; seven are contained in letters sent the Commission during the examination, and two in manuscripts containing statements and signed by the Commission. Only forty-eight witnesses, or sixty per cent., have affixed the bona-fide signatures to their statements after the same had been carefully arranged and edited by the Secretary of the Commission, and the majority of these claim to have received their information concerning the alleged atrocities from neighbours and relatives.

Only five persons were examined in regard to Louvain, and among these is a witness whose name is not given and who visited the city after its partial destruction for only a few hours. Of the witnesses vouching for the reported cruelties, whose exact address is frequently given, not one testifies in person. Repeatedly the statements of one witness were read to the next witness and by him signed as correct, a proceeding not likely to create confidence in the accuracy of the testimony, as in the instance of a Belgian colonel who vouches for the testimony of his own orderly.

Let us analyse in detail this remarkable, translated protocol, which is not a stenographic record, but a carefully edited document. To dispose of one of its findings, it contains many probably unintentional admissions that the German troops acted not without provocation. Thus two members of the Commission admit, as the result of a visit to a hospital, that the treatment of prisoners by the Germans evidenced "no characteristic breach of civilised warfare." Further it is stated (p. 57): "Some neighbours opened their doors, the Germans went through the houses without doing any harm." Page 58: "As nothing was found (in the form of arms) they did nothing to the house and did not commit any violence." Page 64: "A German soldier told me that they were not allowed to touch the women." (Testimony of a girl 23 years old from Aerschot.) Page 69: "A German non-commissioned officer said that it grieved him to act in this way (destroy houses), but that the Belgians were to blame as they started it." Page 80: "The Germans at first behaved properly in the town"; page 97: "I do not know of any deeds of violence perpetrated on women; the Germans behaved quite well at first." (Until fired upon by the civilians.)

The first hearing covered "the massacre of Aerschot." The first witness (female) testified that her house was searched for arms, but does not mention whether any were found. Her husband, who as she herself testifies, acted as guard at the railway station (surely not without a gun), was shot, and the same fate meted out to four others, according to her statement based upon assertions of a police constable (page 51). The police constable names six (57). A Commandant Gilson declares that during the fight between Belgian and German soldiers, four women and their children passed along the street which divided the opposing forces (the famous case covering the charge that the Germans shielded themselves behind women and children.) "Everything seems to indicate that they were pushed ahead of the German troops to prevent the Belgian troops from firing upon them" (page 53). Why charge this against the Germans? Why not the Belgians?

A priest from Aerschot at first testified that his housekeeper was outraged in Heresselt and afterwards drowned; but two days later he was compelled to admit that he "cannot affirm for sure that this has taken place, but she was found drowned the next day," the mayor of the town having meanwhile testified that the girl had committed suicide in a panic of fear by leaping into a well (page 72). Witnesses who fled to their cellars and hid themselves at the approach of the Germans testify circumstantially to things going on at a hundred different places in other parts of the town. One testifies that the mayor had ordered all

weapons to be turned in before the arrival of the Germans. Another declares (page 59): "The mayor then told us (after the assault on the German troops and the consequent arrest of many citizens) that we might return home, subject to depositing our arms. . . . Nothing was found on me and they left me alone."

The station master was "unable to testify to any outrages by the Germans." His assistant "knows nothing of what happened at Aerschot," but "was told" that his sister had been burned alive in her house while hiding in the cellar with her husband and child; but that her husband and child had escaped. (Strangely, this hero who left his wife to perish in the flames, was not examined to verify the truth of this report.)

The number of dead varies with each witness. The statements as to the time of certain occurrences also conflict, which is not to be wondered at, seeing that in many cases two and three weeks elapsed between what happened and the date of the examination. On every page statements are repeated, such as: "I was told," "Neighbours informed me," "Citizens said," but nowhere were the original witnesses cited before the Commission or judicially examined, presumably because it was feared that otherwise the inconsistency of the rumours would be too apparent.

One Vicar affirms that they destroyed all the furniture of one of the members of his cloth (who is not examined), that it was soaked in paraffin and that they tried in this way to set fire to the church, failing five times in the attempt. At the same time another witness speaks of hose filled with chemicals which the German troops were carrying with them, the flames of which no amount of water was able to extinguish.

Every witness declared that it was untrue that the German troops had been fired upon by civilians, either having no knowledge of it or because the mayor had previously given orders not to do so. But a wine merchant from Aerschot admits (page 77): "A Belgian soldier, living in Rue de Malines, dressed himself in citizen clothes in a house and went on shooting." Rev. Van Roye denies that the German troops entering the town were shot at from the church; but on page 80, Rev. M. Meens, dean of Aerschot, affirms that "some Belgian soldiers fired from the tower of my church."

German reports positively affirm that a higher officer was shot down in the house of the mayor of Aerschot by the latter's son. The immediate execution of the guilty ones is described by a witness on page 92: "An officer of high rank approached the burgomaster and accused him of being responsible for all that was happening. Mr. Tieleman protested, taking his fellow-citizens as witnesses of his perfect innocence. **Some of them confirmed his words.**" So even where their word might eventually have saved two lives the majority of the citizens hesitated to substantiate the executive head of their community.

These are the "proofs" of the atrocities of the German troops in Aerschot, fired upon in violation of the laws of war from the church tower and by a Belgian soldier disguised as a civilian.

But let us examine the "proofs" in the case of Louvain, where—quite apart from the unanimous testimony of wounded German soldiers and officers invalided home—the investigation of an English correspondent in the London "Daily Mail" of September 13, surely not influenced by friendship for Germany, resulted in establishing the fact that citizens under the burgomaster and Belgian officers on the evening of August 25 opened a cannonade from machine guns on the German soldiers in the streets and used the Church of St. Pierre as a veritable fortress.

As mentioned above, the total number of witnesses from Louvain were just **five**. Aside from this, the name of the principal witness is withheld for reasons of policy. His testimony, however, is regarded of such importance that it is printed twice in different parts of the pamphlet, and in the form of contradictory translations, indicating crass negligence, to say the least, if not actual forgery on the part of the Commission. In support of the latter theory it may be mentioned that special emphasis is laid in the general summing up of the report on the testimony of this witness (page 45), but an eye-witness is mentioned who is said to have left Louvain only on August 30. But according to his own statement (page 113), he did not go to Louvain until August 30, at the solicitation of the Countess Bethune, and left it the same day, so that he could not have spent more than six or eight hours in the city, which, according to his testimony, was still burning, contrary to the statements of the others.

The second witness from Louvain reports an

outrage committed upon a young girl in a vacant house (hence without substantiating witnesses), and a subsequent public assault on his own niece by five or six German soldiers. In both cases the parents of the victims, as well as a priest, are named as witnesses of the outrage; but the Official Commission did not consider it necessary to summon any one of them to establish the truth of this terrible assertion. The third and fourth witnesses contradict one another. According to the first (page 90), the German train came in wild flight into Louvain from the direction of Malines, whereupon a fierce fusillade begun in the streets (in which the Germans are alleged to have fired upon their own light gray troops without being able to distinguish them from the dark-blue uniformed soldiers of the Belgians!) According to the other, the train had been in the city for some time and bolted as a consequence of the fright of the horses when the attack began.

For the truth of the German bestialities, witness No. 4 cites two priests, including an American, but prudently, perhaps, without mentioning names. Witness No. 5, finally, pays a high tribute of praise to the German aviator squadron, the first to arrive in the city. He places the date of the fight with the civilian population, which the others fix as Tuesday, August 25, at Thursday, August 27. He is the only one to testify to seeing the dead bodies of German soldiers in the streets, and his conclusions are very interesting. Held as a hostage and warned that he would be shot at the next attack of the population, he declared, when told by his guard that the firing was continuing incessantly from the burning houses: "The reports we heard were only those of the cartridges exploding in the fire" (page 107), omitting to explain why and wherefore these cartridges were in the houses of peaceable citizens.

In Sempst was found the half-charred body of a man who, according to the affirmation of one witness (page 77) had both legs cut off, and according to another (page 98) had both legs still intact. Regarding the fighting around Linsmeau one witness (page 79) testified that the dead German officer, on whose account the Germans instituted retaliatory measures, had been killed by soldiers of the Liege Civil Guard passing in a motor car, which the Germans did not see. On the next page the commander of a mounted corps of Civil Guards declares that his men shot down the officer in full sight of the Germans.

At Vise and Lixhe, the same witness reports hearing firing on the right bank of the Meuse, "which was not due to war weapons," an unintentional and interesting confirmation of the German assertion that the civilians had taken part in the fighting (page 80). A similar "lapsus lingua" happens to a witness from Herent, who declares that he was forced "to bring up all the arms which had been deposited in the cellars of the Town Hall behind cases," and this after all weapons were alleged to have been delivered up (page 94); and again when a Belgian captain admits that he fired at a German field hospital flying the Red Cross flag and destroyed it, because a patrol had seen German soldiers with a machine gun near the house (page 99). At Boisshot the Germans did not resort to reprisals until, according to the testimony of the burgomaster of the place, the fourth Uhlan had been shot dead. And the servant of the mayor confesses: "I heard people say that this one had been killed by a civilian hidden in the mill" (page 107)!

This is the sort of evidence filling the sixty-three pages of testimony. Page after page of stories based on hearsay evidence carried from one to another, and coloured to suit the fancy, contradictions and unguarded admissions. This is the Belgian evidence trumped up to support the charges of German atrocities! It is not intended to charge all the witnesses with perjury. Many perhaps told their tales of honour in good faith; but any one at all familiar with judicial proceedings knows to what extent surmises become convictions, rumours become facts, and hills mountains; how diverse impressions become blended; how the fancy exaggerates momentary impressions, and how even a simple fact recited by twenty witnesses takes on twenty different forms, especially when considerable time elapses between an event and the trial.

This does not apply to the Commission, which in its introduction and various "findings" deliberately twists the terms of the Hague Convention, makes it appear that an undefended and a fortified city are one and the same thing, and repeats the proven falsehood that all the art objects in Louvain Cathedral were destroyed, whereas the truth is that German officers personally removed them during the fire from the endangered church to the security of the City Hall. It defends the

guerilla warfare of the civilians, provided arms are carried openly. It regalanises the exploded lie that the bombs thrown by a Zepelin balloon at Antwerp were aimed at the royal family; it publishes four pages of "official findings" concerning the alleged atrocities of Linsmeau and Orsmael, but nowhere in the minutes does the examination itself appear with the signatures of the witnesses, as it has done in other cases, even in the edited form.

In short, the Commission employs every expedient of deceit and cunning. These are the proofs which they had the audacity to submit to our President, "proofs" whose falsity and perversion of facts in all their ramifications are a positive insult to the intelligence of neutral America. True, pictures of destroyed Belgian cities have been shown, but even these pictures, as recently demonstrated, regarding the discovery of fraud in Termonde, are deceptive.

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