

SCISSORS AND PASTE

Vol. I. No. 2.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1914.

ONE HALFPENNY.

THE FATE OF EGYPT.

According to an agency message from Paris a telegram from Cairo states that Lieutenant Colonel Sir A. Markham, Foreign Secretary to the Indian Government, has been appointed to succeed Lord Kitchener in Egypt, with the title of High Commissioner. It is the title that makes the report interesting. If it is true, it can hardly mean anything less than a change in the status of Egypt. Lord Kitchener, like Lord Cromer before him, was merely Consul General, an office which symbolised our anomalous position in Egypt as a foreign Power in occupation with no rights of rule or protectorate. A High Commissioner is a kind of official who is now only appointed to a Crown Colony or a protectorate. For example, we govern Cyprus and the Somaliland Protectorate through High Commissioners. If our new representative in Egypt is to be High Commissioner, the inference is that Egypt is virtually annexed as a British colony or protectorate.—"Manchester Guardian."

THE FATE OF BELGIUM.

"I hear that the French Army no less than the Belgian have an admiration for King Albert that amounts almost to hero-worship. Indeed, there is a strong desire prevalent in all ranks—a desire which has almost the strength of a movement—that the overthrow of Germany should be celebrated by the Union of France and Belgium under the monarchy of the present King of the Belgians.—London "World."

AMERICA AND THE WAR. Reaction Against England.

Making some allowance for prejudice and weighing conflicting claims, it becomes evident that there has been some reaction against England during the past couple of months. This change is due to four causes: first, the work done by the German Government in this country; second, the irritation caused by the restrictions and interference of the censor in London; third, the impression that England is simply using the United States for her own advantage and has failed to show proper recognition of the work done in her behalf here; and, finally, the belief that, while Belgium has suffered and been made the victim through English diplomacy, England has done nothing for Belgium.—London "Morning Post."

GERMAN DESIGNS ON SUEZ.

It is rumoured among refugees that German engineers residing at Haifa, on the Bay of Acre, are constructing a railway in the neighbourhood of the Dead Sea, the direction being towards El Arish.

Herr Frank, agent of the Deutsche Motorenfabrik, has completed a large portable bridge for the Suez Canal, which he is now testing at Samach, on the shores of Lake Tiberias.—London "Times."

THE WAR FOR THE "SMALL NATIONALITIES."

RUSSIA SUPPRESSES FINLAND.

The following letters appear in the "Manchester Guardian":—

Sir,—I feel certain that thousands of your readers, like myself, are fully appreciating the patriotic motives which prompted you to publish in your issue of December 2 the programme of measures for the suppression of every trace of Finnish autonomy and citizenship.

At a moment when England, France, and Russia are waging a war unprecedented in history by its magnitude and with the avowed object of securing to the small nationalities the right of free development, and when Germany, by flourishing before the eyes of the Scandinavian nations the legend of Russian tyranny, is doing its utmost for the alienation of the sympathies of those neutral nations from the cause of the Allies, it seems almost unthinkable that any Government could conceive the idea of crushing the last liberties of the Finnish people, so closely connected in religion, culture, and economic interests. But there is no hiding the fact—

1. That by the Finnish Constitution no measure may become law in Finland unless passed by the Finnish Diet and subsequently sanctioned by the Tsar—the Grand Duke of Finland; that therefore the assurance given by the Petrograd correspondents of some British papers that the said programme cannot become law in Finland before it is submitted to, and approved by, the Russian Duma is in itself no less a contemplated violation of the Finnish Constitution than if it were passed solely by "administrative order" of the Russian Executive.

2. That the programme was elaborated by a Committee specially appointed for that purpose by the Tsar, and that it has already received the sanction of the Tsar, though never having been submitted to the Finnish Diet.

3. That since the beginning of the war prominent Finnish citizens, including the Speaker of the Finnish Diet, have been arrested in Finland and exiled to Siberia by "administrative order."

4. That Finnish newspapers have been suppressed by the same process, and the Finnish Press forbidden to reproduce or even to mention the Manifesto to the Poles.

5. In short, that some of the proposals have, by the process of "administrative order," been already tentatively put into force.

Yet, in spite of all this, I, for one, refuse to believe that proposals so obviously antagonistic to the best interests of the Allies and so contradictory to their public declaration can be persevered in by Russia.—Yours, etc.,

WM. T. GOODE, Hon. Sec.,
Anglo-Finnish Society.

Graystoke Place, London, E.C.,
December 10.

Sir,—Since the publication in your issue of December 2 of the Imperial Russian Ukase consummating the destruction of the liberties of Finland, one has looked anxiously for some response from the public and for some remonstrance from official quarters. The important letter you publish to-day, and your article,

will surely rouse public opinion. Is our country so gagged and bound by the ties of an alliance dictated by necessity that she cannot raise a voice against such a shameful act of tyranny as this final Russification of Finland? There are those who have hinted that our solicitude on behalf of small nationalities exists only when the violation of these touches our own interests. If no protest is made now on behalf of Finland, let us henceforth be for ever silent on the subject of protecting small nations!—Yours, etc.,

I. M. GREG.

December 11.

ENGLAND AND NORWAY.

Christiania, Nov. 17.—England has demanded from Norway, for use as a naval base, the city and harbour of Christiansand on the southern coast of Norway, such use to continue only during the war. The demand has been refused.

Troops have been sent to Christiansand from all parts of Norway, and the defences of the city are being strengthened.

If Norway's neutrality should be violated by England, Sweden would also be drawn into the struggle because of its defensive alliance with Norway.

The people of Sweden dislike Russia, but the Norwegian people are more friendly to the Allies than to Germany. Public opinion here considers the ruthless over-running of Belgium and Luxemburg by Germany as indicative that small Powers or independent States would not be safe if German arms prevailed.

Nevertheless, the people of Norway will defend their neutrality.—"New York American."

LAND GRANTS FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS.

Delhi, Dec. 12.

The Punjab Government, with the approval of the Government of India, have, in the case of the latest of the Punjab canal colonies, decided to increase the allotment of 103,000 acres which had been set aside for grants to Army pensioners to 178,000 acres.

These grants will be made at the close of the year, and, in addition to that part of 103,000 acres which will be given as rewards for services in the present war, an additional area of 75,000 acres will be specially reserved for this purpose and distributed to Indians who distinguish themselves in the present campaign or their heirs.—Reuter.

GERMAN PRISONERS IN OLDCASTLE WORKHOUSE.

The long-expected German prisoners arrived this week in Oldcastle and took up quarters in the disused Workhouse buildings, where elaborate preparations, including the erection of barbed wire entanglements, had been in progress for some time. By special train on Tuesday last 68 Germans, in charge of an escort, arrived in Oldcastle. On Thursday the 26th ult. more arrived. The Germans while away the long evenings singing German songs and Latin hymns. Occasionally they pass through the town on their evening stroll, under military escort.—"Meath Chronicle."

Scissors and Paste.

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In sending matter for publication the writer must enclose real name and address; otherwise it will receive no attention.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1914.

ENGLISH PRETENCES.

From Canada to the Cape, from Ireland to Australia, from India and China to Western Africa, and the distant realms of South America, no nation but has felt the teeth and claws and venom of this incongruous and pitiless monster. England has warred for gain against liberty, and with all the weapons of ferocity and deceit. Yet she seldom wanted some moral pretence or religious humbug to justify her acts.—**Thomas Davis (Essays).**

GERMANY.

"Father Martin Hughes was not originally intended for the Church, but for the Bar. For this purpose he had spent two years in Germany, passing from university to university, lodging in humble cottages by the banks of legendary rivers, or in the solitudes of black mountain forests; and here he had learned to prize the simple, cleanly lives, gray and drab in their monotony, but gilded by the music and the mystery that seems to hang like a golden cloud above the Fatherland. In after life he often recurred, with all the gratefulness of memory, to the kindness and unaffected politeness of these simple peasants; and the marks of sympathetic friendship, such as the placing of a bunch of violets with silent courtesy on his dressing-table, or the little presents on his birthday, when his portrait was decorated, were graven indelibly on a memory almost too retentive. Then the pathos of the German hymns, sung by a whole family around the supper table, and to the accompaniment of a single table-piano, such as you see in every German household, haunted him like a dream; and when, by degrees, he began to realise that this country, which but a few years back had been cursed by a foreign tongue, had now, by a supreme magnificent effort, created its own language, and a literature unsurpassed for richness and sweetness, he saturated himself with the poetry and philosophy of the country, which gave a new colour and embellishment to life. Not that he troubled himself much about the cloudy metaphysics of this school or that, or the fine hair-splitting of philosophical mountebanks who ridiculed the scholastics for logic-chopping, yet imitated in untruth the worst features of systems they condemned; but he allowed the fine mists and mountain dews of Herder, Richter, and Novalis to wrap him round and saturate his spirit, and thanked God that He had given poets to the world. The last months of his pilgrimage he had spent above the Necker, in the grand old town of Heidelberg, and he never saw it after but in such a sunset dream of colouring and such an overhanging heaven of azure as arches the golden landscapes on the canvases of Turner. But it was there and in the lovely recesses of the Hartz mountains, where village after village clustered around the church spire and the white tombs of the dead, that the gentle afflatus was breathed on him that turned his thoughts from the forum to the pulpit and from the world to God. But he never abandoned his German studies during all his after life. He had conceived the original and apparently extravagant idea of engraving German ideas, German habits and manners on the peasantry at home, and he had written one thoughtful article on the affinity between German and Irish thought and tradition. He thought to show that German idealism and Celtic mysticism were the same, and that the issue of an alliance between the thoughts and sympathies of these nations should necessarily be a healthy one."—From "Luke Delmege," by the Very Rev. Canon Sheehan.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The difference between a starving Belgian and a starving American is about 3,500 miles.—"New York American."

ON HOME RULE.

Denis Honaghan came into Dan Moloney's house in a high state of excitement.

"Is it thrue what the widda's Tom tells me, Dan, that two or three Dublin papers is after bein' pounced in an' made shut up for sayin' things that other people didn't like—the same as used to happen to th' 'Irish People' an' 'United Ireland' long ago?"

"It's as thrue, Denis, as that a cat wags her tail when she thinks she sees a mouse. I was just readin' about it here a few minutes ago."

"An' isn't it a great wondher, Dan, that men like John Redmond an' John Dillon, an' all the rest o' them 'd do the likes on their own counthymen, no matter how much they used to differ before now?"

"What in the name o' Mickey Burke's goat has John Redmond or John Dillon to do with it, Denis? Were you takin' a sup, or did you not sleep enough last night, or what's the matther with you?"

"But tell me, Dan, didn't we get Home Rule a couple o' months ago, an' isn't it our own men that has the doin' o' things like that now instead o' the felas that use to be in Dublin Castle an' that we always used to booh an' groan at the meetin's?"

"Denis, avic., you have as much sense as a cow sufferin' from brain fever. Didn't the papers say, and didn't I read it out for you here in this very house, as plain as the whackin' of a flail, that although Home Rule was won an' we were at liberty to light the bone fires an' to cheer till we'd be as hoarse as a dhrake with th' influenzy, it couldn't be put into force or th' ould House in College Green dusted up an' made ready for the mimbers until Kitchener's army got up to Berlin or the Germans sthrolled into London—until the war was declared off an' everybody round the world was shakin' hands and kissin' and carousin' and vowing never to fight again—until the next time. We have Home Rule all right, Denis, but we can't look at it yet, afraid it might dazzle our eyes too much, or give us a squint that we'd never get over. But make your mind aisy about it, Denis, Home Rule is won."

"An' tell me, Dan, have we any power at all now in our own hands? Is there anythin' the Home Rule Bill 'll let us do without fear o' bein' put in jail for it, as was the case when them fellas used to be in Dublin Castle?"

"Oh, them fellas are in Dublin Castle still, Denis, an' they'll be in it for a good while yet, but we've a terrible lot o' power in our hands all the same, now that the Home Rule Bill is lying on top o' the Statute Book, waitin' for the scuffle that's goin' on in France to be at an end."

"Oh, indeed we have, Denis, a great lot o' power in our own hands since the Home Rule Bill was tied up for fear of makin' people lose their heads, or break their shin bones kickin' others with the fair dint o' joy and excitement. We can go to bed every night an' snore if we want to do it an' keep one eye opened an' th' other half shut if we feel like it; an' we can get up every mornin' an' eat our breakfast if we can get it, an' go out an' work till we get tired, an' long afther it, too, and if we are in good humour we can sing the new National Anthem that's called 'It's a Long Long Way to Tipperary,' an' if we're not in the best o' fettle we're at liberty to chaw an' growl as long as ever we like, an' there's not a peeler that ever 'iled his hair can summons us for doin' it, so long as we don't growl at him."

"We can put a spanshel on a goat without gettin' a special licence for it, an' we can pare th' ass's hooves, and throw candle grease in the fire an' jump over a fur bush, an' snare a rabbit if there's nobody lookin' at us, an' milk the cow every mornin' an' night, an' chaw tobacco in the two sides of our mouth at the one time, an' put out our tongue when we hit our thumb with a hammer, an' stan' on our head for half a day on the pier of a gate if we have the time, an' the wish to do it."

"Every man can keep a pet scutty wran if she'll stay with him, an' he can wear nails in the uppers of his boots as well as in the soles o' them, an' cut his hair with a rapin' hook, an' 'ile it with the white of an egg if he'd rather have it than anything else, an' put hair pins in his moustache, an' rings in his ears the same as the women, an' he can carry a little bag about in his hand for houldin' his pipe an' tobacco, instead o' havin' a pocket in his breeches. An' there's a whole lot of other things, Denis, that we have liberty to do undher Home Rule, but they're too numerous to mention, as the papers say when they're writin' about weddin' presents an' things o' that sort."

"I don't believe but y'are jokin' Dan. Is there anythin' special we can do that we usen't to do before Home Rule was won?"

"Oh, yes, Denis, there is, but I just forgot to mention it. We are graciously allowed to pay thruppence a pound more for the grain o' tay, an' any fella that wants to slug porther into him can now pay thruppence a pint for it instead o' the tuppence he used to pay before the Great Home Rule victhory was won; an' sure nobody can say that's not a change from the way we were, anyway."

"I'm afraid its the quare Home Rule, Dan."

"Don't say that too loud or too often, Denis, or you might be suppressed. The tighter a man keeps his tongue in his cheek these times the betther for himself."—The "Meath Chronicle."

THE "DAILY BLOODSTAIN" AND THE WAR.

If the Censor's department wanted to do some immediate good to the community it would slay at birth about 95 per cent. of our German atrocity cables. They do no good to anyone except the Germans. The Germans score because the inevitable effect of these horrifying messages must be to discourage recruiting—the average man being willing enough to fight ordinary human beings, but disinclined to face soldiers who are represented to him, by reputable newspapers, as wild animals. The people who get joy out of such stuff are the sort who would gloat over the victim of a train accident.

If the gratification of their unpleasant tastes harmed only them it would not matter so much, but the fact is it reacts on the whole community. Nothing is worse for the national mind than that it should be encouraged to revel in the morbid and the horrible. And, in any case, about three-parts of the appalling stories which are served up, day by day, are self-evident lies.

A sensation was created a week or so ago by the intimation that a cat-o'-nine-tails had been found in the cabin of every officer on board a German cruiser—the object of the weapon being to flog the reluctant mariners to their duties. It now turns out that the cat-o'-nine tails were clothes brushes. One Grace Hume, of Dumfries (Scotland), a nurse, was said to have been hideously mutilated and to have died from the shock. The next day it was announced casually that the story was "a hoax." About the same time there appeared a yarn about a train-load of dead bodies, stacked one on top of the other like frozen meat, which had arrived at some unspecified station, "causing many of the passengers on the platform to faint with horror." No contradiction of the above had arrived up to the time of writing, but it seems improbable that any nation should be sending its corpses for railway rides, in view of the necessities that have to be shifted from place to place to meet the requirements of the living.

A typical German atrocity yarn was that which the morning papers printed (17/9/14) on the subject of a small boy who was found giving a wounded French sergeant a drink, and was handed a rifle by a German captain and told to present his injured friend with a bullet instead. The story being of the purest Deadwood Dick brand, the lad, of course, shot the idiot captain dead, and was himself instantly "riddled with bayonets and bullets." The harm that the retainment of all this gory rot does in the way of terrorising the credulous and inflaming their minds against inoffensive local Germans, needs no demonstration.

And then there is the other sort of lie, equally futile, though more innocuous. For weeks a Russian force, estimated variously at from 50,000 to 250,000 men, was reported to have arrived at Ostend from England. It has now been established, definitely, that, up to the end of last week, no such force landed in Belgium. The German Crown Prince has been listed amongst the dead on eleven different occasions during the last month. Also, General von Kluck was represented, on Thursday last, as having surrendered with 250,000 men. On the following Friday the papers remarked blandly that the captured Von Kluck had made "an effective resistance" on the German right, and enabled the slain Crown Prince to escape with his army, from an awkward position on the Verdun-to-Toul line. An evening paper gave a list of wounded Sydneyites, with portraits of the more prominent victims, and it transpired the next day that the names on the list were merely those of young men who had recently joined the colours. And so one might proceed for a page or two.—"Sydney Bulletin."

NEWS FROM BERLIN.

(From the German Wireless, published in the London "Times" and "Daily Mail.")

THE BATTLE OF LODZ.

The evacuation of Lodz by the Russians took place secretly during the night, and therefore there was no fighting connected with it. At first it was unobserved. The evacuation is, however, merely the outcome of the previous three days' battles, in which the Russians suffered altogether enormous losses. The abandoned Russian trenches were literally filled with dead soldiers. Although we were the attackers, our losses remained far below those of the Russians. In the famous dash through the Russian lines of our 25th Reserve Corps 150 men only fell.

As in previous battles, we are able to estimate the total Russian losses rather accurately. In the battles which took place in Poland, up to the present, including the 80,000 prisoners which we have taken, the losses amount to at least 150,000 men.

Latest reports from the neighbourhood of Lodz indicate that the Russian resistance is by no means broken yet. Their new positions on Miazga (? Mroga) were cut only some 12 or 13 miles eastward of Lodz, thus demonstrating that much remains to be done before the Russian resistance can be definitely considered broken. In these circumstances the battles in the vicinity of Lowicz have added significance. If the Germans succeed in breaking through here the Russian position will become untenable.

Budapest reports that another attempt by the Russians to enter the province of Zemplin (Hungary) has been frustrated.

THE "SUICIDE" OF VON DER COLTZ.

Field-Marshal Goltz, who spent some time in Berlin before his departure for Constantinople, was highly amused at the cock-and-bull story in the London papers of his repeated attempts to commit suicide while in Brussels.

IMAM YAHYA.

Imam Yahya, formerly Turkey's most relentless enemy in Yemen, has decided to fight against the English.

RUSSIA AND THE POPE.

Russia has declined the Pope's proposal for a Christmas truce among belligerents.

THE DARDANELLES.

The Anglo-French Fleet attacked the Dardanelles without success.

IRELAND AND THE BRITISH ARMY.

A strong fermentation against England has arisen in Ireland, and it is alleged the Irish refuse to join the British Army.

THE PACIFIC SQUADRON.

The loss of the German cruiser squadron off the Falkland Isles has occasioned general regret but scarcely surprise. Even the most optimistic had not dared to expect that the ships would be able to make their escape.

THE RUSSIAN REPORTS.

The following might be said with regard to the Russian and French official reports. On Sunday it was officially reported from Petrograd that south-east of Cracow the Russians were continuing the offensive and had captured several German cannon and machine-guns, and had taken 2,000 prisoners. In reality not a single man, not a single gun or machine-gun, of our troops fighting south-east of Cracow has fallen into Russian hands.

THE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

It is reported that seven British Dreadnoughts took part in the engagement in the South Atlantic which resulted in the destruction of a German cruiser squadron. The British ships were in every respect superior to the weaker and smaller German vessels.

DESTRUCTION OF AN HOSPITAL.

The Milan "Corriere della Sera" protests against the destruction of the hospital at Lille by incendiary French civilians.

"NEW YORK WORLD" CORRESPONDENT.

Mr. Emerson, the war correspondent of the "New York World," described in a lecture at the American Institute in Berlin his experiences on the eastern and western battle fronts. He said that he had seen many prisoners and civilians in the occupied territories, all of whom were full of praise for the treatment which they had received at the hands of the Germans. From Russian prisoners belonging to the Southern Army Corps Mr. Emerson said that he had heard that they were brought to Europe last June, and he put this forward as proof that Russia had long ago been prepared for war.

CHINA AND ENGLAND.

PRESS OPENS FIRE.

Peking, Oct. 30.

The Chinese Press in Peking has for years past been anti-British in sentiment, and professional agitators have made use of the opium traffic, the Tibetan question, and the alliance with Japan to increase this tendency. Few opportunities are lost of impugning British good faith, and delight has been expressed by responsible writers at the imagined decadence of Great Britain. It is impossible to doubt that this campaign has been assisted by German money. Ever since the outbreak of the war the Press of Peking has almost without exception given prominence to German official reports and to translations of articles satirizing the New Army, or recording disagreement between the Allies and the unpopularity of the war in England.

The most conspicuous of these journals is the "Peiching Jih Pao," or "Peking Daily News," perhaps the most widely-read newspaper in the capital, and controlled by a Cantonese formerly resident in Tsingtau, who has frequently owed much to German assistance when in trouble with the authorities for the publication of premature information. For example, in September, 1904, when he printed the text of the Anglo-Tibetan Treaty, much to the annoyance of the Waiwupu.

The following extracts from an article called "Warning to Our Respected Fellow-countrymen in Shantung," which recently appeared in this newspaper, will furnish some idea of the overwhelming antipathy to Great Britain now exhibited in the Chinese capital. It is mainly artificial, and, in so far as it is genuine, is chiefly due to the British alliance with Japan, whose intentions in regard to Shantung are mistrusted by Chinese:—

"An Anglo-Japanese force is bombarding Tsingtau and panic prevails over part of Shantung province, so that the cry of the crane and the moaning of the wind are mistaken for the enemy. Towns distant from the German leased territory are exposed to havoc and hardly a house enjoys tranquility. The Foreign Office protests, the State Council has addressed interpellations to the President, and the Press rages. The nation knows too well the dire distress of our fellow-countrymen and feels fierce resentment for the injustice. It is quite certain the Government will compel redress sooner or later, so that these miseries will not have been in vain. The war in Europe had no relation to the Far East, but ambitious Powers wilfully transplanted it to Chinese soil.

Japan Not Responsible.

Will Britain explain her motive in inflicting the horror of war upon us? Japan pleads the exigencies of the alliance with Britain as her excuse for attacking Tsingtau. Japan boasts herself the England of the East. British troops are marching with Japanese upon Tsingtau; if the latter loot, the British are responsible; if they outrage and rape our women, Britain is responsible. Japan's anti-German spirit is fostered by Britain; the latter and not Japan is the ringleader. Because Britain hates Germany, China is innocently involved. Hence our losses must be made good by Britain and not Japan; we may doubtless count on Britain's paying the reckoning after the conclusion of peace! The question of our obtaining compensation does not depend on the issue of the war. If Germany and Austria won, the Allies will have to pay us directly, while if the latter win the day, Germany and Austria will have to pay them an indemnity, out of which our compensation will come.

Who could have credited the possibility that England, who vaunts herself the pioneer of civilisation, would commit an atrocity before which a nation sunk in savagery would have shrunk, which a semi-barbarian folk would have hastened to disclaim? But the savage deed is bruited abroad and its infamy cannot be hid. Water spilt cannot be picked up, and the tumult of criticism may only be stayed and the hope of the world satisfied by the payment of an indemnity to China. Otherwise England must be relegated outside the pale of civilisation and will lose all claim to reproach Germany for infringing Belgian neutrality. If, then, Germany is held innocent of blame for this act, Belgium will require to blame England for her disappearance from the map. She must not reproach Germany for her destruction, but must upbraid England for falsely claiming that she is the champion of neutral States. It is Britain who has caused Belgium to stake her fate on a single hazard, and it is Britain who must make good her

losses. So let the British weigh the issues well and reflect that it will pay them best to compensate China, lest otherwise she forfeit a bigger sum to Belgium.

Advice to China.

It rests entirely with ourselves whether we attain the desired goal of an indemnity. On this point we would say the following:—Do not despond. Our neutrality is infringed, but we will never tamely acquiesce. Our territory is ravaged, but we will not suffer in silence. Everywhere beacon fires are kindled, but our race will never bend the knee. Wanton oppression confronts us, but some day the reckoning shall be paid. Only by boldness may we curb the ambition of the predatory invaders; only by keeping calm may we foil the dastardly plots of the bandit savages. If we show timidity our Government's task becomes more difficult, so that not only may we fail to secure compensation, but may even induce further designs on our territory, till the oppressor battens on our flesh and reduces us to slavery. Again, do not be arrogant. Britain and Japan are undoubtedly truculent and cruel, but China is not the object of their hatred. Let us refrain from acts of hostility and beware of becoming the scapegoat of others. The infringement of our neutrality is only the inevitable outcome of an undisciplined and benighted barbarism; the two nations who perpetrate it have no deep-seated grudge against China; their conduct is innate. We proclaim their atrocious lust and foul rapine to the world in the hope that the voice of conscience may arouse their late remorse or that the tribunal of humanity may compel them to shrink abashed from daylight. If, goaded to fury, we seek to revenge our wrongs by wreaking vengeance on the perpetrators, Britain and Japan would indeed meet with the deserts which their offences merit; but the issues would be obscured and an excuse afforded to those wicked ones to raise a protest.—London "Times."

THE "FREEMAN"—1914.

Under the double-column headings—Bomb Explosions in New York—St. Patrick's Cathedral damaged—Rectory of St. Alphonsus Church—Ten Priests Imperilled—German Anarchists and Unemployed Army—Threaten to seize the Churches—Larkin says "Bomb-throwing was Right"—the "Freeman's Journal of yesterday, December 15th, republished the bomb explosion at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on **October 15th**. It quoted from the New York "Tribune" of **November 28th** a report of a speech of James Larkin's, in which he was alleged to have said:—

"You attempt to minimise the charge that you are bomb-throwers," he shouted. "Well, what have you got to apologise about? Why in hell aren't you bomb-throwers? The whole city of New York ought to be burned up."

On December 1st a letter from James Larkin to the New York "Tribune" was published, in which he said:—

I do very strenuously protest against deliberate lies manufactured to place me in a false position before the American public. I did not say, as the "Tribune" reported me as saying last Friday, at a meeting in Manhattan Lyceum, that the whole of New York ought to be burnt up.

I did not make, at that meeting or anywhere else, before or since, the statement printed in your columns and attributed to me: "As to that rag there" (referring to the American flag) "I'll leave that to you. You'll know what to do with it."

Such fiction is vicious and unjust. I insist that you shall put me right before the people of New York. I have my own views, which are well known here and in Europe, on the question of industrial warfare. But bomb-throwing is not included in that category. Neither is hostility to the American flag. It is a monstrous falsehood for any newspaper or individual to say that I assailed the American flag, or advocated bombs as a factor in industrial controversy.

THE "STRASSBURG."

The German light cruiser "Strassburg," in the Atlantic at the outbreak of the war, unreported since, is acting as the "Karlsruhe's" double, seizing British ships, according to naval experts.

This accounts for the "Karlsruhe's" reputed ubiquity.—"New York American."

PLAIN SPEAKING.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Irish Journalists' Association held recently, attention was called to instances in which public men had repudiated the words attributed to them in published reports of their utterances. A couple of flagrant cases of fresh occurrence gave room for discussion, and the Committee resolved if such occurred in future drastic action must be taken to deal with the practice.

It was high time that a representative body of Irish journalists should take up this matter. It had long been recognised as a habit of certain public men to shirk the responsibility for words of awkward import by denying that they used them, and, by inference, charging the reporters with inventing the statements. It is an unpleasant commentary upon the position of Irish journalists that the public men guilty of this practice should escape almost without rebuke. Their influence in politics, or with the Directors and Editors of our newspapers, has usually been great enough to preserve them from exposure.—"The Irish Journalist."

AUSTRO-GERMAN AMENITY.

Not Only Shoulder to Shoulder but Hand in Hand!

Copenhagen, Dec. 13.

A special correspondent of the "Berlingske Tidende" with the Austrian Army was received in private audience by the Austrian General in Command, the Archduke Friedrich, who said that German and Austrian armies were now operating, not only shoulder to shoulder but hand in hand. German Generals were commanding Austrian troops and Austrian Generals German troops.

The very best understanding prevailed between the two General Staffs. The Archduke concluded: "When one has real determination all goes right."—Central News.

LIMERICK REDMONDITE MEETING.

Letter from Father O'Connor.

The Hon. Secretary of the Organising Committee has received the following letter from the Rev. J. A. O'Connor, Adm., St. Michael's, Limerick:—

Dear Mr. Gegan,—In answer to your letter of the 7th inst., I beg to inform you that any priest who desires to attend the meeting on the 20th inst. can get the necessary permission by applying to me either personally or by letter.

As to the honour which you do me in asking me to bless the colours of the Limerick Regiment, I shall do so with greatest pleasure, but at the same time I desire to define my position.

I am heartily in accord with the spirit of Nationality which these colours represent, and the Volunteer movement was constituted to maintain, but I do not mean that my action should have any further significance.

If any one thinks it well to enlist in the English Army and take part in the war which is now raging on the Continent, that is entirely his own affair, but it would be outside my province and my right to take responsibility for his decision.—Yours faithfully,

J. A. O'CONNOR, Adm.

—"Freeman's Journal."

PISTOLS PROHIBITED IN DUBLIN.

The sale of revolvers to the general public by gun-makers in Dublin has been entirely prohibited by order of the military authorities. Revolvers, it is intimated, can only be sold to military officers, and then, it is stated, under permission, which has to be applied for to the military authorities. The sale of automatic pistols is also similarly prohibited. An application made by a gun firm for permission to sell a revolver to a customer in Blackrock district, and which stated that it was intended for house protection, has been returned with the remark in writing in red ink that for the present sales to private individuals cannot take place.—Dublin "Evening Mail."

GERMANY AND "KITCHENER'S ARMY."

The favourite organ of the German army and naval officers, the "Taegliche Rundschau," which ought to be above such business, is perpetuating the slanderous fiction that Kitchener's Army is not only made up of ragamuffins and gaol birds but is disinclined to fight abroad." This is the "Rundschau's" latest "recruiting news" received "from

London by way of Holland": "Very little inclination is evident among the British public for the further despatch of troops to the Continent despite the strenuous efforts of the Press. The deep-rooted tradition of the Englishman to let other people do his fighting for him is manifested in the general hope and expectation that Russian pressure on Germany's eastern frontiers will accomplish England's object. Conservative circles in England say openly that England's main duty is to form an effective army for home defence. In full confirmation of this theory is the fact communicated by reliable persons that of the round 600,000 men acquired for the Army until up to the end of November more than 500,000 have declared they will only allow themselves to be used on home soil.

"Moreover, one must not overlook the questionable methods to which the military authorities are resorting to get recruits. The great business houses are being urged to discharge employees in order to induce the latter to enlist through being confronted with the alternative of unemployment. But despite such measures recruiting is diminishing more and more. It is easy to imagine the military value of men secured by such means. Provisioning the army will become more difficult as the war proceeds. The very limited import of frozen meat is already causing anxiety. Finally, we chronicle the information, widespread in London, that Kitchener's only motive in raising a huge army is primarily to be able to point as a threat to the mighty hosts at England's disposal when the future peace negotiations set in."—London "Daily Mail."

ITALY'S BIG WHEAT PURCHASE.

The Italian Government has bought from Argentina 400,000 tons of wheat, for the conveyance of which 120 steamers will be necessary. The consignment is to be made at the end of March.

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