

SCISSORS AND PASTE

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ONE HALFPENNY.

A UNIONIST PEER AND "THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACT."

I have already drawn attention to the brazen effrontery of the Liberal Government in bringing forward a Defence of the Realm Act which made it a treasonable offence to spread stories offensive to our Allies, even if said stories were true. For example, if one made reference to Bloody Sunday in St. Petersburg, some Major-General might have one up by the heels; but a Tory Cecil, to his eternal honour, demanded that only the publication of FALSE reports should be indictable, and the Government, finding one man brave enough to expose their "Prussian Code," collapsed at once, and inserted the word "false."

But when the precious Act got the length of the House of Lords, the Tory Law Lords jibbed, and Lord Halsbury and other lawyers insisted that no one be shot after military trial—at least, until Parliament has re-assembled. The Government again yielded.

And now that the House of Lords is again in session, Lord Parmoor (one of the Law Lords and a Unionist) has introduced a Bill of the first importance as affecting the rights of the civil population. Its full title is—"A Bill to amend the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, and to restore to civilians their rights to be tried in the ordinary Courts." As the law now stands the military authorities may determine whether a case shall be tried by a civil tribunal or before a Court Martial, and the effect of the Bill is to restore to every man the right of trial by jury. Lord Parmoor's Bill has been read the first time.—"Forward," Glasgow.

LONDON "DAILY CHRONICLE" AND THE BRITISH CENSORSHIP.

Take again what is perhaps the most egregious of all blunders in this field. As a daily paper, we are still strictly forbidden to mention it; but as we have had no warning against making quotations from the published monthly reviews, we make bold to transcribe a few lines from the January "Edinburgh Review":—

"The Press Bureau has been used to keep the British public in ignorance of facts with which our enemies have long been familiar. The most striking illustration is the case of the sinking of H.M.S. 'Audacious' off the coast of Ireland in October. This incident was witnessed by such a large number of people on board the liner 'Olympic' that permanent secrecy was impossible. After a very brief delay the news appeared in Swedish, German, and Italian papers. Full accounts, with numerous photographs, appeared in due course in the American Press. Early in December the 'Quarterly Review' first broke the long silence of the Press and dealt fully with the incident; yet still the official pretence was maintained, that the 'Audacious' had not been sunk, and the daily papers only indulged in covert references to the disaster."

Now on this we venture (with the fear of the Censor before our eyes) only one comment—If the "Edinburgh" and the "Quarterly" are allowed to say these things, why are not we?—London "Daily Chronicle."

THE IRISH COAST.

WARNINGS FROM THE R.I.C.

The dwellers along the coast in the Drogheda district have been warned by the police and coastguards, in the event of an attempted German aeroplane attack, to leave at once for the interior of the country with cattle, horses and moveable goods, motor-cars, or anything serviceable to the enemy.

People living in the counties of Louth and Meath near the sea coast have all been similarly warned.—London "Daily News."

The following is a copy of a notice, posted on Sunday morning in positions convenient to the Roman Catholic churches in a number of villages in this district.

"People of Wexford.

"Take no notice of the police order to destroy your own property, and leave your homes if a German army lands in Ireland. When the Germans come they will come as friends, and to put an end to English rule in Ireland. Therefore, stay in your homes, and assist as far as possible the German troops. Any stores, hay, corn, or forage taken by the Germans will be paid for by them."

Many householders in the district had already received notice from the police to the effect that they should be prepared, on receiving notification, to remove inland within the shortest possible time. The origin of the above amazing notice is unknown.—"Irish Times."

"LIFE AT CAIRO."

The notorious Constantinople correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" says that he has taken the following passage from a "diplomatic private letter" dispatched from Cairo on January 3:—

A brilliant life is being carried on in the best hotels, just as in the height of the season. All the Canadian and Australian officers have brought their wives with them. The Canadian and Australian officers are drawing two and a half times their ordinary pay. There are great balls in the hotels—sometimes brilliant, sometimes developing into regular orgies. The officers' ladies have requisitioned all the motor-cars and other equipages of the Egyptian princes and princesses who are now abroad, and are parading about in them, much to the anger of the population.—London "Times."

BRITISH ARMY SUPPLY SHIP WRECKED IN FOG.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 30.—The British steamer "Navarre," from St. John, N. B., for France with hay, oats, and army supplies, went ashore in a fog on Holmes Island, twenty miles from Yarmouth. She will probably be a total loss.

A high sea is running and the crew is still on board. A cruiser has been sent to the rescue.—"New York American."

M. Caillaux, the ex-Finance Minister of France, accompanied by Mme. Caillaux, arrived at Buenos Ayres on Saturday and was officially received.—London "Daily Mail."

GERMAN PRESS AND ENGLISH CONSCRIPTION.

"THE TRADITIONAL BRITISH FOOD FOR POWDER."

The threat of compulsory service, according to the "Lokalanzeiger," will not bring one additional recruit to the colours, because it is well known that the House of Commons would never show a majority for conscription. Even in Germany, the writer argues, a law which would so profoundly alter the whole national life and economy could only be carried through under the immediate fear of a national catastrophe and in face of a loss of national independence.

The British have not yet reached that stage. Wide circles are not yet fully conscious of the state of war. A lack of knowledge and independent judgment, as well as the feeling of insular security, are too great amongst the people, hence there is a tendency to attribute to the war an importance not much greater than that of one of the periodical colonial wars. . . . There is only some little surprise and annoyance that the Irish, the traditional British food for powder, are not joining the colours with more alacrity!

Finally Major Morant, in the "Tageblatt," also dismisses the debate in the House of Lords, declaring that it shows "deep anxiety regarding the success of the improvised army organisation and the suitability of the plan of campaign of the Allies."

When the result of the Irish recruiting can be described as incredible, when there can be raised loud demands for a Press censorship, when the organisation of the Army reserve can be described as only in process of formation, and when it is necessary to revive the hopes of timely supplementing of supplies of ammunition, equipment, and clothing, we need not yet picture the six armies (they may only be four, for the armies already on the continent appear to be included) under transport to Calais and Havre. That a number of the Upper House condescends to describe the German army as a "most wonderful fighting machine" is also a sign of the times, and the fact that unity of our army direction is emphasised permits us to conclude that there is truth in the reports of disunion and mutual adverse criticism in the ranks of the Allies.—London "Daily News."

DUMMY BRITISH FLEET.

The "Deutsche Kriegszeitung," published by the "Lokalanzeiger," has obtained the interesting information from America that the British Admiralty has bought some hundred obsolete passenger steamers, which are being transformed into dummy war-vessels with wooden guns and turrets. These vessels are filled with cement and stones and are to be employed to mystify the German submarines and draw their attention from the real war-ships.

The paper further declares that these ships are to be sunk in important sea routes in order to bottle up the German fleet, especially along the Belgian coast and in Danish waters.—London "Daily Mail."

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1915.

ENGLISH PRINCIPLE.

Napoleon. . . . "You will never find an Englishman in the wrong. He does everything on principle. He fights you on patriotic principles; he robs you on business principles; he enslaves you on imperial principles; he bullies you on manly principles; he supports his king on loyal principles and cuts off his king's head on republican principles. His watchword is always Duty; and he never forgets that the nation which lets its duty get on the opposite side to its interest is lost."—*"The Man of Destiny,"* by Bernard Shaw.

"OUR WAYS."

"At what time in our history were our business ways with crude people honourable; or how often has the right of a Savage to his wigwam been respected? We have been as ruthless and we have been as ready to plead 'the rights of a higher civilisation over a lower' as the German people are to-day. At the best we are only just emerging from that materialistic imperialism which, fortunately for the world, had not a Hohenzollern Emperor for its main exponent. What right have we, it may be asked, to condemn the German nation? What they have done is to reduce our ways to a theory, in disregard of ordinary views of morals, and seek to apply it in their thorough way to ourselves.—Sir Henry Jones in *"Hibbert's Journal."*

EVIDENCE.

We find in the *"Times"* a statement from Washington that "wide publicity is given to a telegram from London that Germany now realises she cannot win. The writer says he has seen a letter from a Danish banker stating that a Berlin financial magnate admitted the ruling powers of Germany knew it was impossible to conquer." Other evidence to the same effect, says the statement from Washington, is adduced.

Perhaps readers will be interested in the evidence we can add. We hear from Borneo that a traveller from Hong Kong states that a man of prominence in Tokio has a cousin in Honolulu who has intimate relations with a merchant in Havana. The merchant has received a note from his sister, who is married to an artist in Venice, which says that a friend of her husband residing in Milan has been in communication with a well-informed person in Stockholm who has just succeeded, despite a somewhat exciting experience, in regaining his native soil after a prolonged stay in Germany. He writes that it is an open secret that some person of influence in the German Court informed an officer in the German Army that the Kaiser had remarked to him on one occasion that the situation seemed decidedly unfavourable. Our Borneo correspondent says he has other evidence nearly as authentic.—*"Labour Leader"* (Manchester).

GERMAN PROVISION FOR CRIPPLED SOLDIERS.

Germany's masterly far-sightedness in providing again every conceivable contingency of war—organisation of her thinning food and raw stuff supplies, official inculcation of frugality, "speeding up" of patriotism by the cinema, etc.—is manifested afresh by a remarkable scheme to retain the cripples of war as useful members of society. There has just been formed at Wiesbaden a committee of clergymen, university and public school rectors and teachers of both sexes, who are now undertaking the systematic "education" of soldiers condemned to go through life minus legs, arms, hearing, or sight. Ninety-five volunteers have already announced their willingness to give their time to the work. Cripples will be taught while still convalescent in war hospitals. Men who have lost right arms or hands will be shown how to use the left arms and hands, among other things to write. If the scheme works out

satisfactorily in a test hospital at Wiesbaden (where of 2,000 wounded it is estimated that fifty are crippled for life) it will be extended in all directions. It is hoped that ways and means will develop for preserving from economic ruin thousands of maimed soldiers who might otherwise be permanently deprived of bread-winning capacity.—London *"Daily Mail."*

GERMANY AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR.

The war made Germany united, unanimous, and resolute. This momentous fact transcends all controversies as to historic and diplomatic origins. The first effect was the death of internationalism. Internationalist Social-Democracy, with its 2,300,000 registered adherents and its 4,250,000 Reichstag voters, voted to a man to support the Kaiser's policy. In the Reichstag on August 5th the Red Deputy Haase declared that Internationalism admitted the right of every nation to self-defence. The Reds would support no war of conquest. They desired peace whenever the foe wanted it. But they voted as a man the war credit of £350,000,000. When Haase, one of the reddest of the Social-Democrats, made this historic demonstration, the whole Reichstag applauded. Even the tough Junker-Conservative leader, Heydebrand und der Lase, rose demonstratively from his seat.

The Kaiser Bids the Multitude Pray.

Now to the human factors of the war. I put Wilhelm II. first; he has sent to the front six stalwart sons; he goes himself; his nephews, cousins, and remoter relatives go. They go not as shirkers, as ornaments, as inspiration, but as soldiers and sailors. I saw the Kaiser on the day of his arrival from Potsdam. That was on Friday, July 31st. A tremendous bass voice bawled from a window of the Kaiser chambers overlooking the Lustgarten: "Quiet, the Kaiser will speak!" Wilhelm II., accompanied by the Kaiserin, by Princes Adalbert and Oscar, walked on to the raised terrace. He looked pale, yellow, old, soldierly, resolute. I saw his lips moving; but knew his words only next day. The speech contained a defence of Germany's efforts for peace, which were in vain. The enemy forced on war! Note the sentence: "Man drückt mir das Schwert in die Hand!" ("They have thrust the sword into my hand!") And he bid the multitude disperse to the churches and pray.

The Kaiser later drove down the Unter den Linden in his yellow motor car heralded, as ever, by trumpets. I saw him again on Saturday evening after mobilisation was proclaimed. Again he appeared before the Schloss. He proclaimed that Germany was as one man, and that he forgave his enemies and all who had spoken ill of him.

War Decimates Every Family.

Every German rushed to serve his country. Every father and mother rejoiced. I shall give only cases known to me personally. When mobilisation was proclaimed, the only son of my friend and house colleague, Herr Herrmann, a talented architect, was sailing a yacht on the Lake of Constance. He was 23 years old, had never served, but had been sent to the untrained Ersatz-Reserve. He would now be trained four weeks, then sent to the front. His father, his mother, and his little sister, Antoine Herrmann, wept all day. Not because death had drawn nigh; because they feared young Herrmann would not hear of the mobilisation order, would arrive late, and bear the innocent disgrace of involuntary desertion. When he arrived their joy was greater than if he had returned unscathed from a battle. This sentiment compared nobly with the conduct of an ambassador of the belligerent Powers. In reply to my question to this high diplomat how many of his four sons would serve, he said: "Thank God, only one. This boy"—here he pointed to a good-looking, six-foot lad, of twenty-odd—"wants to volunteer. But I won't let him. His mother . . ."—Robert Crozier Long in Sydney *"Catholic Press."*

AN ENGLISHMAN ON THE ENGLISH.

An extract from Herr Houston Stewart Chamberlain's latest contribution to the *"Taegliche Rundschau"*:

"High as one may regard England's culture in certain directions—and unquestionably in some respects she has attained heights no other people have achieved—the thoughts and sentiments of the English in the realm of politics are as primitive as those of a Congo negro. The brutal power of the fist decides for the Englishman which one of two neighbours shall serve the other as slave.—London *"Daily Mail."*

THE FLIGHT OF INVENTION.

It is now admitted that the stories of a British success at La Bassee are without foundation. They were always, from certain incredible details published in connection with them, extremely suspicious, and it would be interesting to know from what source they emanated and what motive prompted the fabrication. A more important point in some ways is the currency which an invention that must have been known to be such by the authorities from the beginning has been allowed to gain. The tale was circulated on Friday; it has not been contradicted till Monday. Surely the censorship might be better occupied cutting short the careers of falsehoods of this description, which weaken very seriously public confidence when they are eventually disavowed, than in excising from newspaper articles facts that can be found in military text-books or British official dispatches.—London *"Daily News."*

GERMAN PRESSURE INCREASING.

There are various indications, some of them still obscure, which tend to suggest that the German pressure in France is increasing. In Flanders and in the French mining districts the situation is comparatively stationary, but this is due to the all-pervading mud rather than to any lack of will on the part of the enemy. Where the Germans think they can strike with effect they are still quite ready to do so. As for the land warfare, we believe the frequent stories that the Allies are on the point of entering Ostend have at present no foundation. The recently highly-coloured narratives of a British success near La Bassee are equally without foundation. The Government have told us that one of their objects is not to "depress" the public, and though they expressly decline to vouch for the accuracy of news, they are daily engaged in mutilating the most harmful and truthful telegrams. We can conceive nothing more depressing than to allow our cities to be placarded with suggestions of a "brilliant British success," which have subsequently to be contradicted. The public must make up their minds to face the plain facts. They are that, although useful advances are made from time to time at various points by the Allies, a broad survey of the Western front shows the enemy to be, on the whole, as firmly established as ever, and quite prepared to make fresh attempts to break through whenever a chance occurs.—London *"Times."*

EGYPTIANS LEARNING TURKISH.

The recent publication in the local Press of an accurate account from authoritative sources of the military situation in Syria, with news of the disastrous defeat of the Ottoman forces in the Caucasus, has done much to allay a foolish tendency to panic which has several times been noticeable among sections of the European and still more of the native population since the outbreak of war. In this connection a true and entertaining story is told of the experiences of a Cairo bookseller. Encouraged by the enthusiasm with which Egypt greeted the Turkish revolution in 1908, this worthy man invested in 5,000 Turkish and Arabic grammars, for which he hoped to find a good market in Cairo. Having sold only 40 in six years, he was in despair how to dispose of his remaining stock when the great war broke out. As the attitude of the Porte grew more and more unfriendly to the Allies, the sale of the grammars increased by leaps and bounds, and when Turkey committed her final folly the shop was invaded by crowds of Egyptians. A few of these were Turkish sympathisers, but most of them frightened Effendis who wished to learn the language of the invaders whom they expected to be among them in a few days' time and who hoped thus to keep their posts. The fortunate bookseller has now sold out his entire stock, and only regrets that he did not order 10,000 copies of the grammar in 1908.—London *"Times"* (Cairo Correspondent).

THE "EMDEN."

If the *"Emden"* had been twice as large as the *"Sydney,"* instead of the *"Sydney"* being nearly twice the size of the *"Emden,"* we could understand better the terrific blast of trumpets over the Australian naval victory. It was, of course, a good win, but seeing that the *"Emden"* was outranged, it could not have ended otherwise than it did. The fact that the enemy was the notorious *"Emden"* made people lose their sense of proportion, and hail as a great achievement what was merely a moderately safe and ordinary naval performance. The men on the *"Sydney"* must be the most surprised of all people that their day's work should be written up as one of the great deeds of the war.—*"Catholic Press"* (Sydney).

NEWS FROM BERLIN.

(German Wireless, per the London "Times," "Morning Post," and "Daily Mail.")

THE BATTLE OF SOISSONS.

The German booty taken in the three battles north of Soissons up to the present amounts to 5,200 prisoners, 14 cannon, six machine-guns, and several revolver-guns. The French suffered heavy losses. Five thousand killed Frenchmen were found on the battlefield. Their retreat south of the Aisne came within range of our heavy artillery.

A comparison of the battle discussed here with the results of the battle of 1870 shows that although the importance of the battles north of Soissons cannot be compared with that of the battle of August 18, 1870, the width of the battlefield approximately corresponds to that of Gravelotte and St. Privat. The French losses of 12-14 January, 1915, however, probably surpass those of August 18, 1870, by a considerable amount. This is the truth.

THE BATTLE OF FESTUBERT.

We learn that the British Minister for War expressed himself in an address to the House of Lords on January 6 as follows:—

"The only important battles between the English and the German troops took place on December 20, when the trenches at Givenchy, which were occupied by the Indians, were fiercely attacked by the Germans. To a certain extent the Indians were taken by surprise and a few trenches were captured, but on the next day they were again recaptured with considerable losses to the enemy by the troops which had been kept in reserve. Thereafter the retaken line has been maintained."

The British Minister for War seems to have made his statements based on inaccurate reports which he had received from the front. In the interest of our brave troops, these false representations of the incidents which took place at the time cannot remain uncontradicted.

In the five days of the heavy struggle of December 19-24 we succeeded in taking possession of the position of the English between the hamlet, three-quarters of a mile north of La Quinque Rue and Givenchy, in its entire length, and in gaining ground in certain places even beyond this line.

All the opponent's attempts to recapture his lost positions were in vain. We are still in possession of them to-day. It is, therefore, incorrect for the British War Minister to state that the English troops have again recaptured their lost trenches. The booty which fell into our hands in these battles has been officially reported on December 26th.

THE GENERAL ADVANCE.

About four weeks ago the order for the general attack, which had been decided upon by the French authorities in December last, was given. The attempted attacks of the enemy in the western theatre of the war were met by necessary steps being taken by the Germans, and yet the enemy attacks have brought him no success worthy of mention, whereas our troops north of La Basse, on the Aisne, and in the Argonne made really satisfactory progress. The losses of the enemy during this period, as counted by us, amount to 26,000 killed and about 17,860 prisoners. He will now know from experience that, together with wounded, his losses are in proportion of one in four, apart from the number of sick and missing, the grand total being 150,000 men. Our total losses for the same period do not amount to one quarter of that number.

"GERMAN ATROCITIES."

The French report of German atrocities is officially branded in the "North German Gazette" as the climax of the lie campaign. "The German Army," it says, "is above being affected by this sort of filth and merely notes what poisonous arms the opponents avail themselves of, opponents who once upon a time were called chivalrous."

THE BRITISH DEFEAT AT TANGA.

The battle at Tanga (German East Africa) is the greatest battle which has hitherto taken place in any of our colonies, and it was a veritable feat of arms.

According to an official report from the Governor it was much more important than the English reports state. Fighting took place on November 3, 4, and 5. The English appeared off Tanga with two battleships and twelve transports and demanded the unconditional surrender of the place, which was, however, refused by the Governor, Dr. Schnee.

The ships then sailed away, but they again appeared before Tanga and landed one European and four Indian regiments under fire from the heavy guns of the ships.

A cruiser supported the attack of the enemy from the sea. The landing-party fought bitterly for three days, but the enemy was beaten off with heavy loss.

The battle on November 4 lasted fourteen hours. On November 6 the English vessels made off in a northerly direction.

The enemy landing party consisted of about 9,000 men. Our forces numbered 2,000 men. Our losses were small.

[Tanga lies on the East African coast opposite Pemba, which is British. It is unfortified and connected by a railway line with the interior. The action described in the telegram was referred to in an official communication issued by the Secretary of State for India on November 23 as having taken place at "an important German railway terminus" in East Africa. It was then stated that the losses were so heavy and the position so strong that it was considered useless to renew the attack. The total casualties amounted then to 795. A description of the action has already appeared in the Indian Press.]—London "Daily News."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Amsterdam, Tuesday.

The following official telegram from the Main Headquarters is published in Berlin to-day:—

With the exception of insignificant skirmishes artillery combats alone took place along the entire front. The weather was extremely unfavourable.

In East Prussia there is nothing to report. Near Radzanov, Biesum, and Sierpee the Russians were repulsed, suffering severe losses. We captured several hundred prisoners.

West of the Victula and east of the Pilica the situation is generally unchanged.

THE ENGLISH SHIPOWNERS AND THE POOR.

The great bulk of the world's wheat crop is always carried in British ships. Now that the German and Austrian ships have been swept off the seas and some of our ships have been lost there are not as many ships as usual to compete for the transport trade. And the British owners have raised, or allowed the men who charter their ships to raise, the freightage of wheat by at the present moment over 300 per cent. Before the war wheat was brought to England from the River Plate for less than £1 a ton. To-day the cost is over £3 a ton, and is increasing.

The only excuse the shipowners can make, when they condescend to excuses, is that the war risks are so great. That is not true. The risks are insignificant, and the safety of their ships is due to the existence of the Navy which the nation has provided at enormous cost and sacrifice so that at such a time as this we should be assured of food in plenty. Well, we have plenty of food, but the poor cannot buy enough because the price is too high.—"Sunday Chronicle" (Manchester).

The charge for the carriage of foodstuffs from America has gone up since the war began from twelve and sixpence a ton to sixty-seven and sixpence a ton; and, as a direct consequence, bread has gone up a penny a loaf. There is no need for me to go into a long argument or to throw up a kind of sandstorm of figures. Put plainly, the shipowners are making money out of the war. The shipowners are making fortunes and the poor are paying more for bread. Our Navy keeps open the seas and makes the ships of the shipowners safe, and the shipowner makes the sailor's wife and the soldier's wife pay a penny more on the loaf, while he puts into his pocket the coppers she pays.—Robert Blatchford in the London "Weekly Dispatch."

At the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce annual meeting yesterday Mr. R. Ridge Beedle brought up the question of the rise in shipping freights, and charged the shipowners with acting in a rapacious manner and taking advantage of abnormal circumstances created by the war.—London "Daily News."

FOOD PRICES IN ENGLAND.

Interested attention is being paid to the rise in food prices in England. The "Vossische Zeitung" says:—

"The English wanted to starve Germany out, and now they themselves have food troubles, which might easily develop into famine, if for any reasons the imports from the United States were to cease to take the normal course."—London "Times."

"TSARGRAD."

RUSSIAN PRESS AND ENGLAND.

The fair city of Constantinople has been blotted out by the Tsar with one stroke of the pen. "We have commanded our ambassador at 'Tsargrad' to leave the precincts of Turkey forthwith," says the Tsar in his Manifesto declaring war on Turkey; and so Constantinople is no more, henceforth it is to be Tsargrad, the city of the Tsars. The Moscow Town Council strikes these high-pitch Byzantine notes in its address to the Tsar: "Many a time have the conquering hosts of Russia, under the imperial leadership of your ancestors, knocked at the gates of Tsargrad. Now hath the Lord placed the sword into the hands of your Majesty that the innermost wishes of the Russians may be fulfilled."

The reactionary representatives of the landed interests in Russia—the power behind the throne—had not their heart, even from the outset, in the fight against their spiritual kith and kin, the Junkers of Germany. It is therefore not surprising that now, when the "Beauty of the Orient" has kindled their imagination, they express freely what they think about the war with Germany. The "Russkoe Znamia," the organ of the Union of Russian Men (commonly called the Black Hundreds; the Tsar is the honorary chairman of this worthy association), says quite plainly: "We have lost all moral interest in the fight with the callous, dishonest German." "The benefit of Russia's victory over Germany will be entirely reaped by England and France," says the "Novy Ekonomist," and "the only satisfactory compensation acceptable to Russia must be at the expense of Turkey." Obviously Galicia and German Poland (the latter is not served up yet, but is nevertheless in the menu) are only appetisers. The real dish is Turkey, and here "l'appetit vient en mangeant." The "Russkoe Znamia" is not satisfied with Armenia, Constantinople, and the Straits. It craves for Palestine and the Holy Sepulchre. (November 18, 1914.)

"Why," asks the "Novy Ekonomist," should the German heritage in Turkey (the Persian Gulf, Mesopotamia, the region of the Bagdad Railway) go to England, which is impotent against Germany, and not to Russia, who is destined to crush the German might? The real compensation for our efforts in Germany can only be Germany's inheritance in Turkey. For the future generation, for the future of Russia, we must have an outlet in the south to the warm seas."

It must not be assumed, however, that the grabbing propensities developed in this war are confined to the reactionary elements of Russia alone. In the matter of grabbing they are backed up by the whole Press. The Government has taken good care there should be no discordant note in the chorus, and right at the beginning of the war it suppressed all the Labour and Socialist papers, dissolved the workmen's professional organisations and Trade Unions, and clapped into prison all the prominent leaders of the Labour movement and the editors of the Labour and Socialist Press. The clamour for the Straits and for Constantinople is therefore general, and the Liberal "Retch" is just as vociferous about the necessity for Russia to get "the keys of her own house," meaning the Straits, as any of the reactionary organs.

The "Retch" has become a diplomatic busybody doing gratuitously the work of a runner for the Russian foreign Office. It pours out leaders like water inviting the neutral countries, one and all, to join the allies immediately; now it sings sweetly like a siren and offers freely slices of Austria (Dalmatia) to Italy, hinting gently that if Italy does not snatch at the opportunity it will be offered to somebody else; now it utters grave warnings to Roumania that if it does not join Russia at once it will be too late and Bukovina and Transylvania will slip out of her hands, as Russia is already at Czernovitz and those who have not taken part in the hunt will have no share in the game; now it urges Bulgaria "to conclude immediately a military convention with Russia for joint action against Constantinople," arguing that Bulgaria's neutrality must be brought to a finish since Russia is at war with Turkey. (October 29, November 11, 1914.) All the frantic efforts of the "Retch" have so far borne no fruit; nevertheless, the ardour of the "Retch" has not abated and the Liberal organ returns again and again to the charge.

On November 27 the Russian Government gave a categorical denial to a statement which was published in the "Birzhevia Vedomosti" on the previous day, alleging that an agreement had been arrived at between Russia, France, and Britain concerning the Straits and

Keep this before your mind: "Everything that is not Irish must be Foreign"

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Constantinople. The comments of the Liberal "Retch" on this incident are very instructive. The "Retch" is obviously displeased and chagrined, and advises the Government to present Britain with accomplished facts. This is what it says:

The share which we have already contributed to the progress of the war and the share which we shall yet contribute to its conclusion is so great that it will hardly suit us to appear cap in hand before the future international areopagus. We have said it many a time and repeat it again; Russia must come with accomplished facts and get them registered as a matter of course. (Nov. 15, 1914.)

On December 5 a statement was published in the British Press to the effect that the British Government agreed with the Russian Government in consideration of the shipment of £8,000,000 in gold from Russia to London, to arrange with the Bank of England to discount Russian Treasury Bills to the further amount of £12,000,000, so that by these means the Russian Government will obtain funds in England to the total amount of £20,000,000. The rate of discount would be on the basis of the rate at which the British Government has been from time to time able to borrow for its own needs. The reader will probably recollect the comments made by the Press here on this transaction. They were all unanimous that Britain was doing well by her ally, Russia. Not so, however, the reception accorded to this piece of information in the Russian Press. Here is what the inspired "Novoe Vremya" writes in its leader of November 12:

In this difficult position a comparatively modest amount of gold was obtained by us on the English market, and even that on terms very insulting to us, viz., credit was opened to us for £12,000,000 on the stipulation that we remit to London £8,000,000 in gold from our reserve fund. True, these £8,000,000 remain at the disposal of our Government, but the very stipulation of remittance, in the given circumstances, is in the nature of an insulting hint, that in future settlements abroad, when Russia is in need of gold, she must make use of her gold reserves. Many bitter complaints were uttered already in our Press in connection with this loan against the English. (The heavy type is mine.—L.V.)

Most interesting of all, however, are the remarks of the "Novy Economist." This organ is edited by Professor Migulin, Chairman of the Special Commission at the Ministry of Finance, and obviously reflects the views held in Government circles. The Professor's notions on finance are very curious. Discussing the financial transaction with England, he says:

The credit for the said £12,000,000 was given on condition that bullion is sent abroad. In fact it is not England that is supporting Russia with money, but it is Russia that is supporting England, supplying the latter with gold in order to maintain the regular gold circulation there, whereas we are obliged to return to a paper circulation. From the point of view of national pride the fact that Russia plays in the present war the leading rôle, not only in a military sense, but also financially, supplying her allies with money, is very gratifying and raises the importance of our country to an unprecedented height. Still, it seems to us that even from the point of view of the interests of our allies it is desirable that they should treat with greater care the Russian resources, which are certainly not inexhaustible, and the war may last for some time yet. . . . We think that foreign loans could be obtained without our being obliged to send abroad our gold, if only our Foreign Affairs Department would pay some attention to this question. It is beyond any doubt that in the present war Russia plays the leading rôle. We are not in need of others, but others are in need of us.

Or, in other words, since "the benefits of Russia's victory over Germany will be reaped entirely by England and France," these countries had better open the strings of their

purse much wider, or else . . . but let Professor Migulin speak for himself:

When the Austro-German hordes have been crushed on the banks of the Neman, Vistula, Wartha, and San, and Galicia has been occupied by Russia; when Russian territory has been cleared of the enemy and positions have been secured making it impossible for the enemy to attempt further invasion, Russian can afford to stop its conquering march and calmly await the natural exhaustion of Germany.

And this after Professor Migulin in the "Novy Economist" (No. 42) finds that the effects of such a waiting policy on the part of Russia "would hardly prove safe for the Anglo-French armies."

It is thus to be feared that a conflict is ripening between this country and Russia, and in face of this new danger it is the duty of democracy in this and other countries to put forward with more emphasis than ever the demand of "no territorial aggrandisement."—"Le Vin" in "The Labour Leader" (Manchester).

THE LONDON DOCKS.

Hundreds of Workless Men.

In view of the amazing stories of the demand for men and the high wages waiting at London docks, a representative of "The Daily Citizen" attended with the crowd of work-seekers yesterday morning. This is what he writes:—

In the early hours of the day I stood by the dockside at Custom House watching the men responding to the call. The scene was remarkable. All around me stood men—strong, willing, even eager to do the work which lay waiting to be done. Their conversation proved their perfect familiarity with the docks and the work of the docks.

From out of the little buildings here and there which are the offices of the shipping companies there issued other men—better dressed and looking better fed. They were the foremen. Opposite the waiting crowds they posted themselves. They were there to take on dockers.

The foreman nearest me—it was at the Victoria and Albert Docks—began to sing out names—"Bill Smith," "Henry Brown," "William Hudson"—and as he shouted units extracted themselves from the mass and passed him on the way to the ship. They were engaged for the day. For several minutes this went on, and I was beginning to marvel at the extraordinary memory of the man—he seemed to know half East London by name, and he had no sheet of paper to guide him. Suddenly the foreman turned on his heel and walked away. There was no word, but the remainder of the men—quite 50—knew what it meant. There was nothing for them.

"Just my luck," I heard a man near me mutter, "and this is the last morning call, and I had only three days last week." I walked along the dockside with him. "But," I said, "the shipowners are saying that there is plenty of work for you dockers. They say you can earn big money, but that you are not anxious to work the week through, and that the cargoes are hung up for that reason." He laughed bitterly. Then he pointed to streams of men who were coming from here, there, and everywhere. There were hundreds of them. "Looks like it, doesn't it?" he said. "These chaps have all been to one or other of the stands, and they are all coming back to go home again until the mid-day 'call.' They have waited about, as I have waited, since before seven o'clock, and it is now after nine. Do you think they have come here for the fun of it?"

I asked one of them how much he made last week. The answer was 19s. He is married and has three children. Asked how many days in the week he presented himself, "Six, of course," he said; "do you think I should miss a day?"

Dockers are being paid the same 8d. per hour and 1s. overtime which prevailed before war time, so that there is small chance of making a fortune. Several men told me they had not touched £2 a week during the boom—or, indeed, since they could remember. As soon as the stories of quantities of work being procurable began to be circulated large numbers of casual labourers flocked to the docks from all parts of the country. It is certainly not a case of "one man out and one in," as it used to be in slack times, but the fact remains that there are many more men than are needed every day, even now.—London "Daily Citizen."

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