

SCISSORS AND PASTE

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1915.

ONE HALFPENNY.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

"SENSATIONAL DISCLOSURE."

Berlin, Thursday.

The "Cologne Gazette" publishes the following sensational disclosure with regard to the German advance in France. In September France had sincere wishes for peace and instructed an eminent diplomat of a neutral Power to introduce preliminary proposals with this end in view. This gentleman, who had previously occupied an official position in London and was under English influence, lost no time in betraying the secret to the British Ambassador in Paris, a secret which caused an enormous sensation in London. Lord Kitchener was sent to France, and under the threat of the bombardment of the French coast forced from the French Government the well-known treaty not to conclude peace except with the consent of England.—London "Daily Mail."

If you really wish to excite the boisterous enthusiasm of a Frenchman you have only to praise him for his calm. Both the French Army and the French nation are prepared today to maintain the war to the very end. This national frame of mind calls emphatically for sympathetic understanding on our part. If, in the first place, some of the French people, military and civilian, appear to have forgotten the extent of their indebtedness to us during the great retreat to the Marne, we ought to be careful not to take umbrage at this, but rather to recognise their attitude as the best possible proof of their complete confidence in themselves. Any little forgetfulness is apparent rather than real. In the second place, and on the other hand, we ought to guard against taking this phlegmatic attitude too much as a matter of course. The French cannot forget that, after all, it is France which has been invaded and not England, and what may be our British stolidity may sometimes appear to them almost as indifference. This latter danger is especially real, and, at the same time, it is one which can easily be dispelled. The Frenchman is of essentially generous instincts, and if once he were to be told plainly, and in concrete terms and figures, of the efforts we are making in the common cause, any risk of a grievance would be removed for ever.—London "Times" (Special Correspondent).

ENGLISH STEAMER TORPEDOED.

The English steamer "Durward," from Leith to Rotterdam, was torpedoed on Thursday afternoon by a German submarine 22 miles north-west of the Bus Lightship, in the Maas. All the crew were safely brought on board the lightship, and were taken on board a Dutch pilot boat, which landed them safely at the Hook of Holland.

Amsterdam, Friday.—The "Telegraaf" learns from the Hook of Holland that it was 13 miles west by north of the Maas Lightship that the "Durward" was torpedoed by the Germans. Owing to the sinking of the vessel, the Harwich steamer, "Munich," which was about to sail from the Hook of Holland with 450 refugees on board, will not leave.—Dublin "Evening Herald."

AMERICA AND ENGLAND.

American sensitiveness regarding the right of search at sea was illustrated in the House of Representatives on Monday, when Mr. Mann, leader of the Opposition, read out a wireless message from one of his constituents, complaining that the new "Amsterdam," of the Dutch Holland-American Line, had been stopped "in sight of New York" by the British cruiser "Coronia," presumably the "Caronia." The author of the telegram was a Chicago journalist, with a German name, who was on his way to Berlin to represent a Chicago newspaper. He complained that, with other American citizens, he was made to show his passports by a British officer. He asked Mr. Mann to remember the letter written by Mr. Fish, Secretary of State, to the French Government during the Franco-Prussian war, wherein the hovering of French cruisers off the American coasts for the purpose of intercepting German vessels was stigmatised as offensive to the United States. "How refreshing," said Mr. Mann, "to go back to old days of Grant and Fish, and to learn that we had the nerve to tell the French to keep their war vessels away from the entrance to our harbours, with intent to annoy the commerce of the country; and they kept away. We are a neutral Power, but we have some rights, and we ought to insist upon those rights being respected."

The "Congressional Record" notes that Mr. Mann's speech was punctuated and closed by applause.

While the significance of the episode is lessened by the fact that Mr. Mann was engaged in a fierce attack on what the Republicans consider the spineless ineptitude of Mr. Bryan and the State Department, his outbreak cannot be ignored. Mr. Mann is an adroit politician, who comes from the Middle West, and there is little doubt that he reflects on this occasion the general drift of sentiment regarding our maritime policy. It can easily be seen how his state of mind lends itself to exploitation by German propagandists. It would be folly to ignore the danger that an indefinite prolongation of the present dispute may do us much harm.—London "Times."

GERMAN SOCIALIST PATRIOTISM.

The German Socialists are taking considerable pains to dissociate themselves from Herr Liebknecht, and to show that the party has really nothing to do with his views. In a Mainz newspaper the Socialist leader, Dr. David, defines afresh the Socialist attitude:—

We have been guided by the view that it is our duty to do everything that is in our power in order to prevent the terrors of a defeat from being imposed upon our people, in addition to the sacrifices of war. We are convinced that the defence of our country and the keeping open of its paths of development, political, economic, and cultural, is as much in the interest of the working classes as in the interests of the whole nation. The great majority of organised workers has long ago by its practical patriotism in the trenches and in social work at home confirmed its approval of the attitude of the party.—London "Times."

RUSSIA AND THE CATHOLICS.

Despite recent professions Russia retains her love of persecution. A telegram from Petrograd, dated Sunday, October 11, says: "Count Szeptycki, the Lemberg Metropolitan of the Uniate Christians, who recognise the Pope, has been conveyed from Kieff to Nijni Novgorod. He was recently arrested on a charge of oppressing the Orthodox community and of fomenting hostility between parties in Galicia."

The "North-West Review," of Winnipeg (Canada), states that the Canadian Catholic Club (Ruthenian) has issued an appeal to the Catholics of Canada. It says:—"Horrible news has reached the Ruthenian Catholics of Canada: His Excellency Count A. Szeptycki, the Archbishop of Lemberg, and the head of the whole Ruthenian Catholic Church, has been captured by the Russians. This was overwhelming news for all the Catholic Ruthenians in Galicia and in Canada, since Metropolitan Szeptycki was the soul of this people. Having devoted himself to the service of God, he sacrificed for His glory all his strength and energy, and spared nothing that was in his power to promote the welfare of the Ruthenian Catholic Church and the Ruthenian people. Out of devotion to his church and people he offered his valuable family property, his health, and now he is ready to sacrifice his own life so as to uphold the standard of the Catholic Church. When the siege of Lemberg by the Russians was imminent and the fall of it was certain, he was besought by the faithful and all the prominent Ruthenians and by the provincial and military administration to leave the city, but his reply was always the same: 'Where the flock is, there must be its shepherd, and I shall under no condition leave my flock or leave my people.' Together with this report, letters are arriving from the priests in Galicia describing the incredible atrocities and persecutions of the Catholic priests by the Russians. Deprived of their positions and destitute of all means of living, they still have to hide themselves in remote places to avoid being taken to Siberia. This is a heart-rending misfortune indeed, which has overtaken the Ruthenian Catholic Church, and even worse is expected."—"Southern Cross," Adelaide.

THE RUTHENIAN RITE.

When the Ruthenians came into union with the Holy See in 1595, they brought with them in their liturgical books several of the usages and formulae which Nikon afterwards corrected at Moscow in the Orthodox Church. Where these differences presented no denial or contradiction of the Faith, the Holy See allowed them to remain just as they have allowed the rites of many religious orders.—"Catholic Encyclopedia," Vol. XIII.

THE BRITISH CENSORSHIP.

The Editor of the "Anglo-Russian" announces that, owing to his adherence to his attitude towards Russia, especially his belief that the Tsar is as much responsible for the present war as the Emperors of Austria and Germany, the regular appearance of his journal is meeting with difficulties on the part both of the Publishers and the Press Censor. He hopes, however, to obtain another publisher and renew publication.—"Labour Leader."

Scissors and Paste.

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IRELAND AND THE FOREIGN PEOPLES.

"The Irish love the Spaniards as brothers, the French as their friends, the Italians as their allies, the Germans as their kinsmen, but the English and Scotch they regard as their irreconcilable enemies," says Boullaye Le Gouz.—*Voyages et Observations* (page 184, "Songs of the Munster Bards," by J. C. Mangan).

"WITHOUT REGARD TO SAINT OR SANCTUARY."

"There was no church from the Shannon westwards to the sea that they (the English) did not destroy, and they used to strip the priests in the churches and carry off the women without regard to saint or sanctuary or any power upon earth."—*The Annals of Loch Ce*, Vol. 1.

GERMAN PRESS AND IRELAND.

England's domestic difficulties, according to several of the leading German newspapers, are once more upsetting all her calculations, and spreading a spirit of discord throughout the land.

The people, "trembling in abject fear of German Zeppelins and German warships," are desperately angry with the Government for not achieving the impossible; the Opposition "daily attacks the Ministry," and, to crown all, Ireland is once more in revolt.

Without going quite so far as some of its contemporaries, the "Kolnische Zeitung" has a good deal to say on this last-named subject, and it says it, as usual, quite untrammelled by any particular regard for accuracy.

"If one excludes the province of Ulster, chiefly colonised by Scotchmen and Englishmen, which would like to maintain the closest union with the Mother-country, and therefore struggles against a larger share of independence in the Government, the Irish, in their attitude towards the war, are divided into three camps—a new one, thick and thin with England, with the pretentious name, "All-for-Ireland Party"; one which has more or less become reconciled with England, the way being paved with the solution of the Home Rule question, called the Redmond Party; and lastly a group, corresponding to the former Fenian Party, of irreconcilable opponents of English rule, but silenced by England's "militarism."

The "All-for-Ireland Party" goes actually as far as to attack the Minister of War because he officially recognised Redmond's volunteers, though they are not subjected to military control.

It is admitted that these volunteers are loyal to England, but their independence teems with mistrust. They are people who are afraid to go to the front, and owing to the lack of any connection with the military authorities, would be quite useless in case of invasion.

Discord therefore reigns on the island: unqualified adherents, qualified supporters who limit themselves to home defence, and unqualified opponents who would even make common cause with an enemy of England.—London "Daily Express."

THE HEAD OF THE BRITISH NAVY ON WAR.

Lord Fisher believes in the three R's of war—"Ruthless, Relentless, and Remorseless," and his reforms in the Navy have had to be carried out on the same lines.

He has no illusions about war and the way it should be carried on. W. T. Stead called him "a bit of a barbarian who talked like a savage at times." But war is barbarous and savage, and to talk about it in any other term is to deceive oneself and others. At the Hague conference in 1899 he scandalised many ardent pacifists by his frankness:—

"The humanising of war!" he declared. "You might as well talk of humanising Hell! When a silly ass at the Hague got up and

talked about the amenities of civilised warfare, and putting your prisoners' feet in hot water and giving them gruel, my reply, I regret to say, was considered totally unfit for publication. As if war could be civilised! If I am in command when war breaks out I shall issue as my orders:—

'The Essence of war is violence.'
'Moderation in war is imbecility.'
'Hit first, hit hard, hit everywhere.'

That is splendid honesty and invincible truth. There are only two things to be done with war—pursue it with the utmost violence, or pursue it not at all. Lord Fisher simply echoes the authorities of all time. His first order is pure Clausewitz. "War," said that eminent authority, "is an act of violence which in its application knows no bounds." And elsewhere he says: "Let us not hear of generals who conquer without bloodshed; if a bloody slaughter is a horrible sight, then it is a ground for paying more respect to war (for avoiding unnecessary war), but not for making the sword we wear blunt and blunter by degrees from feelings of humanity, till someone steps in with a sword that is sharp and lops off the arm from our body." Those are not only the sentiments of Clausewitz; they were Nelson's and Napoleon's. Even Lord Fisher's words are not new. Macaulay used them years ago, when describing Hampden as an officer. "He knew," said the great historian, "that the essence of war is violence, and that moderation in war is imbecility."—*T. P.'s Weekly*.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GERMANY.

There seems to be a large section of the public which takes its news as an old charwoman takes her pen'orth of gin, "for comfort." And some of our contemporaries seem to cater for this little weakness. Every day there is a "great advance" or a "brilliant victory," and if a corporal's guard is captured or surrenders we have a flaming announcement on all the posters. It is always better to trust the people—as Liberal politicians used to say; and here, where we depend on recruiting for our Army and Navy, it is foolish to go bolstering people up with false and flattering ideas of the situation.

Now the truth about Germany is that the German people are just as united and confident as the British people. There is little unemployment, just as there is little unemployment here. Food is probably as cheap as it is in England. As for the war, the Germans are still living upon two things—the victories they won at the beginning and the fact that they are almost everywhere still fighting in the enemy's country: they at present occupy half of Poland, nearly the whole of Belgium, and an important slice of France. They are, moreover, in entrenched positions from which up till now they have not been driven by the Allies. It is true that we are getting ready large new armies, but the Germans do not much believe in these armies, because they do not believe we can improvise the officers and especially the scientific branches, like the artillery, in the time. On that point they will in good time be undeceived. But they also are preparing new armies: it has to be remembered that they only found it necessary in peace time to train about half their male population for war. And they now claim that they are training an additional force of three million men for the spring. They say they have the organisation and equipment ready for this vast undertaking. Whatever foundation they may have for their beliefs, it is certain that they believe all this to be true, and that the mass of the people are still confident.—London "Morning Post."

AMERICAN INNOCENCE.

And we, in our innocence, believed that the War of 1812 taught Great Britain that it wasn't safe to meddle with our commerce!—*New York American*.

GERMANS USE BEES AS DEFENCES.

Mr. E. R. McClure, of Norris Bank, Stockport, who was a lieutenant-colonel in the Cheshire Territorials and is now serving with the Mounted Rifle Volunteers in British East Africa, writes home: "The Loyal North Lancshires are here and were in the fight at Tanga. I got some funny accounts of the fight from them. The Germans had a line of defence constructed of beehives connected with wire, and when the troops approached they upset the beehives and our men got badly stung."—London "Daily Hail."

THE ANILINE DYE INDUSTRY.

As an instance of the neglect of new scientific knowledge by English manufacturers, we may mention the great aniline dye industry, which was originated in this country. The basis of the aniline dyes, benzol, was discovered by Faraday in the year 1824, the dyes themselves by Hofmann, Perkin, and others, and the manufacturing process was largely evolved by Simpson, Maule, and Nicolson; but the German Government took Hofmann from us, gave him the appointment of Principal of the Berlin Laboratory, where he continued his researches on those dyes, and enlarged the production of their manufacture. What says he respecting Faraday's discovery of benzol? "The old axiom cannot be too often repeated, that the search after the true, for its own sake, leads on to the discovery of its natural corollaries, the useful and the beautiful. For those, indeed, lie folded up in truth to be in due time evolved therefrom, even as the great tree unfolds itself from out the little seed." The example of the aniline dyes manufacture is only one out of others in which, through our ignorance of the great commercial value of new scientific knowledge, the latter has been neglected in order to obtain immediate maximum incomes and maintain families in affluence and pleasure. German manufacturers have largely solved the important problem how to make original scientific research commercially profitable, which English manufacturers with an almost isolated exception have failed to do, chiefly in consequence of their deficiency in fundamental scientific education and training (see "Nature," October 28, 1897). "To-day Germany easily leads all the world in the amount and value of her contributions to human knowledge, and the energy with which her students pursue the study of Nature."—*Professor Cleveland Abbe*, "Nature," January 12, 1899.

"We originated the manufacture of coal tar dyes; Germany, however, possesses now the great manufacture of dye stuffs, the exports of which are valued 'at nearly £14,000,000 for the year 1895.'"—*The Times*, January 7, 1896.

"The industrial supremacy of Great Britain has long been an axiomatic commonplace; but it is fast turning into a myth, as inappropriate to fact as the Chinese Emperor's computation of his own status. This is a strong statement, but it is neither wide nor short of the truth. The industrial glory of England is departing, and England does not know it."—*E. E. Williams*, "Made in England."

ATROCITIES.

Tales of atrocities on the battlefield are by no means confined to one side during the campaign. The employment of semi-civilised Asiatic soldiers by the Franco-British Allies has added new horrors to the conflict. A young English officer who returned wounded from the front was asked about the German atrocities, but he had seen none of them. On the contrary, he said, so far as we saw the Germans, they behaved with conspicuous generosity, both to our wounded and to the French people. What I did see was a crowd of Turcos each with a German head on the end of his bayonet, and I believe they were the heads of German wounded. Another Turco was noticed with a large lump in his knapsack. It turned out to be the head of a German, which he was taking home to his wife. Another paraded a French town with a necklace made of German ears. Grim tales are also told of the Gourkas. They do not believe in being embarrassed with wounded, and perform certain rites on the battlefield, which don't improve the health of those that fall into their hands.—*Southern Cross*, Adelaide.

AMERICAN SAILOR ARRESTED IN CONNAUGHT.

A man named M'Nally, one of the crew of the American yacht which is practically interned at the Killeries, went without permission from the authorities to visit his friends at Clonbur, between Lough Corrib and Lough Mask, and was arrested by the police. It appears that M'Nally had been in the American Navy.—*Daily Independent*.

GAELIC LEAGUE AND DR. KUNO MEYER.

At a meeting of the governing body of the Gaelic League held in Dublin, Dr. Douglas Hyde presiding, a resolution was passed expressing gratitude to Professor Kuno Meyer for his work for Celtic literature and requesting the Cork Corporation to rescind their resolution removing his name from the roll of freedom of that city.—London "Times."

NEWS FROM BERLIN.

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

THE AERIAL ATTACK ON ENGLAND.

Our airships, in order to attack the fortified place of Great Yarmouth, were obliged to fly over other places, from which it is stated they were fired at.

These attacks were answered by throwing bombs. Britain has no right to be indignant, as her flying machines and ships, in broad daylight, attacked open towns such as Freiburg, Dar-es-Salam, and Swakopmund.

Air war is acknowledged to be a means of modern warfare as long as it is carried out within the rules of international law. This has been done by our dirigibles.

The German nation has been forced by Britain to fight for her existence, and cannot be forced to forego legitimate self-defence, and will not do so, relying upon her good right.—

RUSSIAN RETREAT FEARED.

According to a Rotterdam telegram the fear is openly expressed in London that the Russians will again withdraw for the distance of another twenty-five miles in Southern Poland, namely, on the line Radom-Opatov and east of the Lysagork River. It is said that preparations for this retreat have already been made.

UNITED STATES AND ENGLAND.

The "New York Herald" (Paris) reports that relations between the United States and England are becoming more strained. The new American Note emphasising the minimum demands of the United States will be handed to the English Government in the course of this week.

JAPAN AND THE PACIFIC.

The Russian newspaper "Novie Vremya" reports that Count Okuma stated in a recent speech that the task allotted to Japan shows the real importance of that Power in the Pacific Ocean. This has already been acknowledged by European Powers as the sphere of Japanese influence, and his countrymen now have a free hand to increase the prestige of their Empire within its boundaries.

BELGIANS RETURNING.

According to the Swiss paper, the "Basler Nachrichten," the Belgian Minister Halleputte recently stated that 90,000 Belgians have fled to Holland, and that of these no less than 50,000 have returned home.

LEIPZIG FAIR.

Leipzig market is to be held as usual between the dates of March 1st and 5th, and special facilities will be given to foreign buyers.

PRICES UNCHANGED.

The rumour that German industries generally have raised prices is not correct. It is especially untrue with regard to the toy and china industries, in which prices rule unchanged in spite of the war.

GERMAN UNITY.

Herr von Heydebrand, the Leader of the German Conservatives (the so-called Junker Party), recently stated that the future party strife in Germany is likely to be much less acute than in the past. It will never be forgotten that the country became absolutely united in the face of danger. The German Socialist leader, Von Vollman, declared to an interviewer from the Danish paper, the "National Tidend," that the German people are now animated by one indomitable purpose, and will defend their country and overcome their enemies, considering no sacrifice too great for such a purpose.

YPRES.

The war correspondent of the "Rotterdamsche Courant" states that Ypres is still being shelled by the Germans. The remaining population is living in cellars. More than four hundred of the townspeople are said to have been killed during the bombardment.

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

With regard to the visit of the journalists to the hospital for the wounded at Gmunden, the Duke of Cumberland said: "In this present war I naturally feel as a German, which I am by birth, and I can only hope that this war will soon end victoriously for the united Central Powers."

ITALIAN STEAMER LOST.

The Italian steamer "Varese," bound from Sfax to Venice, ran on a minefield near Pola on January 18 in hazy weather and sank.

GERMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY.**PASTORAL ON THE WAR.**

"We are Innocent of the Outbreak of the War. It has been Forced upon us."

We have received a copy of a War Pastoral addressed to the Roman Catholics of Germany by the German Catholic Episcopate. It was issued on the Third Sunday in Advent, and was appointed to be read in all churches on the Sunday after Christmas in place of the sermon.

We append the principal passages:—

"We have celebrated Christmas as never in life before; Christmas in the world-war, serious and sorrowful, but also rich in grace, blessing, and supernatural joy. The war was a stern Advent school; it has brought us and our people nearer the Saviour. The more fearfully the war clouds gathered over our country the more clearly, to use a beautiful saying of the Apostle, did that God who once said, 'Out of darkness let the light shine forth,' light up within us the radiant knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

"Like a hurricane the war burst on the cold clouds and the evil vapours of infidelity and scepticism, and on the unwholesome atmosphere of an un-Christian over-culture. The German people recovered their senses; faith returned to its right; the soul lifted up its eyes and recognised the Lord. We saw His glory, as it were, of the only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

"Following the attractions of grace, following the voice of their pastors, and the exhortation of their God-fearing Kaiser, the people entered the churches and found there the Saviour; many found Him again who had wandered far from Him. . . . We heard Him saying to us the earnest and consoling words—'When ye hear of wars and rumours of wars, fear not, for such must come to pass.'

Thus have these hard times brought us nearer to the Saviour. We could rejoice in the special mercies of His divine heart, and hear its beating throughout all the noise of war. It we thank for these salutary fruits of the war. It we thank for the glorious successes and victories with which Heaven has blessed our arms."

The Pastoral proceeds to urge that the principal duty of the German people is penance and expiation.

"The war is a judgment for all nations afflicted by it, and therefore a loud call to penance and expiation. The time of war is a time of penance. Woe to the nation which even this terrible chastiser can no longer bring to penance; it is ripe for destruction, and even victory would be for it a defeat. War opens the account-book of nations before the whole world, and registers the result of its reckoning in human blood. We do not wish to busy ourselves with the account-book of other nations, but with our own; we do not want to examine the consciences of our enemies, but our own. We are innocent of the outbreak of the war; it has been forced upon us; that we can testify before God and the world. Yet we do not want to boast of our innocence.

"In us, too, the war has laid bare heavy guilt. Our people themselves have very clearly pronounced judgment thereon; things could not go on as they were. How often have we Bishops, in our distress of soul, loudly bewailed the decay of our religious and moral life. Now the war has again restored religion to its rights, and inculcated on mankind the Commandments of God with fire and sword."

The Pastoral denounces the growth of vice among the German people, the exclusion of the Christian spirit and Christian principles from education and from public and social life, and the worthlessness of the "modern, anti-Christian, irreligious mind-culture."

"Into our country, too, had this culture considerably penetrated, an over-culture, un-Christian, un-German, and unsound in its whole being, with its external varnish and its internal rottenness, with its coarse pursuit of wealth and pleasure, with its supermen as arrogant as ridiculous, with its dishonourable imitation of infected foreign literature and art, and even of the most shameful extravagances in female fashions. This is our people's, and therefore our own, most grievous fault. It demands penance and expiation. . . . True repentance blots out the guilt, but not all the punishment; and the guilt of an entire nation is only expiated by the earnest penance and radical conversion of the entire nation.

"Therefore do your bishops invite you all with one voice to a common and decisive act of expiation on the Sunday after the Feast of

the Epiphany. Our appeal is addressed to all, but quite particularly to men and youths, for they must here, as in the field of battle, stand in the first line for people and country. . . . In all Europe the nations stand opposed to each other in two hostile camps. The fire is already flaming from the west to the east. A great turning-point of the world's history has been reached. On the bloody field of battle the fate of the nations is being decided. Everything suffers from the consequences of the war, and there is now hardly a household without a dead member to bewail. Still there is no end in sight. It is certain only that much misery still awaits us."

The Pastoral is signed by the Cardinal-Archbishops of Munchau-Freising and of Cologne, the Archbishops of Freiburg, Bamberg, Gneisen, and Posen, the Prince-Bishop of Breslau, the Bishops of Treves, Strassburg, Würzburg, Rottenburg, Kuhn, Regensburg, Metz, Augsburg, Mainz, Eichstatt, Passau, Fulda, Erm-land, Pardeborn, Speyer, Münster, Limburg, Osnabrück, and various minor prelates.—London "Times."

"DUMMY WARSHIPS."**"FITTED AT BELFAST."**

The semi-official "Lokal Anzeiger" of last Saturday publishes under the above title a remarkable article concerning imitation warships which are said to be in course of building or transforming in this country, of which article a telegraphic summary has already been published here.

The "Anzeiger" says: "We receive information from America according to which the British Admiralty have recently bought more than a hundred old passenger vessels, which are being very secretly laden with cement and stone, and the greater number of them being converted, by wooden structures, into imitation warships. The steamers are receiving the appearance of warships, with wooden guns and upper works such as are only seen in warships. They thus appear as deceptive warships. Several of these deceptive vessels have been fitted at Belfast, and are already completed.

"Captain H. J. Haddock, formerly of the 'Olympic,' under instructions from the Admiralty, is in charge at Belfast of these secret preparations. The most important ships bought with this object are: From the White Star Line, the 'Cevic'; the Dominion Line, the 'Merion'; the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line, the 'Oruba' and 'Orotava'; and the Cunard Line, the 'Campania.'

"This information is enlarged in an interesting fashion by a story published in the 'New York Times' from a passenger who arrived in the 'Baltic' (White Star Line), Liverpool to New York. According to the statements of this trustworthy observer men worked day and night on the ships. Their inner walls are at some distance from the outer, and are strengthened by cross bulkheads, the spaces being filled with cement. After this had been done wooden turrets and guns, and wooden warship masts were built in, and the whole painted the customary grey of warships.

"Introduced by a friend this trustworthy observer was received at the shipyard, and saw an old passenger vessel, with 9in. wooden guns, which looked very formidable. While he was there a painter fell from his seat on a turret where he was working, and striking the gun in his fall broke it into pieces. In fact all these equipments are very lightly constructed, and must be carefully treated lest they break.

"On some of the small vessels work proceeds very rapidly. It is said that one steamer which at 5 p.m. was a poor old passenger boat, appeared at 8 p.m. the next day an elegant small cruiser, with eight imitation 6in. guns and some quick-firers.

"The purpose of these vessels is naturally secret. The most probable view is that, as in the Spanish-American war Lieutenant Hobson used vessels at Santiago de Cuba, they are to be employed to block our most important harbours and fairways. It is believed that they are to be taken to the Belgian coast, and then through Danish waters are to be sent against Kiel. Probably it is, at least, their object to attract to themselves the attack of German submarines and warships, in order to prevent attack upon real warships.

Owing to the extraordinary danger which these phantom ships will incur, and which nothing can prevent, for the first shot will scatter splinters around, it seems improbable that volunteers will come forward to man them, though in England there is confidence on the subject."—London "Daily Chronicle."

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NEUTRALITY.

SWEDISH REPLY TO ENGLISH COMMENTS.

With reference to assertions in the London Press that British measures in respect of neutral trade are defensible because the neutral Powers did not protest against the violation of Belgian neutrality, and thus did not fulfil their moral obligations and are therefore not entitled to financial inviolability, the foremost provincial paper of Sweden, the Liberal "Goeteborge Handelstidning," writes:

"This is a real novelty of international law. Hitherto a neutral's duty has been considered to avoid any interference politically with belligerents, and an official Swedish protest against the violation of Belgian neutrality would certainly have been considered by both sides as a siding with a certain party. As to the above-mentioned statement, that silence is the same as siding with one side, one has no notion as to whether the same theory would be held regarding our country's silence in the case of the violation of Chinese territory by the Japanese during the preparations for the conquest of Kiau-Chau."

The Swedish paper concludes: "If a State observes correct neutrality towards the belligerents, which does not at all imply its having to protest with regard to matters not concerning the State in question, it is fully entitled to consideration from belligerents concerning matters which appertain to it.—London "Daily News."

RUSSIA AND THE JEWS.

Pogroms Follow Charges of "Spying."

"Humanité" published last Sunday an appeal from the "Bund," the Jewish section of the Russian Social Democratic Party, on behalf of the Jews, whose position and treatment in Poland and Lithuania are apparently worse than ever. The appeal denies that any promise was ever given to the Jews during the present war, and although fully 250,000 Jews are discharging their duty as citizens at the front and many of them have been decorated with crosses for bravery and meritorious service, yet the Jews (including even the families of soldiers) are, as before, forbidden to leave the "pale of settlement," and are being driven back whenever they flee to "prohibited" areas from the German invaders.

But even worse things than these have, it is stated, happened to them in the course of recent months. A number of pogroms carried out by the troops and local Polish population, with the connivance and even the co-operation of the military and civil authorities, have taken place in Poland, and Lodz itself saw during its brief reoccupation by the Russians a pogrom on the Jews of several days' duration.

Worse still, on the pretext that the Jews are acting as spies for the enemy—a charge which the appeal calls as infamous as that which gives rise to the Beilis trial—the Jewish population of many towns—men, women, children, young and old—have been deported en masse at the beat of the drum, and with scarcely more than a few hours' notice. The description which the appeal gives of these exodii on the strength of reports in the Petrograd Press is harrowing. Sick and infirm women with children were all driven along the high road like herds of cattle, in cold weather, in pouring rain—some singing psalms, others silent and weeping. The stronger men collected branches of trees, covered them with their own clothes, and carried on these improvised stretchers the sick and the young as well as the women. They thus marched the greater part of the wet and cold night, suffering intensely. One woman gave birth to a child; another died from exhaustion. The homes of these unfortunate

people fell a prey to soldiers and marauders, who plundered them.

This has been the fate of the Jews at Grodzisk, Skiesnewice, Sochalzow, Lowicz, Novo-Alexandria, Ivangorod, and many other towns. The number of Jewish "refugees" in Warsaw alone is estimated at 100,000.—London "Daily News."

SINKING OF THE GERMAN PACIFIC SQUADRON.

The "Hamburger Fremdenblatt" professes to have drawn from Japanese newspapers the following mythical account of the battle of the Falkland Islands:—

During the fighting the Japanese squadron at first adopted a waiting attitude. When the English squadron had suffered severe losses, and several cruisers had been put out of action and began to give way, Sturdee called for the help of the Japanese. In the fight that thereupon developed between Japanese and German cruisers—the latter had, of course, already suffered in the three hours' battle with England—the Japanese succeeded in putting the German cruisers out of action. They then desisted from further shooting. At this point, however, the English ships which had not been damaged fell upon the powerless German ships, and won a cheap victory. The Japanese spectators could not refrain from giving expression to their contempt at this cowardly and unworthy behaviour of the English Navy, saying, "the English gentlemen are no Samurais."—London "Times."

ENGLAND AND BELGIUM.

What an English M.P. Would Have Advised.

Dealing with the subject of "Secret Diplomacy" at Burnley, Mr. F. W. Jowett, M.P., said that so long as we had a system of conducting foreign policy by means which were secret the public would become less and less well-informed.

By an iniquitous system of diplomatic procedure, namely, Britain combining with France in secret arrangements, we actually made a present to the military power in Germany of the very excuse which they wanted—to get the people to feel that Germany was being hemmed in.

Our obligation for going to war was said to be Belgium. It was early proved that that was not so. Belgium's position was pitiable, but he did not think that we were free from blame. Honest diplomacy would have faced this question three years ago.

He was not ashamed to say that in such a position as that of Belgium at the outset of the war he would have been prepared to advise that, under the circumstances, a formal protest would have been better, all things considered.—London "Daily News."

REFUSAL TO BILLET SOLDIERS JUSTIFIED.

The Rev. Jeremiah Brown, of the Gospel Mission Hall, Old Windsor, who appeared before the Berkshire magistrates at Windsor Town Hall last Monday, justified his refusal to billet two men of the 6th East Surrey Regiment, and the charge against him was dismissed.

Mr. Brown, in his defence, said the only spare bedroom he had was occupied by himself and wife. The other two were connected, and one was occupied by his daughter, through which there was a small room, only large enough for a single bed, which could only be occupied by a lady. When the application was made his wife was ill with bronchitis and influenza. The lack of proper sanitary arrangements made it impossible for him to accommodate the men even if he had room.

The pressure of ministerial work was another reason given by the defendant for not complying with the request of the Army authorities.—London "Times."



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INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY OF IRELAND.

A Lecture will be delivered by Walter Carpenter, entitled "The War That Matters," in the Council Chamber, Trades Hall, Capel Street, on to-morrow (Sunday), at 8 p.m. Questions and discussion invited. Admission Free.

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