

Von Igel Papers Reveal Plot

Providence, R. I., May 1.—The Providence Journal says: "President Wilson and Secretary Lansing are greatly concerned over the revelations discovered by a careful reading of the paper seized from Wolf von Igel in the office of Captain von Pappen. By reason of this seizure and the fact that they are compelled to take cognizance of the contents of such documents, they are face to face with a situation which in effect, if not in character, is quite as serious as that produced by Germany's submarine warfare.

"The belief is general that the demand by Count von Bernstorff for the return of these documents was made with full knowledge that their character was such as to make compliance with his request impossible and that this demand was put forth simply in order to create a condition which might be used to force a break in relations before the break on the submarine if the latter seems to be inevitable.

"The Journal understands from a responsible source that these documents in addition to the proofs they present of the Welland Canal plot, the guilt of Captain von Pappen, Hans Taucher and many other men whose names have not yet been mentioned, also seriously involve officials of the German government at Berlin in a complete prior knowledge of the Welland Canal plot, and of many other plots and conspiracies equally serious in character. The German ambassador himself, the Journal's informant states barely escaped direct proof of complicity, though the inferences of it are clear.

"The papers show a personal

connection between von Pappen and other German agents with the explosion in the Du Pont Powder plant, in which thirty workmen lost their lives. They disclose the complete story of plots to wreck munition carrying steamships by internal explosions, plots to set fire to docks and freight houses, and other conspiracies in addition to that at the Du Pont plant to blow up munitions factories.

"It is declared also that one of the most serious discoveries that has been made is that the cumulative evidence of these papers presents the inevitable conclusion that full details have been planned for more than a year for the destruction not only of government buildings in Canada, but in the United States as well.

"For diplomatic reasons certain representatives of the government have permitted it to be understood that the von Igel documents were not of supreme importance. The facts, however, are as stated, and it is understood that even if the terms of our demands concerning submarines are satisfactorily met by the German government, there will still remain a cause for an immediate break by reason of the revelations contained in these von Igel papers.

"Certain members of the cabinet are firmly convinced that if there is to be a break Germany will prefer it to come in connection with these von Igel documents and will use every effort to that end. On the other hand, it is declared that the authorities in Washington would infinitely prefer, if a break should be inevitable, that it came only through the submarine controversy, which places us sharply in the forefront of a humanitarian cause rather than through the seizure of these documents concerning the validity of such seizures. Many and intricate legal points can be raised.

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How Long Will The Great War In Europe Last?

Americans Ask This Question Because They Do Not Comprehend Europe's Situation

War Will Last Till German Idea Is Beaten

Belief That Murder, Arson and Other Crimes Are Profitable Must Be Destroyed—How the Belligerents Look at the Question of the Hour

Mr. F. H. Simonds, the distinguished war correspondent, writes in the Boston Advertiser:

For the American returning from Europe no question is more familiar than this: "How long will it last?" However impossible the question may be to answer, he is confronted by it at every turn. What makes any response more difficult is that the same question was asked of him at every turn in Europe. In France, in England, the same wonder, the same puzzle is to be found. There, as here, the probable duration of the war remains a matter on which few people have even a conjecture and none a real conviction.

All this amounts to saying that the situation in France and Great Britain has undergone no superficial change in the 21 months that the Great War has endured. Neither in London nor in Paris does anyone seriously expect peace at the end of any time that he cares to measure by months, or years. For France and for Great Britain the issues of the war remain unsettled as yet. What they underlook to defend remains in danger: the principle that is in the heart of the Frenchman, who sees more clearly than any of his allies remains involved.

The difficulty in understanding in America why there is no prospect of peace in Europe this summer is found in the fact that there has been no general appreciation on America of the real character of the conflict. No Frenchman, for example, regards the present struggle as a war in the ordinary sense.

France is fighting Germany to-day as one would fight a man-eating tiger, as one would fight a wild animal, laying aside all thought of adjusting difficulties by human speech.

To understand this French point of view, and it must be understood, it is necessary to go to the villages and towns which were occupied by German soldiers in the opening days of the war. Go to Sermaize, go to Gebeville, go to any town in the region between the Ornaire and the Forest of Argonne and see what the Germans, in this instance the Bavarians, actually did.

In this region there is no question of the ordinary destruction of war. There are villages destroyed by shell fire, and there is a legitimate circumstance of war. But there are other villages, towns, any number of them, where the torch was applied to please the passion or the desire to destroy wantonly. Women were outraged, children were killed, utterly indescribable defilements were visited upon persons and upon homes, and these things have passed into the common knowledge of millions of Frenchmen, because the French armies have passed this way and in places remain there.

There is no anger in the French attitude, there is no bitterness of denunciation, there is no outbreak of a desire for revenge—nothing of the sort. The Frenchman takes you to these villages and shows you what has taken place; he narrates with documents and official reports what was done in these towns. Part of the grim facts of his life is no more angry with the Germans than he would be with a wild animal. But these things are so; there are hard, palpable facts; this being true, what can he do, but go on?

It is different only in degree in England. In London you will see where women and children have been murdered by Zeppelins; the same is true in many

towns and cities. The women and children who have been drowned by submarines are very many. There is passion in the Briton's tone and manner, frequently, though not always; but this is only an incident. The real attitude toward the German thing is the attitude of a physician toward a cholera germ or a typhoid germ. It is a thing that destroys human life; it is a peril and must be disposed of. There is no other way to dispose of it; no other treatment than that of the rifle, the machine gun and the high explosive.

In America we talk about the war and speculate and argue about it as if it were a war. Nothing of the sort happens in France or Great Britain. Nothing of the sort happens in the case of Americans when they have seen what the German thing has meant in the countries in which it has been expressed. To see Champagne or Lorraine is to put aside the discussion of those issues which delight the historian alone.

You go into a village and a story is told. The Germans took this village in August, 1914; some of it they burned; they took the women prisoners, and in September, 1914, when the French soldiers fought their way back the women leaned out of the windows and begged the men to take no prisoners. None were taken, and the reason was obvious.

No Frenchman imagines that he is fighting a war with a nation whose rival ambitions have produced a conflict. He is fighting with the people who killed the little boy in Senlis, the little boy with a wooden gun. This gun he pointed at the German soldiers and said: "Bang!" Then he was shot. The Frenchman is fighting with the people who killed the women in the cellar at Sommeilles, killed them by shameful abuse. He is fighting the people who do certain things, he is fighting them because they do these things. These things are expressed in international affairs by the invasion of Belgium, but they are expressed in the ordinary material of human life by the tragedies which have occurred in the little French villages all over the north of France.

If one is to understand why there is no talk of peace now and mighty little thought of it in France or Great Britain (and a great deal less, so one hears, in Russia), one must understand the mental attitude of the French and the British. The things that the Germans did in France are most of them unspeakable, some of them are just nauseatingly beastly, but many of them are savage and hideous. They express an idea, they express a point of view, they express a temporary or a permanent frame of mind in Germany.

There is nothing to go while this point of view prevails in Germany but to fight; that fight is not for provinces or power or profit, it is a fight for existence, for the existence of what is worth preserving in human life.

There is another question, says Mr. Simonds, that is asked of the returning traveller: "Do you still feel that the Allies are going to win?" No one can feel otherwise in Great Britain or France. No one can feel that there is any outcome of the war possible except the destruction of this terrible German idea which has brought the world to such agony. In fact, the thing that one feels in Europe is that Germany has been beaten, that the German idea has been proven impossible, that it was proven impossible at the Marne and that Verdun is only a later confirmation of a fact already absolute.

But if one asked, "Will you write their terms of peace that, again, is approximately France, Belgium, Serbia merge from this war a destructible and safe, and the peoples that are fighting will not make peace for any profit for Germany. Germans have done in Belgium.

There is no question of compromise; either the Germans or France will die, but to destroy Germany, the belief is possible to destroy Germany does not exist, and where it has been removed by what has done in recent months.

As far as France is concerned, it is universal conviction that it must go on steadily and without interruption for negotiations until Germany accepts the common humanity that has hitherto bound all mankind that has civilized itself.

In sum, there is no prospect of peace in Europe, but there is a plain evidence of the clearing of the way for peace. The enemies of Germany, that is the nations which she attacked two years ago, have put aside most of the foolish notion they had of conquering Germany or eliminating her from the rank of great powers. This was the natural desire of those who had suffered from the madness of the Germany of 1914. But it is a vanished idea.

Quite in the same way these same nations, all their peoples, have laid hands on the solid purpose for which they will fight until they perish or conquer. The German thing must not endure; it must not live by gathering profit in territories, in provinces, in indemnity. It must be thrown back bleeding across the German frontiers; unless this happens there can be no real peace, and all the previous sacrifices will have been vain.

Oddly enough, it is hard not to feel that Germany is moving toward going home, moving toward it while the Allies are putting aside what was never possible and hardly desirable—their early impulse to destroy the Germany that so cruelly and brutally assailed them. The German idea remains to be crushed, but it is already something far different from the idea that Bernhardt told his countrymen about a few years ago. Every one of the major propositions has been answered on a battlefield, and the answer has been conclusive or nearly so.

In so far as the opponents of Germany have fought for spiritual values they have won their fight; we are going on after this war from the point at which civilization rested in August, 1914.



Senses of Plants

James Rodway, who is the curator of the British Guiana museum, and is an eminent botanist, declares that plants have at least three of our five senses—feeling, taste and smell—and that certain tropical trees smell water from a distance and will move straight toward it. But trees not in the tropics can do, as well. A resident of an old Scotch mansion, says a writer in the Scotsman, found the waste pipe from the house repeatedly choked. Lifting the slabs in the basement paving, he discovered that the pipe was completely encircled by poplar roots. They belong to a tree that grew 30 yards away on the opposite side of the house. Thus the roots had moved steadily toward the house, and had penetrated below the foundation and across the basement until they reached their goal, the waste pipe, 150 feet away. Then they had pierced a cement joining, and had worked their way in long, tapering lengths inside the pipe for a considerable distance beyond the house.

He Was On

Mother [angry]—"Why didn't you come when I called you the first time?"

Willie—"Cause I didn't hear you till you called the third time."

Mother—"Now, how could you know it was the third call unless you heard the other two?"

Willie—"Easy enough, ma. I knew it was the third time 'cause you sounded so mad."—Exchange.

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