

More Outrages By The Huns

London, April 5.—The Belgian steamer *Trevier*, from New York, with Belgian relief supplies, was torpedoed without warning on Wednesday. While the boats of the *Trevier* were being lowered, the submarine fired on them, severely wounding the captain, the mate, the engineer, a donkey man and a cook.

The *Trevier* sailed from New

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York on March 5 for Rotterdam, and was reported arriving at Halifax, enroute, on March 8. She was a vessel of 3,001 tons gross.

London, April 5.—News of the torpedoing of the *Trevier* came in a Reuter despatch from Ymuiden. The torpedoing by a German submarine, the message adds, occurred off Scheveningen, Holland. Twenty-four members of the crew, of whom eight are wounded, have been brought to Ymuiden.

New York, April 5.—The Belgian relief steamer *Fiestin* has been sunk in the North Sea while approaching Rotterdam, according to a cablegram received here to-day by the Belgian relief commission. It is believed she struck a mine.

London, April 5.—Six hospital ships have been torpedoed or mined by the Central Powers since the beginning of the war. Thos. J. McNamara, Financial Secretary of the Admiralty, stated in the House of Commons to-day. In consequence, he added, 347 lives had been lost and 73 persons injured

Would Welcome Brazil To Fold

London, April 5.—British naval circles would welcome Brazil as an ally of the Entente, considering her the most important neutral after America for the Entente cause. Her adhesion to the Allies would provide excellent harbors for operations in South American waters, where German raiders have more opportunity than anywhere else for interference with food supplies for Europe. At present the

Allied warships have to contend with the difficulties of coaling at sea.

Cuba is also considered important, as affording submarine bases.

According to information here, the Germans are looking to Mexico when driven from South America, having taken there considerable quantities of arms and ammunition

Knew Adam Was A Prussian

To multiply the gaiety of nations in these dark days the *Tribune de Geneve* publishes the following translation of a letter written by a German girl to a friend in Switzerland. The letter is dated from Frankfort-on-Oder and the captivating young person who writes is the daughter of a Government architect in Germany: "My dear little Louise,—The contents of your last letter would have wounded me if I had not known that your opinions on our glorious war were the outcome of ignorance. You require a strong dose of Prussian culture. It is evident that you, a Swiss, fashioned to French thought, cannot understand that my young German girl's heart has ardently, passionately desired this war; it has been talked of with us for years, and my father used to say to us, 'Children, Germany is becoming too small for us, we must return to France in order to make a place for ourselves and to get money. Is it our fault if France does not understand that we need money and territory? Then you reproach me for the treatment of our soldiers towards the Belgian 'canaille' you also speak of the damage to the Rheims' Cathedral, of villages and towns burnt, etc., etc. That is war! You have something to learn in order to equal us, and I can assure you that all that has been done up to now is a mere bagatelle to what is going to happen. Only yesterday our pastor was explaining in a convincing manner that the first man, Adam, and Eve were also Prussians. That is easy to understand, for in the Bible it is written that our German God has created us according to his own image. If, therefore, all men have descended from a Prussian Adam and from his wife, there should only exist Prussians, or at least Germans, and everything that grows and exists should belong to us. You must admit this is logical reasoning, and that is why our device is 'God with us, and Germany over all.'"

Canals of Mesopotamia

Great irrigation schemes enabled Mesopotamia, Armenia and other countries in the near and

middle East to become the seat of mighty empires in spite of their arid climates. Today, says Dr. Arthur Selwyn-Brown, in the *Scientific American*, they have few canals of any importance. Bagdad, which has a population of about one hundred and fifty thousand, had two million ten centuries ago. The difference between Mesopotamia then and to-day is the result of the destruction of the canals.

In the height of its prosperity Bagdad had the most remarkable system of irrigation that has ever been constructed. The canals about the city measured over one thousand miles in length. They were well built, supplied with storage basins, locks and weirs, bridges and loading docks for barges, and were carefully kept in good order.

There were others, both north and south of the city, that joined the Euphrates with the Tigris, and there were several that ran parallel with the rivers.

The largest was known as the Cosroes Canal. It was built in early historical times to connect Bagdad with the city of Dur, about one hundred miles north. This canal was extended by the Caliph Al-Mansur to the city of Madharaya, the modern Kut el Amara. Later caliphs carried it one hundred and fifty miles beyond Dur. Whenever this canal passed through



loose soil it was over two hundred feet in width and six feet deep. Where the ground became rocky it was reduced to a width of forty or fifty feet. This trunk canal carried a large boat traffic and supplied water to hundreds of miles of lateral canals and irrigation ditches. It served many thousands of miles of most splendid farming country.

South of the city of Kerbela, on the Euphrates, there were great irrigation works on what is probably the richest agricultural land in Asia. The Euphrates has since shifted its bed about thirty miles to the eastward, and the rich canal lands are nothing but unwholesome, reedy swamps, the haunts of water buffaloes, cranes and other animals and birds.

Between Dur and Bassora there were over fifty trunk canals between the Tigris and the Euphrates, and they irrigated thirty-seven thousand square miles of rich farming lands. These lands, called the "Meadows of Gold," were worked to the fullest extent under the Abbassid caliphs, and even until 1258, when the Mongols sacked Bagdad and brought the rule of the caliphs to an end. After the Mongolian invasion Bagdad was no longer the capital of the Mohammedans and the holy city of Islam.

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The Cost of Growing Potatoes

[Experimental Farm Note.]
In potato growing provinces like New Brunswick there is always more or less discussion as to what it should cost to grow a good crop of potatoes and state ments vary from as low as \$40.00 per acre to as high as \$125.00. Naturally there will be much variation in cost according to local conditions and especially to the ability of the land to produce without expensive fertilizing. It should be borne in mind that it will usually cost the potato specialist more to grow his crop than it will the farmer who follows mixed farming and makes his potato crop merely one of his many activities.

With a view to getting actual figures under average conditions in New Brunswick, a careful record has been made at the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, for the past two seasons with an acre of land set apart for this particular purpose.

Neither rent of land nor depreciation of machinery was included in the calculation, for these two are items that are largely in the hands of the individual grower. As a general rule, however, it would be fair to charge as rent, 10 per cent of the value of the land, and special potato machinery will depreciate from 25 per cent to 50 per cent per year if used steadily for ten days each season. In 1915, the depreciation of the potato digger alone, used at the Experimental Station, was \$6.00 per acre.

In 1915, the acre was planted with Green Mountain, Irish Cobbler and Empire State. Seed, cultural operations and harvesting cost in all \$37.93. Eighty barrels of 165 pounds each of marketable potatoes were obtained and sold at \$1.75 per barrel making a profit over cost of production of 90c. per barrel. Seven barrels of culls were sold for \$3.50, so that the total profit for the acre amounted to \$75.50.

This land was rather wet naturally and during the very rainy weather of June and July was several times flooded, causing missed hills and inferior plants generally. This land was originally cleared many years ago and after cutting hay for thirty years it was allowed to grow up to spruce, birch and alder. It was again cleared in 1913 and grew buckwheat in 1914.

In 1916, an acre was planted with Green Mountain Seed.

The total cost amounted to \$32.33, the increase over 1915 being due to high priced seed, higher priced fertilizer in ingredients and very dear copper sulphate.

One hundred and twenty barrels of marketable potatoes were harvested and could have been sold at \$2.25 per barrel, making a profit per barrel over cost of production of \$1.5612, plus six barrels of culls at 50c., \$3.00, making a total profit of \$190.20.

Market price when potatoes were dug was \$2.25 per barrel. Later they could have been sold \$3.25, but are held for seed.

This land grew hay for many years and was broken up and grew potatoes with 750 pounds fertilizer in 1913, corn with 18 tons barnyard manure in 1914, oats without manure in 1915. This land is on a slope, fairly well drained and except for washing out slightly between the rows felt no bad effects from the June deluge.

Buenos Aires despatches received by the Associated Press in New York last night state that the press of Brazil is unanimous in its approval of the action of the United States. Several leading journals call upon the South and Central American republics to align themselves on the side of the Allies.

Rejoicing In British Lines

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, April 6, via London, April 7.—(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press.) The news of the action of the United States Senate in voting for war with Germany reached the far flung western battle line to-day and was hailed with cheers. Nowhere was the gratification greater than along the section of the front held by the Canadians, with whom many thousands of Americans are serving. Many Canadian and British companies were busy to-day preparing signs to hold up over the trenches, telling the Germans the tidings from Washington. This is the favorite plan of the Tommies to convey all sorts of bad news to their enemies across No Man's Land.

German prisoners taken to-day had not heard of President Wilson's address, and knew only in a vague way of the breaking of diplomatic relations in February. Some of the trench signs which were prepared included a brief translation into German of the President's statement that the United States was entering the lists against the German government and not against the German people. Others included the latest slogan: "No peace with the Hohenzollerns, while still others read: "Get rid of your Kaiser."

The British army as a whole has regarded the United States as practically in the war since the severance of relations. It was said then that active participation was only a matter of time.

The President's address was just reaching the front trenches to day in its entirety. The gist of the speech had been sent out by wireless and also by telegraph and telephone, but the soldiers generally preferred to wait for Congressional action before spreading the news to "Fritz." The weight of America thrown into the war scales just at this juncture in what is regarded as the critical year of the struggle has sent a renewed thrill of confidence all along the front.

Toasts were drunk to America at many a front line dugout to-night. The British look forward eagerly to the participation of the United States thus helping to completely outlaw German militarism.

It can be truthfully said that the khaki clad army faces the foe to-night with renewed determination to bring about a quick and decisive result. There was a new note of joyous confidence as the British and Canadian cannon hurled tons of shells against the German positions.

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