

The Daily Mail

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A BUNGLING PROPAGANDA

The article in the February Atlantic by Professor Hans Delbrück, Treitschke's successor in the chair of history in the University of Berlin, displays in marked degree the quality that has made the German propaganda in this country so barren of result.

Here is an eminent German, one of the high scholars of the world, appealing to the public opinion of a neutral country which has had a full opportunity to inform itself. Yet he ventures to make statements which are contrary to the facts as they are understood in this country and oracularly puts forth conclusions that do not flow from his premises. It should be manifest by this time that he is useless to try to elicit a favorable opinion by misrepresenting the record. Germany's case is weakened by such methods, for their employment naturally takes attention from matters which Germany can justly plead in justification of her precipitation of the war.

For example, discussing Germany's disregard of her obligation not to invade Belgium. Professor Delbrück says it was not a part of the French plan to invade Belgium. "Sir Edward Grey would have told the German ambassador, and would have been obliged to tell him that France would not violate the neutrality of Belgium and that England was all ready to guarantee that France would keep this obligation. Sir Edward Grey did not give such a pledge to the German ambassador."

There is nothing in the record supporting this statement. On July 31, the British government addressed to Berlin and Paris identical despatches asking each of the governments whether it was "prepared to engage to respect the neutrality of Belgium so long as no other power violates it." Paris immediately said yes. Berlin did not answer. But the next day the German ambassador at London asked Sir Edward Grey if Germany would agree not to invade Belgium would Great Britain agree to remain neutral during the war. That is to say Germany practically served notice that she would break her pledge as to Belgium unless Great Britain would pay her to respect it by surrendering all liberty of action. The question of a guarantee by Great Britain of the French Belgian pledge never arose. The German ambassador appears to have carefully avoided raising it. If Germany had asked such a guarantee and had declared that she would leave Belgium alone if she got it, there is no reason to doubt it would have been given. There is no meaning to the negotiations at Sir Edward Grey if they were not directed to keeping Belgium out of the war.

As to Serbia Professor Delbrück says "Austria demanded conditions that would have placed Serbia under her permanent control." To say this is, of course, to concede the Russian case. But the learned historian does not apparently realize this. He solemnly asserts that Austria had right to suppress Serbia, while Russia had no right to defend her kinsmen. The learned professor next declares that the allowance of but forty-eight hours to Serbia to answer demands that involved surrender to permanent Austrian control shows Austria's solicitude for peace. His argument is that to allow Serbia no time to consult her friends increased the likelihood of her yielding. This is tantamount to admission that Austria was resolved to declare war if Serbia did not come under her yoke and that the murder of the grand duke simply afforded a convenient pretext for launching her aggressive design.

Yet Professor Delbrück seems to assume that such misrepresentation of the record and the style of argument in which he indulges is calculated to influence American public opinion. A low opinion of America's intellectuality obviously must prevail in Germany's academic circles.

For some reason or other Finance Minister White did not include in his estimates the \$36,000 which is to be refunded to the government by the Southampton Railway Company.

Toronto World:—Far and away the heaviest tax imposed by the new budget is that on letters and postcards. One hundred per cent. increase on post cards and fifty per cent. on letters will certainly have a different effect to what is anticipated. The circular letter men have already protested that they can distribute by hand at \$8 a thousand, instead of the \$20 that will now be exacted under the city rate. Should the post office business keep up to its normal level, the revenue would amount to about \$7,500,000. Last year's mail handled 67,144,000 letters, 64,433,900 postcards and 15,500,000 registered letters, a total of 753,138,000 pieces. There has been no complaint anywhere about the tax levy, such criticism as has arisen being directed to the wisdom or unwisdom of the particular rates and articles selected. At all events, these payments are only a part of the considerable price we pay for our national life and our British liberty.

The enquiry conducted into the affairs of the Southampton Railway Company by Commissioner Pringle is said to have cost the country \$8,000. It looks like a case of having thrown good money after bad.

The late Marshal P. Wilder, the American humorist and entertainer, left an estate valued at a quarter of a million dollars. When on his death bed he smilingly expressed the hope that he would not die on a Friday.

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LOCAL NEWS

GOVERNMENT MEETING.

The members of the provincial government are expected here tomorrow to hold a meeting to make preparations for the approaching session of the legislature.

ARRIVED SAFELY

Word has been received here of the safe arrival at Bremer Haven, Germany, on the 16th, of the American steamer, J. L. Luckenbach, Capt. Read, from Boston with a cargo of cotton. Capt. Read is a native of Albert County and a brother of Mrs. R. P. Allen of this city.

SAID HE WAS ROBBED

One of a trio of young men, who were having an enjoyable time on Saturday night reported to the police that the other two had robbed him, beaten him and thrown him from the sleigh in which they were driving. The police investigated the matter and found that the three had spent enough money in and about the city to account for all that the complainant said had been stolen from him, and the matter was dropped.

STORY OF SPY IN 23RD BATTERY PERSISTS

The story of a German spy being found among the members of the 23 Field Battery and being arrested at Halifax still persists. The most recent rumor is that C. W. F. Dreher, who gave his home as Switzerland, is the man, who was arrested. The story states that he was detained, and examined and told that on account of his name and place of birth that he would not be accepted. Mr. Dreher is well known here, and was employed in this vicinity by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. It is reported that he was advised to return to Ottawa.

Rev. J. H. MacDonald, D. D., late pastor of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church, has been assigned to do duty as chaplain of the Divisional Ammunition Column, part of which is quartered here. Rev. Dr. MacDonald arrived here Saturday night and took part in the service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church yesterday morning at which the officers and men of the column were present.

PERSONAL

Mr. F. deL. Clements of St. John, is in the city today.

F. C. Hickley of Bangor, is in the city.

G. C. P. McIntyre of St. John, is a guest at the Barker House.

H. G. Noble of Woodstock, is registered at the Barker House.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Clowes of Oromocto, are at the Queen.

THREE MERCHANTMEN

(Continued from Page One.)

In all, twenty persons were saved from the wreck.

The submarine came into view, according to the stories told by the men of the Cambank, while the crew of the steamer were preparing the boats for an emergency. Then the torpedo was observed. The ship was standing still at the time, and the torpedo struck it squarely amidships, close to the stockhole. In less than fifteen minutes the bow of the vessel seemed to fall away, and then the ship broke in two and sank. Those of the crew who were able to make the boats drifted for three hours before they were picked up.

After discharging the torpedo which sank the Cambank, the submarine quickly submerged herself. The crew of the Cambank say the submarine unsuccessfully chased other boats in the vicinity where the Cambank was destroyed.

One of the men, in describing the experience of the Cambank, said:

"We were bound from Huelva, Spain, for Liverpool, with a cargo of copper. When outside of Amble, on the north coast of Wales, we took aboard a pilot. We had gathered a speed when a periscope was observed about two hundred yards away. The engines were reversed, but while the vessel was turning the submarine discharged a torpedo which struck us amidships.

"We launched the lifeboats and managed to pull clear before the Cambank sank. We had no time to save anything and most of us were scantily clad and much exhausted when a boat took us in charge and towed us into Amble harbor. A steamer which has arrived here reports that she had been warned by the Cambank that there was a submarine in the vicinity. She at once put on full steam, and being a speedy vessel, reached port safely.

UNCONFIRMED REPORT

Berlin, Feb. 21—(By wireless to Sayville)—The report of the sinking of a British transport with troops, and the accompanying steamer, reached Berlin too late for comment by the morning papers.

All the papers, however, feature the report in first page headlines, together with the reports of the sinking of other vessels by submarines or mines.

Bremen, via London, Feb. 21—The American steamer Evelyn, which sailed from New York on Jan. 29, with a cargo of cotton for Bremen struck a mine yesterday, off Borkum Island, in the North Sea. The vessel sank. Her captain and twenty-seven of her crew were saved.

The nationality of the mine which destroyed the Evelyn has not been established.

The Evelyn is the first American vessel to meet with disaster, as a result of the sea warfare of the European nations. She did not sink within the war zone included in the German admiralty's decree of Feb. 4, which went into effect on Thursday. Borkum Island lies directly off the German coast, at the mouth of the Ems river, and is German territory.

Maritime records give the complement of the Evelyn as twenty-five men, so that it is probable that all on board the vessel were rescued.

PRAISES WORK OF FRENCH ARMY

London, Feb. 21—A British military observer, stationed with the French army in the field, describes the advantages gained in the last few months by the French forces, in a statement given out today by the official information bureau, as follows:

"Since the repulse of the Germans by the Allies in Flanders no battle of great importance has been fought. If the gain in the smaller engagements which have taken place is measured only by the amount of ground won, the results are indeed small. A few hundred yards to the north of Arras, a village or two between Arras and the corner of the line nearest Paris, a belt varying from a mile and a half to two hundred yards in breadth to the east of Rheims, and a few miles of what was German territory in Alsace—these acres are all that have been gained. The enemy's hold on Belgium and Northeastern France is as strong as ever."

The British observer, nevertheless, contends that the success of the French army has been very great and that its work is deserving of the gratitude and the admiration of the allied powers. It has kept the German army so busily engaged, he says, compelling it frequently to fight under unfavorable circumstances, that the Germans have been unable to withdraw troops for a decisive blow elsewhere.

While performing this work, the observer says, the French army has steadily improved in personnel and equipment.

Miss Alys M. Phillips and Miss Gladys E. King of St. John, are registered at the Queen.

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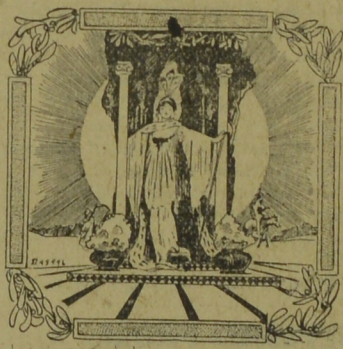
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