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DAILY EDITION

Monday, Dec. 7, 1914.

EDITORIALS

A letter from Professor Natrop, of Marburg University, to an American correspondent, takes a view somewhat different from that of Dernburg and other defenders of Germany. Professor Natrop says that German statesmen are somewhat to blame. Bismarck would never have allowed it to come to pass that the three greatest powers in the world, outside of the United States, should be allied against Germany.

"In this sense I do not hesitate to declare, although a German, that Germany is not altogether innocent of the outbreak of the war; not that there can be even the slightest doubt of her sincerest love of peace; but her diplomats did not recognize the road upon which peace could have been maintained, or did not know how to conquer the towering difficulties which confronted them on the road.

"Of the three opposing powers, however, England intended nearest, perhaps, for a time, to the intention of maintaining peace; in any case, her attitude was the decisive factor."

According to this writer, Russia was the real instigator of the war, and England went into it because she was pledged deeply to France and to Russia. He does not believe that the violation of the neutrality of Belgium was the real cause of British interference, but he admits that Germany's moral position would have been much stronger if she had not invaded Belgium.

What, then, was the German mistake which the professor admits, and which brought Great Britain into the war? The fact is that the invasion of Belgium was part of a large case. Germany was distrustful. Her immense armies and her growing navy aroused uneasiness in Great Britain. It is true that many British people refused to believe in the German peril. But the British people were divided in opinion, and the action of Germany last summer turned the scale, converted the doubtful element and alarmed many who had heretofore refused to believe in it.

The invasion of Belgium gave to Great Britain and to the world the impression of a reckless, unscrupulous power, setting forth upon a career of world-conquest. After Bel-

gium, France was to be overwhelmed, then the victorious German legions were to advance upon Russia. "Our turn will come next," that is unquestionably what the masses of British people believed. And this was the case for war; not one thing but several things. The invasion of Belgium was bad in itself, but it was also regarded as evidence of an unscrupulous ambition which would stop at nothing, and which shook the foundations of security all over Europe.

Surely, then, the question for thoughtful Germans to ask themselves is: "How did Germany allow this impression to be created?" If she was embarking upon a career of unscrupulous conquest she deserved the enmity of Europe. If she was innocent, she was almost ingenious in making herself look like a criminal. Whichever point of view you take, it is clear that German diplomacy was woefully bad.

Professor Dernburg says we take Bernhardt too seriously—that his work has had a small circulation in Germany, and has not influenced German thought. A good many of us were inclined to pay very little regard to Bernhardt, and to regard him as only a foolish talker. But the trouble came when Germany acted as Bernhardt talked. Nietzsche and Treitschke were mere names to most of us until the war broke out. Then we were astonished to find how their theories agreed with the German conduct of war. We are forced to conclude either that they created the German idea or that they expressed it.

SILENT MORTAR IS LATEST GUN REPORTED

London, Dec. 5.—Light but interesting touches from the battle front are contained in an account from the pen of the British official observer, Colonel E. D. Swinton, under recent date, given out by the London Press Bureau. Of chief interest was the statement that the Germans are using a silent gun, probably of pneumatic equipment. Concerning this weapon the account says: "In our center the enemy employed a silent gun, which may be pneumatic or worked by some mechanical contrivance. There is no report of the discharge the projectile travels through the air without any of the warning made by an ordinary shell and the first notice to be received of its arrival is the bursting of the shell. So far the weapon has done no damage."

BIG EASTERN INDUSTRY IS BUSY

Montreal, Dec. 5.—The Dominion Iron and Steel Company, of Sydney, Nova Scotia, the biggest plant in Canada of the kind, has 2,000 men at work out of a total of 3,500.

"We have one blast furnace going and will start up another in two weeks," said Mr. J. H. Plummer, president of the company, who has recently returned from Sydney. "The rail mill was started within the last week to make rails for an order received from New South Wales before the war. Confidence and communication having been restored, the steel company has been instructed to go ahead with the order. Three of our mills are very busy. We are shipping wire, wire nails and wire rods to England. We are not largely equipped for making barbed wire, but we are selling all we can make to English merchants—presumably for the use of the British army on the Continent. Machine bolts, rivets and billets are in considerable demand, too. England, for some reason, has not been making her own nails for years. Germany has been making them. As one result of the war we are making, among other lines, those special oval wire nails that are used in England and nowhere else."

In connection with the Dominion Steel Company, the Dominion Coal Company is a very important sister industry.

"The coal mines are running pretty well," said Mr. Plummer. "About ten thousand men are employed when times are normal, and most of these are at work now, though not on full time. Most of our coal comes up the St. Lawrence, though we ship a considerable quantity of it to New Zealand. Trade in the Maritimes is fairly good."

The Lake Superior Corporation at Sault Ste. Marie is running steadily on rails at half time, and has been since the war.

The United States Steel Products Company's branch office here reports that warehouse orders are coming in quite freely of late, though mill orders are still comparatively few and far between. That means that the steel merchants have been selling from their reserve kept in stock instead of ordering directly from the mill to supply their customers. They are now obliged, owing to stock depletion, to fill up their warehouses again.

MME. CURIE'S AUTOS SAVE MANY LIVES

Equipment Locates Bullets as Cars Take Wounded to Hospitals.

Paris, Dec. 7.—A fleet of radioscopic and radiographic automobiles, organized and fitted out by Mme. Curie has been added to France's war equipment.

The automobiles ply between base hospitals, locating bullets lodged in wounded soldiers, thus saving hundreds of lives by expediting and facilitating the extraction of missiles.

Some people are not satisfied with believing all they see and make old imagination work overtime.

BRITISH PUBLIC RESENTING RED TAPE OF PRESS CENSOR

BRITAIN'S NEW FORCES ARE RAPIDLY ASSUMING FIRST CLASS SHAPE AND WILL SOON BE A FORMIDABLE ARMY FOR THE FIELD.

Glasgow, Dec. 5.—Nothing has been more conspicuous in the parliamentary sitting just over than the discontent expressed among private members at government methods of controlling news services. Parliament reflects general opinion. The whole policy of news suppression is felt to be damaging to national confidence. The British Weekly, which ranks among the government's most influential supporters, makes emphatic protests, declaring: "General Red Tape has won all along the line. As a shroud of darkness falls upon the dying year, so it descends upon the war by land and sea."

The War Office and Admiralty, it declares, insist upon being allowed to do their part without co-operation, without devolution of labor, and practically without criticism. "If General Red Tape and his staff give us victory they will be vindicated. If they fail it will be seen they have been laying up wrath for themselves against the day of wrath."

Iron Law to Silence Criticism.

Unquestionably the government policy of concealment is carried further every day. War correspondents were never hunted so remorselessly, even Scotland Yard being employed to extirpate them as though they were criminals. Detailed recruiting figures are now unavailable. The government, despite urging, refuses to publish advance instructions for civilians. Should a raid take place new provisions of the Defence of the Realm Act place such power in the hands of officials that in effect any person indulging in criticism can be effectively silenced until the end of the war.

Resentment at this has deepened, because, while the authorities have been directing their full strength against leading London newspapers, whose main aim is to assist the authorities, they have ignored wholesale publication of the abominable seditious prints in Ireland.

The Glasgow Evening Times states: "This week German wireless news was heavily censored before publication was permitted, and for some inexplicable reason all references to the work of the British army were excised from the official French review of four months of the war, issued the other. French war correspondents and those of neutral countries are allowed to go into firing line, but representatives of the British nation are still debarred. Yet this is our war, and we are paying for it."

Splendid State of British Forces.

The present policy would be intelligible if it aided the government and assisted in recruiting, or if the authorities had an unfavorable situation to conceal. The very reverse is the case. The military campaign is going splendidly. The doings of our troops, which the authorities will not have published, would fill the country with still greater enthusiasm.

Many imaginative accounts of German superdreadnoughts continue to be published here, evidently with the intention of alarming London. In this they do not succeed, although some West End Mansions, following the example of the general postoffice, are being protected against bombs by false roofs and stout wire netting rising on thick scaffold poles some two feet above the ordinary roof. Some other houses are said now to be protected with sandbags.—Toronto Star.

BRITISH LAY DISASTER OFF CHILE TO WIRELESS

Plant on Wealthy New Yorker's Estate Under Investigation.

New York, Dec. 5.—Great Britain protested to the United States that the destruction of her fleet off the Chilean coast by a German squadron was due to information supplied by a wireless plant near Bar Harbor on the estate of Ernesto G. and Alessandro Fabbri, of New York. The wireless plant is large and fully equipped. The Fabbri are prominent in New York society and are said to be pro-German in their sympathies.

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