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EDITORIALS

'No power on earth,' says the German Crown Prince, 'will ever be able to convince our people that this war was not engineered solely and wholly with a view to crushing the German people, their government, their institutions and all that they hold dear.'

That the German people believe this, that they are practically unanimous in this belief, is apparent to anybody who has come in contact directly or indirectly with German public sentiment. But who engineered this war to destroy Germany, this war which the Crown Prince himself describes as 'the most stupid, senseless and unnecessary war of modern times?'

At the beginning of the conflict, Russia was pictured throughout Germany as the evil genius. France and Great Britain were described as the deluded instruments of Russian duplicity. Suddenly the Russian scapegoat was abandoned and England became the head devil. All the concentrated hatred of the empire is now directed against the English, who are represented everywhere as arch-conspirators who are using France, Russia and Belgium in a cunningly conceived plot to crush Germany for the commercial political profit of Great Britain.

Nobody in Germany seems to inquire why, if Great Britain wanted war, Sir Edward Grey should have exerted himself to the utmost to prevent war, and should have offered to abandon Russia and France if they refused to agree to a peaceful settlement of the issues raised by the Austrian ultimatum.

The Crown Prince may be quite sincere when he says the war 'was forced upon us'; but would there have been war if Austria and Germany had desired to prevent war?

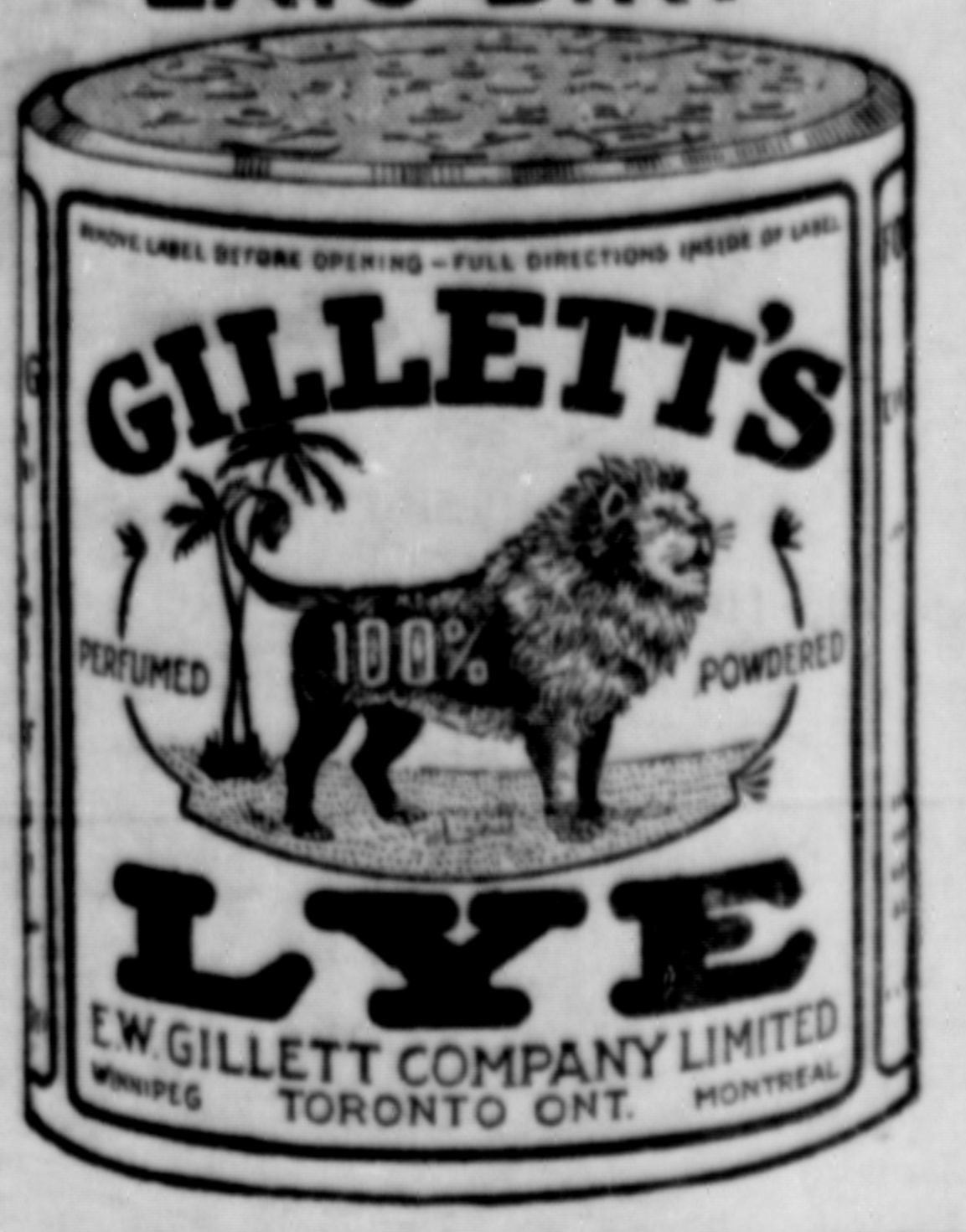
Would there have been war at all if Berlin and Vienna could have foreseen the events of the last four months?

Would the Austrian government have rejected Serbia's request for mediation if Vienna could have known what the condition of the Austrian army would be after four months of conflict?

Would the Kaiser have declared war against Russia on August 1 if all Germany had known that the German army could reach neither Paris nor St. Petersburg, and that December 1 would find it on the defensive along two frontiers?

If Germany and Austria, in the light of their acquired military experience, could turn

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the clock of history back five months, would they again choose the path they then chose?

That is the test of whether war came from the outside or the inside. No nation is ever really fighting for its existence unless it is prepared to say in advance, as John Adams said in urging the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, 'Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my hand and my heart to this vote.'

—New York World.

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DIRIGIBLE IDEA WAS NOT COUNT ZEPPELIN'S

Thos. H. Griffiths of Toronto Had It First and Submitted to Germany.

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Thomas H. Griffiths, of this city, formerly of Manchester, England, showed the Star some interesting correspondence with the War Office of Germany in Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin. This correspondence would seem to show that Count Zeppelin was not the first who approached the German government with the idea of a dirigible balloon.

"In February, 1900, I wrote the German minister for war," said Mr. Griffiths, "as follows: 'I have a new and original idea for a war balloon to offer you. This is an idea that would revolutionize the present system of ballooning. I will give you the benefit of the idea and place plans and designs before you if you care to experiment.'

Kaiser Interested.

To this letter I received a reply dated at Wilhelmstrasse, March 27, 1900, as follows: 'In reply to your request to the Royal War Ministry and then forwarded to me for reply on the 13th instant, the Inspection Department begs to advise you that they are willing to examine your invention of a new type of airship, and also desire you to supply the necessary plans, descriptions, etc., of course with the understanding that the Inspection Department does not incur any costs thereby.'

This ended the correspondence however, as Mr. Griffiths decided not to send the plans.

"I did not feel confident that I would get any recompense," said Mr. Griffiths, "and I was justified, judging from the experience of the late Mr. Holland, the American, who invented the submarine. His plans, it has turned out since the war opened, were used by the German government, but he was not paid a cent for them. Failing to secure my plans, the German government subsidized Count Zeppelin to invent a dirigible balloon. The result is well known. The Zeppelins are unwieldy, however, and are subject to an excessive amount of leakage. The hydrogen escapes from the silk envelope in spite of all their efforts to overcome the difficulty. The type they were offered, but, fortunately, didn't get, had speed, control, and a minimum of gas leakage.

"Previous to my corresponding with the Germans, I had taken the matter up with the minister of war for France. His secretary, Monsieur Braun, who signed the letters to me, later became minister of war, and was killed some years ago by an aeroplane. They too wanted the plans first before deciding, and no arrangement was arrived at. The next year, however, a prize was offered for the first dirigible to sail around the Eiffel Tower, and Santos Dumont won the 5,000 francs."

Zeppelin Not the First.

Mr. Griffiths claims that though history will award the honor for the design of the first dirigibles to Demont and Zeppelin, he had the idea in practical

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form before either of these gentlemen.

"I submitted a proposal to General Sam Hughes, but nothing has resulted," said Mr. Griffiths. "The British War Office I never tried. At the time I worked out the idea, the British War Office looked upon aeroplanes and dirigible balloons as impossibilities, and knowing their conservative tendencies, I did not venture to suggest such a wild idea to them. I got disgusted after falling with France and Germany and went to the Congo. I destroyed the plans."

The Zeppelin balloon becomes unmanageable in a high wind, but in Mr. Griffiths' balloon the engines were placed so as to preserve the balance and control even in a high wind.

VANCOUVER WORLD MAY BE WOUND UP

Vancouver, Dec. 15.—An application on behalf of Mr. Wintemute, receiver for the debenture holders, to wind up the World Printing & Publishing Co., was made before Chief Justice Hunter in Supreme Court chambers this morning and adjourned for final argument until Friday. The adjournment was granted to enable Mr. D. G. Macdonell, solicitor for L. D. Taylor, to see the debenture holders' trust deed. Mr. Armour, who appeared on behalf of the receiver and other debenture holders, protested at the delay until Friday and suggested that the application be heard on Thursday at the latest.

"The business is hopelessly insolvent. The receiver owes \$50,000 and the business gets worse each day. It is quite hopeless," said Mr. Armour, in objecting to any delay in the winding up.

Motion by Receiver.

"Thursday will be a sort of dies non in this court, except for Dominion Trust matters. Better make it Friday," said Chief Justice Hunter, who intimated that Mr. Macdonell must regard the date as peremptory.

Explaining to his lordship the form of action and motion, Mr. Armour stated that it was a motion by the receiver for an order to sell the property, in an action originally brought by Mr. L. D. Taylor on behalf of himself and other debenture holders to enforce security. "The order appointing Mr. Wintemute as receiver was made on July 3, 1913," said Mr. Armour. "This was a year and a half ago, and it was thought that with time the business could pull through. The business is hopelessly involved, and we want to get it wound up. It has been going from bad to worse. Everything has been done to keep things together without avail."

Salvation Army.

Public meetings, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8 p. m. Sundays at 7:30 p. m.

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