

## THE DAILY NEWS

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## HEAD OFFICE

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## DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1915.

## VALUES AND THE WAR

On the eve of the war Herr Ballin, head of the Hamburg-American Line of steamers, expressed in The London Times his fear that "all values would be destroyed" were war to break out. Now, after more than a year of war, it is interesting to inquire how far his foreboding has been justified. War has certainly caused a terrible slump in values, and not only in the financial markets. In a wider sense, values have dropped far below par.

Human life seems to be of less account. The staggering blow at the heart of humanity when the Titanic and the Empress of Ireland went down is no longer felt, as the monotonous daily record of the toll of death at the cannon's mouth mounts into the hundred thousands. Death no longer terrifies in face of the claims of honor and patriotism. Not that we value life less, but that we value sacrifice and honor more. Over the grave of Gladstone's heir and grandson, the late W. G. Gladstone, M. P., who was killed in action, is this simple epitaph, taken from a letter written by him to his mother from the front: "It is not the length of existence that counts, but what is achieved during that existence, however short. War has restored to us a right sense of proportion. All life is mean and valueless that is not worth the sacrifice of the casket that embodies the spirit. George Meredith, at the time of the Russo-Japanese campaign, expressed the fear that the British race had lost its contempt of death. This war proves how utterly unfounded were his apprehensions.

Many worthy and honorable pursuits have depreciated in value since the war. Writers, artists, and workers of divers

classes feel the pinch of fallen values. Others have recovered their proper place in life. Money and luxury and possessions have shrunk to mean proportions beside the spiritual uprising of an awakened world democracy consecrated to the task of restoring the true values of the things that count in life. It is a democracy that insists upon honoring its "scraps of paper" and in establishing upon the ruins of German brute force an era of peace and righteous dealing between men and nations.

After all, it is not so much a fall as a readjustment of values which the war has brought about. Swinburne, another great Victorian, strikes the right note when he reminds us that the person is "damned" who "loves his own life more than he hates all wrong-doing anywhere beneath the sun."—Toronto Globe.

## GERMAN ANSWERS GERMAN

Writing in the New York Times on "The Impeachment of German-Americans," Prof. Hugo Munsterberg, of Harvard University, tries to interpret German ideals to us. His method is simple: say nothing about Belgium, the Lusitania, and the innumerable rat-hole activities of the hyphenated in the United States, and claim for Germany all betterment in sanitation, city building, conservation, art, drama, politics, etc., etc. Germany has given all these things and Germany is a land of freedom. The nub of the political argument is the assertion: "Yes, the German nation governs itself just as much as the American." Is this true? Back in 1914, before the breaking out of the war, Hans Delbruck, professor of history in the University of Berlin and Vice Chancellor of

the German Empire, wrote a book called "Government and the Will of the People." In this he points out that the Reichstag, which comes nearer than any other German institution to representing the nation, is far from controlling national affairs, and was created by Bismarck to strengthen the government and to support its policies. This is just the opposite of conditions in England, France, and the United States, where the parliamentary or representative idea still holds. Delbruck shows that the Kaiser, the Bavarian King, and the other German princes exert their power "by the grace of God" and rule by means of the army officers and the civil officials. The foundation of the German political system is the direct personal loyalty of these two bodies to the monarch. Munsterberg can call this "full freedom and mature self-government" if he likes, but this German system of statecraft is the same old system of self-centered monarchical power from which the English and French peoples fought themselves free during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Delbruck knows this and gives the facts boldly. Munsterberg had better go talk to him.—Collier's Weekly.

## DUNSMUIR STREET ROADWAY

The question of laying a 16-foot plank roadway from Dunsmuir St. to McBride has been laid over until a more convenient season.

The mayor said he had hoped that there would have been enough lumber left from the re-decking to do the work, but he found there would not.

Ald. Beveridge said that in any case there was more important work to be done, for instance, the putting in of water mains.

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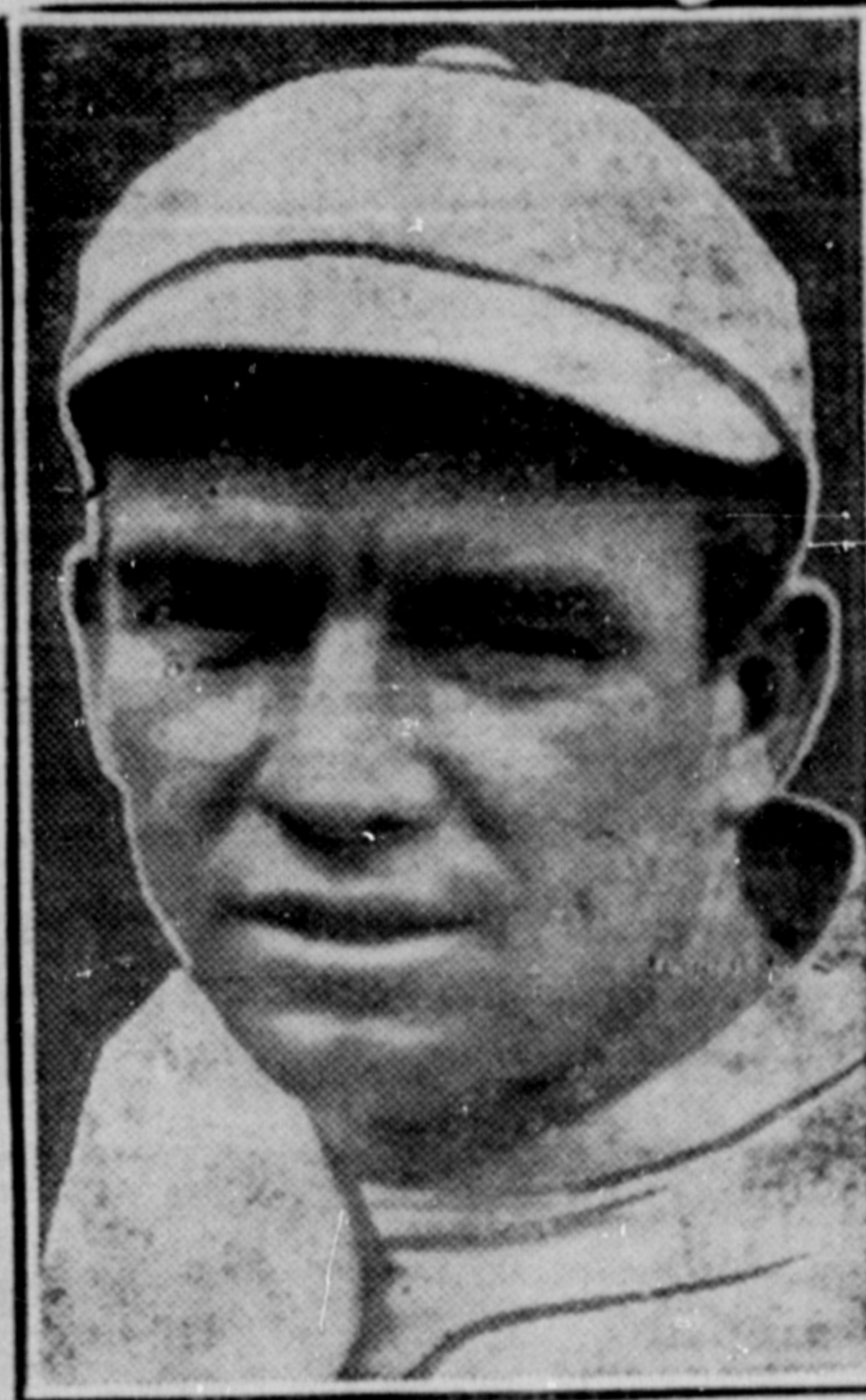
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