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The Chemawa American

Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education

Vol. XX

Wednesday, December 19, 1917

No. 10

REVIEW OF "GERMAN WAR PRACTICES"

Some of the blackest pages in all history, comprising a documentary record of "deeds that make one despair of the future of the human race," are found in a book named "German War Practices" which has just been issued at the government Printing Office by the committee on Public Information for free distribution. It is edited by Prof. D. C. Munroe, of Princeton, and other scholars.

The dumbfounding evidence which this book presents to the jury of mankind is drawn mainly from German and American sources, and includes official proclamations and utterances of the responsible heads of the Imperial German Government, letters and diaries of German soldiers, quotations from German newspapers, and material drawn from the archives of the State Department which lay bare the story of inconceivable German atrocities.

The purpose of the book is to show that the system of frightfulness, itself the greatest atrocity, is the definite policy of the German Government, so sinister that German soldiers have themselves at times revolted. Individual acts of wanton cruelty and barbaric destruction are cited only to illustrate the operation of the remorseless system.

In a statement prepared for the book, Vernon Kellogg said: "I went into Belgium and occupied France as neutral, and I maintained while there a steadfastly neutral behavior, but I came out no neutral. . . . I went in also a hater of war, but I came out a more ardent hater of war; but also came out with ineradicable conviction, again, that the only way in which Germany under its present rule and in its present state of mind can be kept from doing what is done is by force of arms."

The book gives excerpts from the diaries of German soldiers of which these are specimens: "In the night of August 18-19 the village of Saint-Maurice was punished for having fired on German soldiers by being burned to the ground by the German troops. . . . The village was surrounded, men posted about a yard from one another, so that no one could get out. Then the Uhlans set fire to it house by house; neither man, woman, nor child could escape; only the greater part of the live stock we carried off, as that could be used.

Any one who ventured to come out was shot down. All the inhabitants left in the village were burnt with the houses."

"A horrible bath of blood. The whole village burnt, the French thrown into the blazing houses, civilians with the rest."

That the reign of frightfulness was the definite policy of the German government is testified to by an amazing collection of documents and utterances of German officialdom. Herewith are excerpts from documentary proof furnished by German records establishing the truth beyond question:

"As soon as you come to blow with the enemy he will be beaten. No mercy will be shown! No prisoners will be taken! As the Huns, under King Attila, made a name for themselves, which is still mighty in traditions and legends today, may the name of Germany be so fixed in China by our deeds, that no Chinese shall ever again dare to look at a German askance. . . . Open the way for Kultur once for all."—From the Kaiser's speech to the soldiers on the eve of their departure for China in 1900.

"Whenever a national war breaks out, terrorism becomes a necessary military principal."—General Von Hartmann.

"The city of Brussels, exclusive of its suburbs has been punished by an additional fine of 5,000,000 francs on account of the attack made upon a German by Rychere, one of the police officials."—Baron Von Luettwitz Governor of Brussels.

"I am thirsty; bring me some beer, gin, rum." "If you lie to me I will have you shot immediately."—These sentences are taken from a phrase-book supplied to German soldiers, according to Minister Brand Whitlock.

"One cannot make war in a sentimental fashion. The more pitiless the conduct of the war, the more humane it is in reality, for it will run its course all the sooner."—General Von Bernhardt.

"The innocent must suffer with the guilty. . . . All this must not in our eyes weigh as much as the life of a single one of our brave soldiers—the righteous accomplishment of duty is the emanation of a high Kultur, and in that the population of the enemy countries can learn a lesson from our armies."—General Von Bissing.