

American Says U.S. Would Have Done What Germany Did Under Similar Conditions

GERMANS OVERCOME BY FATIGUE SLEEPING IN TRENCHES DURING A BATTLE.



The "Oregon Herald" a German paper published at Portland carries an article on the Great War as viewed by one who assumes a defending attitude on the Kaiser's side. Many La Grande people have read it, for the article is published in English and the paper has a large circulation in La Grande. It says:

Prof. George Stuart Fullerton of the Department of Philosophy of Columbia University, now Honorary Exchange Professor in the University of Vienna, has written a pamphlet entitled "Why the German Nation Has Gone to War," in which he attempts to make clear, as an American to Americans, the reasons and justice of Germany's entry into the war, and to prove that the people of this country would have acted in the same way if the United States were geographically beset by the same dangers from abroad as was Germany.

Prof. Fullerton explains at the start that he is an American without a drop of German blood in his veins, and cannot, therefore, be suspected of the partiality that characterizes the German-American. His family, he adds, has been American as long as there has been an American nation. But he professes to have a thorough knowledge of German conditions and sentiment from 30 years' study of Germany's science, literature and political and economic development, and acquaintance with many leading persons in political and private life there. Especially, he says, was he able to judge of the German sentiment by personal observation in the streets during the month of August, when the mobilization took place.

"I say without hesitation that no class, either in Germany or Austria, desired to precipitate this terrible war," he says. "Peace was desired, and earnestly desired, for economic reasons. But war was forced upon both nations. That the war came just when it did may be regarded as an accident, for the war was sure to come in any case.

"The Germans are a peace-loving people. We Americans know that there is no element in our own population more orderly, industrious, and law-abiding than the German element. The German in Germany has the same characteristics. The land is an orderly land, and the population is enlightened, disciplined, and educated to respect the law. The right of even the humblest are generously guarded. The courts are just.

"Yet this orderly and peace-loving people, a people which has not only loved peace, but has for more than 40 years kept the peace, while other nations carried on wars, has gone to war against what seemed at first to be overwhelming odds; and the rising has been not that of a class, but of a nation. Neither the emperor nor the government nor the officers in the army and the navy are responsible for the public sentiment which makes this movement in Germany a national uprising. In the past three months I have not met with a German of

any class, from the highest to the lowest, who has not been heart and soul for the war. I have heard no lamentations from those who have sent their sons; I have heard no criticism of their country from those who have been bereaved and I know many such."

Prof. Fullerton asks Americans to imagine the United States for a time differently situated geographically, with peaceful Canada and weak Mexico replaced by two strong and martial nations, one, like Russia, vast and powerful, with a constantly manifested tendency to territorial spread and growth at the expense of its neighbors; the other, like France, impelled by a self-confessed spirit of revenge and hankering for nearly half a century to regain its lost provinces from its neighbor. Then, he continues, another power should be imagined, capable of controlling all our outlets to the sea (taking it for granted that our present wide stretch of shore on both oceans were non-existent and that instead we had but limited access to the sea, as has Germany.)

"How would we Americans accept such a situation?" he asks. "Would we humbly declare our readiness to step out of the race for industrial success, or to ask permission of another power for access to the trade routes of the world? I know my Americans, and such questions strike me as broadly humorous.

In this paper I have no other aim than to set the American in the place of the German. Militarism, which the German regards as only a somewhat offensive name for his necessary preparation to repel very real dangers, has not hampered Germany as much as she was hampered in the past, when she was not in a position to defend herself. Militarism is undoubtedly a burden, but it has not prevented Germany from cultivating successfully the sciences and arts, to the great benefit of humanity; from initiating and carrying out social reforms which insure to all classes of her population an unusual measure of well-being; from developing her internal resources and building up her foreign commerce in a way that has made her a rich nation. Militarism may be a crushing burden, abstractly considered, but it has not crushed Germany, and to the German, that is a consideration which deserves to be weighed.

"We are all influenced by the constant repetition of a catch-word. Americans have heard so much of German militarism, largely from certain foreign sources, that it would be surprising if some of them were not deluded into believing that Germany is the only European nation with a large army. Yet Russia has a larger army, and has for years been using it for aggression. France, with a much smaller population than Germany, has an army approximately the same size, and, hence, may, with much

greater justice than Germany, be accused of militarism.

"And Great Britain has the exact equivalent of an immense army—she has a colossal fleet, which she keeps up at an enormous expense to herself, and which she increases from time to time, with the avowed purpose of allowing no nation to dispute with her the control of the seas, that great common highway of the world, over which all may pass, but which no nation may possess. How formidable this equivalent for a great army may be to other nations has been made clear in the present crisis. There is no nation in Europe that can, without asking England's permission, sail into the Atlantic, pass the Straits of Gibraltar, make use of the Mediterranean, or reach Asia by way of the Suez Canal. The public highway has by a single nation been fenced in and made private property.

"It is a pity that the word navalism is not good English, for that which is exactly described has been peculiarly English for a century. Navalism can be a more serious menace than militarism, for the latter neighbors. Navalism holds a threat over every nation on the face of the globe.

"We are neutrals, but we have a right to know the truth about Central Europe. It is not right that we should be kept in ignorance, or led through misrepresentations, to condemn in haste nations, with which we stand in friendly relations. When we see a great nation of some 70 millions, a nation highly civilized, wealthy and cultivated, a nation well aware that it can prosper as few others, if it be allowed to exercise its industries in peace—when we see such a nation go to war against powerful odds, risking its very existence in the struggle, we must be shallow, indeed, if we suppose that its whole population, a naturally peaceable and orderly population, has either gone mad or lapsed into barbarism. We must stand before an unsolved problem until we attain to information and comprehension.

"Let the American forget the conditions under which he himself lives. Let him think himself into the situation of the German. Then let him ask himself, what, under the circumstances he would do."

OREGON HAS GOOD REPUTE

CANNERIES COULD MAKE HUGE PROFIT.

Bartlett Pear Pronounced Excellent When Canned, by English. University of Oregon, Eugene, Jan. 21.—An impressive statement of the need of canneries and dryers in fruit communities of Oregon is made by H. B. Miller in an article in a recent issue of Better Fruit. Mr. Miller is director of the school of commerce of the State University, and is also organizer of the work of the industrial survey. He says in part:

"It has finally become a well established fact that the Oregon Bartlett pear, although not quite so good for shipping in the fresh state, is fully equal, if not superior, to the pears produced anywhere in the world for canning purposes. Had this fact been made clear by the canneries of Oregon years ago, and the growers encouraged in that line of industry Oregon would today be taking in immense quantities of money for canned pears.

"The Oregon canned pears are now

pronounced in France and Great Britain to be especially fine. In fact, in our world survey of the fruit markets, we find it uniformly established wherever Pacific Coast canned goods find a market that they are pronounced thoroughly superior to the canned fruits from any other part of the world. The canneries now operated and maintained by Oregon people are proving that the Oregon Bartlett pear, the Oregon strawberry, gooseberry, blackberry and raspberry, cannot be excelled, and in all these lines prospects are excellent for an expansion in trade. The manager of the California Fruit Canners' Association, C. H. Bentley, in his address before the California fruitgrowers' convention, pays high tribute to all these Oregon products and wishes that in some of these things they would produce as good quality in California as we produce here. He pays a particularly high tribute to the Oregon strawberry and says that that the markets will take equally great quantities of them. He pays equally high tribute to the Oregon gooseberry.

"What is absolutely necessary for the development of this industry in the northwest is the establishment of canneries and dryers owned and operated by the people of this territory with their produce marketed by an association permanently interested in the development of the industry. Securing a market for the by-products of the fruit growers, to my mind, should not be the central idea of the canning and drying and preserving industry. If this territory has the real natural advantages for the production of a high quality of fruits, berries and vegetables of certain types, it is of primary importance to put up a high quality of goods, to distribute them and establish a reputation for high-class products. We must make a reputation for our canned pears, for our cherries, for our blackberries and raspberries, our loganberries, our strawberries, our string beans, our beets and other kinds of vegetables. We must make a reputation for a fine quality of dried fruits of all kinds which we can produce to advantage, and when we have done this, when we have established canneries and dryers, and factories for producing jams, jellies and fruits in various forms of the finest quality, the by-product question will take care of itself. These plants will have no difficulty in handling the by-products after they have established a substantial reputation for all these various qualities of high-class fruits, berries and vegetables."

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