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How The War Came To America

(Issued by The Committee on Public Information—The Secretary of State, The Secretary of War, The Secretary of the Navy, George Creel Washington, D. C. June 25, 1917.)

There has been in our diplomacy general treaty of compulsory arbitration had failed. And therefore this nation, having been thwarted in its attempt to secure a general agreement, began negotiations with all those nations which like our own preferred the methods of law and peace, with the purpose of effecting dual arbitration treaties. And before the end of 1914 we had signed far-reaching treaties with 50 nations, 20 of which had been duly ratified and proclaimed. But in this work, too, we were made to feel the same opposition as at The Hague. For while Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy cordially welcomed our overtures, the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires were noticeably absent from the list of those nations who desired by specific agreements in advance to minimize the danger of war.

The genesis of this idea dates from the discussions over the Federal organization of our 13 original States, which were almost as jealous of their sovereignties as are the nations of Europe today. The first great step toward the League of Honor, which we hope will at last bring peace to the world, was taken when our 13 States agreed to disarm and submit all their disputes to the high tribunal of the new federation.

And this idea of an interstate court, which except at the time of our Civil War has given this Nation internal peace, has profoundly influenced our foreign policy. Of our efforts to bring others to our way of thinking, an historical resume was presented by our delegates at the First Hague Conference. A project was submitted there for the formation of a world court. And a few years later Mr. Root, our Secretary of State, in instructing our delegates to the Second Conference at The Hague, laid especial emphasis on this same international ideal.

We have taken a particular pride in being in the vanguard of this movement for the peaceable settlement by process of law of all disputes between nations. And these efforts have not been without success. For although the last few decades have seen this principle time and again put under a terrific strain, no nation has dared to go to war against the award of a court of arbitration. The stupendous possibilities that lie in arbitration for solving international problems, promoting liberal principles, and safeguarding human life had been amply demonstrated before the present war began.

But in the discussion at The Hague, largely through the resistance of the German Empire and its satellites, the efforts of our delegates and those of other Governments to bring about a

general treaty of compulsory arbitration had failed. And therefore this nation, having been thwarted in its attempt to secure a general agreement, began negotiations with all those nations which like our own preferred the methods of law and peace, with the purpose of effecting dual arbitration treaties. And before the end of 1914 we had signed far-reaching treaties with 50 nations, 20 of which had been duly ratified and proclaimed. But in this work, too, we were made to feel the same opposition as at The Hague. For while Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy cordially welcomed our overtures, the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires were noticeably absent from the list of those nations who desired by specific agreements in advance to minimize the danger of war.

On the eve of the present conflict, our position toward other nations might have been summarized under three heads:

I. The Monroe Doctrine.—We had pledged ourselves to defend the New World from European aggression, and we had by word and deed made it clear that we would not intervene in any European dispute.

II. The Freedom of the Seas.—In every naval conference our influence had been given in support of the principle that sea law to be just and worthy of general respect must be based on the consent of the governed.

III. Arbitration.—As we had secured peace at home by referring interstate disputes to a federal tribunal, we urged a similar settlement of international controversies. Our ideal was a permanent world court. We had already signed arbitration treaties not only with great powers which might conceivably attack us, but even more freely with weaker neighbors in order to show our good faith in recognizing the equality of all nations both great and small. We had made plain to the nations our purpose to forestall by every means in our power the recurrence of wars in the world.

GERMANS RULE CONQUERED TERRITORY WITH ROD OF IRON

Diary of Inhabitant of Savy Tells Interesting Story—Germans Make House-to-House Search for Grain—Russian Prisoners Put to Work—Supplies Must Be Bought With German Money—Germans Seize and Fine the Cure.

(The second of the series of stories by William Philip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent, written from the war diary of a French citizen of Savy follows.)

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS (United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the British Armies in the Field, June 26—(By Mail)—The Prussians rule with an iron rod in the occupied territory of France, as the following items from the diary of an inhabitant of the village of Savy, a few miles to the west of St. Quentin, clearly show.

April 25 (1915): The Garde Champetre (village constable) has been ordered to inform farmers that they are not to cut hay or clover under 500 francs penalty.

April 30: Germans make house to house search for grain. The Garde distributes forms to be filled out by farmers showing how much grain they are planting.

May 1: Russian prisoners brought here to pull up sugarbeets for the Germans.

May 4: The inhabitants have been deprived of bread four days because M. Lebrun, the baker, is refused flour unless he buys it with German money and there is no German money among Savy civilians.

May 10: Germans, employing Russian prisoners, have broken the last four millstones in Gronnier's mill.

May 17: The Germans have sheared all sheep and taken the wool. May 21: Beginning today Lebrun is baking bread made of American flour. The ration is 250 grammes per head per day.

May 23: Today is Pentecost. The Cure went to Etrouillers to celebrate mass but as he had no laissez-passer the Germans seized him, took him in a cart to Holnon and fined him 50 francs.

May 25: Rumor that Italy has declared war against Germany.

July 1: The Garde was sent by the Kommandantur to Henri Catry's house to ask how many wagons he had in his barn. C.'s only answer was to hit him in the face, and he is to go to prison in St. Quentin for 14 days.

July 21: Notice on church door states men, women, girls and boys will continue to be requisitioned for work in the fields between 4 a. m. and 8 p. m. Those who idle in the fields will be hit with sticks. Those

who refuse to work will be put into prison.

July 23: This morning Garde announced that all civilians must salute German officers, men by tipping hats, women by bowing. Fine or imprisonment for refusal.

July 25: At the general census of horses, owners had to stand at their horses heads for six hours. Henry Catry happened to be standing two yards away from his horse and he was hit with a stick by a German gendarme. When he protested he was beaten more severely. An old man lay down by his horse and was beaten and made to stand up. Others were treated in the same brutal manner.

July 28: Germans are making the rounds examining every house for bronze and brass objects.

August 17: All fruit must be picked and turned over to the Germans.

October 15: Rumor of French victory in Champagne.

October 25: American committee has offered carbide lamps. These can be had at town hall.

October 31: The Germans who arrived on October 19 have left. They burned M. Bigets' shop and other places, too.

November 18: Sale of milk to civilians forbidden. Same must be kept for sick Germans.

January 1 (1916): From 11 p. m. on last night Germans saluted New Year by firing cannons, machine guns and rifles. The projectiles were specially made and at very great height produced colors and bright lights. The whole village was illuminated with electric lights. The wood of Athilly was wholly illuminated.

January 6: Copper taken from Gronnier's brewery. At Savy one cannot provision oneself, even in soap. The Germans have taken everything.

"His Maiden Name."

"What is your name?" a Kentuckian asked of a small negro boy.

"Well, boss," answered the chap, "everywhere Ah goes dey gibs me a new name, but mah maiden name was Moses."—Grit.

Thoroughly Done.

"His wife married him to reform him."

"Yep. And now his daughters have come home from college and taken up the job where their mother left off."—Detroit Free Press.

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