

THE ONTARIO ARGUS

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W. C. MARSH



Germany's Latest Note.

Germany's latest reply to American protests regarding her method of carrying on submarine warfare is far from satisfactory. The receipt of the document, although official comment is withheld for the present, will undoubtedly have the effect of making a serious situation more critical. This is very disappointing to the American people, especially as we have been led to believe, from the press dispatches during the last three weeks, that Germany's attitude would be conciliatory and some means found of arriving at a satisfactory settlement of the disputes between the two nations.

While the state of affairs is disappointing, there is no cause for alarm. There is a very remote possibility of our actually going to war with Germany. This was our opinion at the beginning and we see no reason to change it. Only in the event that there might follow another such tragedy as the sinking of the Lusitania is it possible that the sentiment of the American people would be in favor of war, even though we must admit that our pride has received a jolt because the Kaiser paid so little attention to a demand which seemed to require a prompt and definite answer.

While the whole nation applauded President Wilson's stand as embodied in the first note following the sinking of the Lusitania, it is best to await the outcome of the entire affair before passing final judgement on the wisdom of the manner in which this government has dealt with the subject. It has been frequently pointed out by thinking men that Germany could not possibly be expected to relinquish entirely her submarine campaign against British shipping. Her plea that if this is a violation of the principles of international law it became necessary because Great Britain first violated that law by stopping food supplies to the civilian population of Germany may be a poor excuse, but when we consider that this is a great struggle to the death between great

nations, the very national existence of some of the nations depending upon the outcome, we can be a little more charitable in viewing Germany's decision.

That the international law required that a belligerent nation "visit and search" a ship flying the enemy flag before sinking her, was never disputed by any country until this war, when the new use of submarines began. That Germany could not follow these rules in making "captures" with submarines, was known to the administration when the first note was penned. Therefore if our demands we acceded to, so that American citizens could travel without fear of danger on ships flying the flag of a belligerent nation, Germany must give up entirely the submarine blockade against English shipping. Germany would never do this, at least as long as England maintains her food supply blockade against the German civilian population. To demand something that would not be granted, as President Wilson did, stirred the patriotism of the American people because of the realization of the gravity of our situation, but the outcome of all the disputes will throw light on the question of the wisdom of making the demand in the manner in which it was made.

The proposition of Germany that she will not harm ships carrying the American flag, and if these cannot carry all the traffic ships flying other flags may be put into service, Germany agreeing not to harm them if properly designated, is something the American nation cannot accept without humiliation, and will not accept. As a sensible means of solving the difficulties the proposition no doubt appeals to the Germans. But high seas are international highways and we should not be compelled to travel them on conditions imposed by one of the warring nations.

What we will do about it is something the administration must decide. We will not go to war. Probably negotiations will be continued. If so we hope that despite the refusal to abandon submarine warfare there may be such a solution as will lessen, rather than widen the breach between America and Germany.

Viewed from the standpoint that a definite compliance with our demand that a British ship should not be sunk if it carried American passengers, the German note is not satisfactory, and we can never expect to receive one. If we are willing to agree that an American passenger has no business in the "war zone" declared by Germany unless he sails under the stars and stripes, then there is the best chance in the world for a satisfactory and friendly settlement. To agree to the latter course would give safety to Americans who wished to go to the British Isles; but it would hurt our national pride.

CITY PEOPLE AND FARMING.

The fatal mistake of many city people taking to farm life is a rush of enthusiasm before properly planning the future life. They give up good jobs, scant of means, and perhaps they over-invest, depending upon their new efforts and resources to meet expenses that should have been previously provided for.

There are many thousands of city wage earners who could vastly better their conditions by having their families on small farms of ten, fifteen or twenty acres properly prepared for production by soil improvement before actual settlement. — Farm and Fireside.

SAVE THE WATER.

Keep the Soil Supplied With Humus and Mulch the Surface.

By saving the water from the early rains crops will not suffer as much later in the summer if drought occurs. Usually more water is lost from the soil by evaporation—that is, drying out from the surface, than crops use.

There are two chief ways of helping to prevent this—namely, by keeping the soil well supplied with organic matter, or humus, and by maintaining a soil mulch over the surface. This soil mulch or layer of loose dry soil forms a blanket, preventing the soil water from reaching the surface where evaporation is so rapid in hot or windy weather.

Every gardener should start water saving at once. If the newly plowed land is disked thoroughly the same day it is turned over there is less chance of the furrows drying out badly before the land is planted. Newly spaded land should be raked over the same day the soil is turned.

After planting the use of a weeder breaks up the surface and kills many weeds. The cultivator ought to be started as soon as the rows can be seen and used often enough to keep the surface fine, loose and dry.

Every rain or shower packs the surface soil, and unless broken up evaporation is very rapid from this compact, moist surface. As soon as the fields can be worked after a rain the cultivator should be used to re-establish the soil mulch. This frequent cultivation not only saves water for plant use, but also is an aid to plant growth and a benefit to the soil.

Never be satisfied with cultivating enough to kill the weeds. Cultivate often enough to maintain throughout the season a loose, dry layer of soil at the surface. Start a soil mulch now and maintain it all summer. It pays, for it means more water for the crops to use.

Protected Hay Entrance.

For convenience in drawing hay into the barn the porch shown herewith will be found very satisfactory. The boom from which the hayfork tackle is suspended extends all the way out to the gable end of the porch. Convenient dimensions for this porch are ten feet each way. This will enable the very largest forkful of hay to be taken in without choking the entrance.

As shown, the porch should be closed with a door hung from hinges above, held in place when closed by



ropes attached to the lower corners and fastened on the inside of the barn when the door is shut. The chief advantages of this plan are that the hay tackle is always under cover, so there is no warping of the wooden supports, rusting of the metal nor rotting of the rope. The roof above the porch need not extend more than four or five feet beyond the main roof of the barn. The large dimension is the better. — Orange Judd Farmer.

Selection of Good Seed Corn.

Demonstration work with corn conducted at the New Jersey station has clearly shown the value of securing good seed. During the past two years the seed has been the cause of difference in yield of five to twenty bushels an acre and even more in several tests.

The first point to consider in selecting seed corn is maturity. As corn must be acclimated to a region before the best results can be obtained, it is not wise to use seed from another locality, even that grown in another section of the state. It is better to secure seed from a neighbor producing the best corn in the community.

It is difficult in New Jersey to produce good seed corn because each farmer produces a different variety or a different strain of the same variety. Another important factor in selection is a pure strain. This may easily be determined by the color of each ear and the color of individual grains in each ear. Other points to be considered are size and shape of the ear, straightness of rows, length of kernel, variety of kernel as shown by the germ and color of cob.

A BILL IN THE BOX

Story of a Legislative Prank in the New York Assembly.

DILEMMA OF A TIMID MEMBER.

Though His Name Was Signed to the Measure He Was Not Its Author and When Ordered to Withdraw It What Little Courage He Had Failed Him.

There was a fake bill introduced in the assembly of New York state during the session of 1902 that really became a famous piece of legislation before it arrived at its formal final, although it has never until the present time been chronicled in print.

The act was placed in the assembly bill box by two jokers of the assembly. It was drawn up in the regular form, beginning with the necessary verbiage, "The people of the state of New York in senate and assembly represented," etc. The provisions of the first two or three sections were also very plausible, and, in fact, the entire measure was put together in such a way that only a technician in legislative matters could have discerned the joke.

The assembly bill box is a receptacle placed for the measures of the legislators who may wish to have them introduced at the next regular daily session subsequent to their deposit. The box is only used "between times," for when the assembly is in session the bill may be handed up to the clerk for reading. Bills are introduced in duplicate and must bear, of course, the introducer's name.

The jokers dropped the fake bill into the box on a Thursday night. They attached a member's name whose district was in the crowded east side section of New York. He was what was known as a machine man and had little initiative or individuality. He never waited over for Friday morning sessions, as they lasted but a few minutes, and it was easier to take the train to New York Thursday night, returning after recess the following Monday night.

The fake bill with the east side member's name was duly taken out of the box Friday morning and its title read. It was referred to its proper committee and ordered printed. Its purpose was made very plain. At every crossroad throughout the state of New York there must be placed at once by the state engineer and surveyor a signpost with a sign of exactly described dimensions, and lettering measured to a dot, directing travelers to the nearest place for entertainment of man and beast. The angles of the crossroads were specified in their exact degrees with respect to the proper placing of the sign.

No sooner was the title of the bill read than the afternoon newspaper representatives at Albany pricked up their ears. They were on the alert always for New York city legislation, but here was a bill making it mandatory to erect signposts throughout the state, and essentially of rural benefit. Yet a member from a congested New York district had introduced it. Something strange. They searched around for the alleged introducer. He was in New York. They took no chances, however, and telegraphed a column to their papers telling of the attempt to signpost the state by an east side legislator.

The morning papers took it up. Reporters hunted up the assemblyman at his home. He roared out his denial. But nobody believed him. He got a hurry telephone call from his district leader, to whom he swore he had introduced no such bill. He was ordered to ask for the privilege of the floor at Monday night's session and compel the withdrawal of the bill. He had stage fright over the idea. He was almost too bashful to raise his voice when voting at roll call. Meanwhile the news of the bill spread, and from all quarters of the city the luckless assemblyman received telephone messages asking to be "let in on the signpost graft."

The following Monday night the alleged introducer arrived in Albany almost in a state of collapse. All during the ensuing week he was ordered to demand the withdrawal of the bill, but would not rise in his seat and ask it. Finally a member in the secret told the facts to Speaker Nixon. The speaker called the assemblyman to his desk and questioned him. He was satisfied that the legislator was altogether too timid to introduce such a radical bill and exonerated him.

But the bill had been printed. When it was supposed that it had been killed in committee the first thing known was a request for a hearing on it by some good roads workers, who saw in it a blessing and who sent the alleged introducer a congratulatory letter for his public spirited act. The bill of course died in committee, but its memory clung to the east side legislator for many years. — New York Sun.

A Puzzle.

"Some differences are very puzzling." "Like what, for instance?" "If you write mean and bad things about a man in a book, it is biography. If you tell the same things about him on the back porch it's gossip." — Baltimore American.

Old Fashioned.

Daughter—What does old fashioned mean? Mother—Anything that I think is right and you don't, dear. — Philadelphia Record.

Punishment is a cripple, but he survives. — Spanish Proverb.

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Scientific Farming

ELECTRIC PLOWING.

In Use in Germany, Where it is Beyond the Experimental Stage.

By FRANK KOESTER. [Author of "Electricity For the Farm and Home."]

Plowing is the father of industries, the indispensable primary operation upon which civilization has depended from the earliest ages, and the plow is thus the most useful and necessary implement which has ever been designed by mankind for its own advancement. Without the plow agriculture is impossible, and without agriculture no industry can exist. Yet in spite of all the progress which has been made in mechanical arts and in the sciences the plow of today remains the same in principle as the plow of dozens of centuries ago. The furrow is still turned in the old way, and modern science has added nothing in principle to the plow except different means of drawing it across the field.

Farmers in Germany, where during the past fifteen years the steam plow has been used to a great extent, have made increasing use of the electrically operated plow, which is now far be-



MOTOR WAGON OF A SINGLE MOTOR PLOW SYSTEM.

yond the experimental stage and is in many respects superior to that drawn by steam or gasoline tractors, saving both time and money.

The electric plow, plowing four furrows at a time, is drawn rapidly back and forth across the field by cables

operated by the motors. An average equipment of this kind will plow an acre in thirty minutes at a cost of 20 cents for the power consumed. A plowman following the single furrow behind his horses will be eight or ten times as long finishing the same field, with day after day of physical exhaustion for himself and his team. Yet up to the present time no electric plow has turned a furrow in the United States.

In the far west gasoline driven plows, often turning twenty furrows at once, are in use, but they are capable of being utilized only over immense tracts of land, while the electric plow is equally suited to large and small farms.

Electric plowing has been carried on in Germany for fifteen years, and great strides have been made, particularly in the last five years. Of the several systems employed the one and two motor systems are most extensively used. In both these systems the plow is pulled across the field by a cable wound on a drum.

In the single motor system on one side of the field the motor is mounted on a self propelled wagon, which automatically travels forward parallel with the motor wagon with each new furrow. The two motor system has two motors, one on each of two self propelled wagons, one of these replacing the anchor wagon. The one motor system is lower in first cost, but the other can be more readily adapted to the cultivation of any form of field.

Electric plowing has great advantages over that by gasoline or steam engines. With a steam plow, for instance, a great amount of coal and water must be taken to the field by teams and drivers which must be paid for. Electric plowing can be carried on in practically every kind of weather, even in the winter, when steam operated plows would freeze, and the electric plow can be used in soft or loamy soil where horses cannot work and on hilly ground.

As far as the cost of electric plowing is concerned, experience shows that it can be done cheaper per acre than by horses or steam. The field of electric plowing of today is found principally in Germany. It is an established fact that American agricultural machinery in its wide practical application is in most respects far superior to that of any foreign make, and should the domestic manufacturers devote themselves with the same skill to contriving apparatus for electric plowing it will be only a short time until our farmers recognize the advantages of the system. Electric plowing is not confined to farms of large acreage, but may be carried on to good advantage on farms of small size.

GERMAN TRENCHES TAKEN BY ALLIES

British Make Gains at Ypres After Artillery Duel Lasting Two Days.

London.—Further British gains north of Ypres, where the British on July 6 captured 200 yards of German trenches, are reported in a communication from Field Marshal Sir John French, commander-in-chief of the British expeditionary force in the western war theater.

General French says that after a bombardment duel lasting two days and nights, the Germans fell back, enabling the British to extend their gains. All reports, says the field marshal, indicate that the German losses were severe.

The French official report declares that an advance of 700 yards on a front of 600 yards has been made in the Vosges, where the French took prisoner 19 officers, including one battalion commander, two doctors and 767 men, all unwounded and belonging to seven different battalions. The capture of a cannon, two machine guns, several bomb-throwers and much ammunition also is reported.

The Berlin official report admits failure to clear the French from the trench section lost by the Germans near Souchez, but reports the capture by storm of several lines of French trenches extending over a width of 350 yards in the forest of Le Pretre, together with 250 prisoners and four machine guns.

A report from Berlin also says that the "remnants of the British army stores at Arras have been destroyed by the German bombardment and by fire" and that as a consequence the British artillery has been compelled to change position.

Becker's Plea Denied.

Rangley, Maine.—Justice Hughes of the United States supreme court denied the application of former Police Lieutenant Becker of New York for review of his case.

This means that Becker must die in the electric chair for the murder of Gambler Herman Rosenthal.

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