

DEVILISH LOOTING SEEN IN LOUVAIN

Drunken Soldiers, Led by Officer, Murder, Burn and Rob in Belgian City.

HUN BUTCHERS KEPT BUSY

Hugh Gibson Recounts Terrible Sights Witnessed While Visiting in Captured Town Which Is Systematically Razed.

BY HUGH GIBSON,
Secretary of the American Legation in Brussels at the Outbreak of the war. Copyright, 1917, Doubleday, Page & Co., by G. L. Wood.

(CONTINUED.)
The drunken soldiers told us we could leave the motor at headquarters and learn how far we could safely go. This crowd varied the wording a little by saying that the Belgians were all dogs and that these particular dogs were being driven out, as they should be, that all that part of town was being cleared of people, ordered to leave their homes and go to Brussels or some other town, so that the destruction of Louvain could proceed systematically. We thought at the time that they were exaggerating what was being done, but were enlightened before we had gone much farther.

We continued down the boulevard for a quarter of a mile, so till we came to the station. Sentries came out and looked through our passes again. We parked the motor with a number of German soldiers in the square and set off on foot down the Rue de la Station, which we had admired so much when we had driven down its length, just ten days before.

Looting Is Seen.
The houses on both sides were either partially destroyed or smoldering. Soldiers were systematically removing what was to be found in the way of valuables, food, and wine, and then setting fire to the furniture and hangings. It was a little crossable about half way to the Hotel de Ville. Here we were stopped by a small detachment of soldiers, who told us that we could go no farther; that they were clearing the town and that some of the houses of the town and had things moving along smartly. His men were firing some houses near by and he stood outside smoking a rank cigar and looking gloomily.

We exchanged remarks with him in German for a few minutes. I happened along behind the more fluent Pousette and Bulle. Then I said something in an aside to Blount, and the officer broke into the conversation in perfectly good English. He turned out to be a volunteer officer from Hamburg, who had spent nine years in England and was completely at home in the language.

We then accomplished the formal introductions which were so necessary to Germans even at a time like this, and when we came to Bulle the officer burst into a rapid fire of questions, which ended in his proclaiming in rapture:

"Why, I knew your father in Hamburg and went to school with your Uncle So-and-So."

Cathedral Is On Fire.
Reminiscence went on as though we were about a dining table at home; minute inquiry was made into the welfare and activities of the family from the cradle to the grave. On the strength of the respectability of Bulle's relatives we were then taken under the officer's wing and piloted by him through the rest of our visit.

From where we stood we could see down the street through the smoke, as far as the Hotel de Ville. It was still standing, but the Cathedral across the street was badly damaged and smoke was rising in clouds from its roof. The business houses beyond were not to be seen; the smoke was too dense to tell how many of them were gone.

Machine guns were at work near-by, and occasionally there was a loud explosion when the destructive work was helped with dynamite.

Soldiers Found Drunk.
A number of the men about us were drunk and evidently had been in that state for some time. Our officer complained that they had had very little to eat for several days, but added glumly that there was no pie to drink.

A cart, heaped high with loot, driven by a fat Landsturm and pulled by a tiny donkey, came creaking past us. One of our party pulled his kodak from his pocket and inquired of our guard in English: "May I take a picture?"

His intent evidently escaped the German, who answered cordially: "Certainly; go ahead. You will find some beautiful things over there on the corner in the house they are getting ready to burn."

We kept our faces under control and he was too much occupied with his other troubles to notice that we did not avail of his kind permission to join in the pillage.

Belgians Are Called Dogs.
He was rabid against the Belgians and had an endless series of stories of atrocities they had committed—though he admitted that he had none of them at first hand. He took it as gospel, however, that they had fired upon the German troops in Louvain and laid themselves open to reprisals. To his thinking there is nothing bad enough for them and his chief satisfaction seemed to consist in repeating to us over and over that he was over the limit. Orders had been issued to raze the town—"till not one stone was left on another," as he said.

Just to see what would happen I inquired about the provision of the Hague conventions, prescribing that no collective penalty can be imposed for lawless acts of individuals. He dismissed that to his own satisfaction by remarking that:

"All Belgians are dogs and all would do these things unless they are taught what will happen to them."

Convincing logic!
With a hard glint in his eye he told us the purpose of his work; he came back to it over and over, but the

Christmas Gifts For Men



—Naturally, you want to buy them at a man's store, one that caters exclusively to men and, therefore, has the things men like.

—There are scores of gifts here that will please men—and a variety so pleasing that, to appreciate it, you must come to the store and see.

—Men's haberdashery and furnishings are shown conveniently on the main floor.

Men's Fine Neckwear—silks, 50c to \$4; knits, 75c to \$3.50.

House Coats—beautiful patterns in all sizes, \$6 to \$20.

Lounge Robes—Warm, comfortable garments for home evening wear, \$4 to \$15.

Silk Shirts—Handsome new patterns, \$5 to \$12.50.

Gloves—Suedes, mochas, capes, and bucks; fur, wool, and silk-lined, \$2 to \$10.

Pajamas—Large assortments in all sizes, \$1.50 to \$7.50.

Handkerchiefs—Linen, plain or initialed; 25c, or 6 for \$1.40; 35c, or 3 for \$1; 50c, or 6 for \$2.75.

Suitcases and Traveling Bags—A well-selected stock, \$7 to \$30.

Umbrellas—In silk and gloria, \$1.50 to \$10.

Mufflers and Knits—\$1.50 to \$7.50.

Collar Bags—\$1 to \$4.

Silk Hosiery—50c to \$1.50.

Glove and Merchandise Orders in Any Sum Desired.

Ben Selling Morrison at Fourth



BIG GUNS TAKE TIME

General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, Tells of War Delay.

General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, tells of the delay in the war effort due to the time taken by the big guns.

CONGRESS NOT TO BLAME

Senator Chamberlain Says Situation Better Than Expected and That United States Is Profiting by Experience of Allies.

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APPRAISERS FINISH WORK

Determination of Valuation of Oregon Roads Completed.

Eugene, Or., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—The work of determining physical valuations of all steam railroads in the state of Oregon has been completed.

General Crozier told the committee that, while Congress had been generous with funds, the appropriations recommended by the Army General Staff and the ordnance chief in various places were reduced by civilian executive superiors.

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MEMBERS SAID THAT, WHILE CONGRESS SELDOM WAS SUPPLIED WITH THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL STAFF OR BUREAU CHIEFS, THE APPROPRIATIONS MADE GENERALLY WERE LARGER THAN THOSE REQUESTED BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

General Crozier, in dealing with present ordnance supplies of the Army, assured the committee that the American forces overseas have an ample supply of artillery and that there would be adequate ordnance equipment for all troops sent to France.

General Crozier will be recalled Monday.

PASCO POPULATION GROWS FAST.

PASCO, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Pasco is enjoying a steady and healthful growth and the population is increasing at a rate which makes the housing of newcomers a problem.

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Josef Hofmann and the Welte-Mignon

WELTE—The name of a skilled inventor.
"MIGNON"—Means fine, trim, dainty, "a darling," "that which is much loved."
The words WELTE-MIGNON have come to mean the best, noblest, most perfect reproducing piano in the world.
WORLD FAMOUS MUSICIANS indorse the Welte-Mignon.
Josef Hofmann says "Incomparable."
Felix Weingartner says, "Entirely surpasses anything of its kind."
Richard Strauss remarks, "The only one that is genuinely artistic in its rendering."
The final and convincing evidence of the supreme merit of the Welte-Mignon is the fact that it is the instrument chosen by the most eminent pianists to perpetuate their art. Paderewski, Hofmann, Carreno, Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler, Busoni, De Pachmann, Camille Saint-Saens are some of the celebrated artists who have indorsed in the fullest manner this great instrument.
In a word, the Welte-Mignon reproduces the performances of these gifted pianists with a fidelity that surprises and delights.
Leoncavallo says, "When I heard a reproduction of a selection by my friend Grunfeld, I had a feeling that he really sat before me."

G. F. Johnson Piano Co.
147-149 Sixth St., Portland
Mehlin, Packard, Bond, Lindeman Pianos
Victrolas and Records

for rent. Several new houses have been occupied before they were completed and others which have only been started have been spoken for in advance.

DRUNKENNESS DROPS OFF.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—Only four arrests for drunkenness were made in this city during the first half of December. The record is attributed to the fact that drug stores on December 1 ceased indiscriminate sale of Jamaica ginger and other alcoholic mixtures.

IRRIGATION BONDS VOTED DOWN.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 15.—(Special.)—By a vote of 144 to 102, water users of the Selah-Naches irrigation district have rejected a proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$585,000 to reconstruct their canal system with concrete.

ONE OF NEW YORK'S NEWEST LAWS IN THE INTERESTS OF PURE FOOD INSISTS THAT EVERY EGG PLACED IN COLD STORAGE SHALL BE DATED. THIS DATE MUST BE STAMPED UPON THE SHELL IN CLEAR FIGURES.

FOOD CONTROL BY SELF CONTROL



A PLEASANT CHRISTMAS SURPRISE FOR HIM

is a useful gift from this store of superior service and absolutely exclusive merchandise. The same careful attention that distinguishes this store throughout the year.

if you appreciate real men's wear you will find it a pleasure to make your selection here.

imported neckwear 50c, 60c, 75c, \$1, \$1.50 to \$5
specialists in irish and french silk and linen handkerchiefs 25c to \$2 each

wonderful smoke coats and lounging robes \$6 to \$40
a most complete line of silk shirts \$4 to \$12.50
men's serviceable silk hose 55c, 65c, \$1 to \$3
all standard makes of gloves \$2 to \$6
golf coats and knit vests \$5 to \$9
english kit bags and grips \$5 to \$25
umbrellas and canes \$1 to \$15

one of the most acceptable christmas presents is a merchandise order from this store

hat orders, glove orders and orders for neckwear are always greatly appreciated
these gift certificates issued in denominations of from \$1 to \$50
mail orders solicited. telephone main 1810
open evenings until christmas

knox hat agent **M. Sichel** knox coat agent
men's furnisher and hatter
331 washington st., near broadway

THERE'S A first-class motion picture serial in town. Kathleen Clifford is the star. Anna Katharine Green wrote the story. Paramount produced it.

Station Sights Pitiful.
Outside the station was a crowd of several hundred people, mostly women and children, being herded on to trains by soldiers, to be run out of the town. They seemed to be decently treated but were naturally in a pitiable state of terror. Just inside the gates of the freight yard were a couple of women telling their troubles to a group of officers and soldiers. They had both lost their husbands in the street-fighting and were in a terrible state. The officers and men were gathered about them, evidently distressed by their troubles and trying to comfort them. They had put the older woman in an armchair and were giving her a little brandy in a tea cup. And the same men may have been the ones who killed the husbands.

We went on into the freight yards and were greeted by a number of friends with helpful talk about trains coming from Brussels with food. We were given chairs and an orderly was despatched for a bottle of wine so that a drink could be given to Bulle, who said that after what he had been through he would appreciate a glass of something comforting.

We settled down and listened to the stories of the past few days. It was a story of clearing out civilians from a large part of the town; a systematic routing out of men from cellars, wholesale shootings, generous use of machine guns, free application of the torch—the whole amount to make one see red. For our guidance we were told this would make people "respect" Germany and think twice about resisting her.

(To be Continued Tomorrow.)

WHO IS 'NUMBER ONE'?



The National Grange has petitioned Food Commissioner Hoover to establish a liquorless day.