

BELGIUM'S POSITION IN THE GREAT EUROPEAN WAR

An official Statement Given to the World by the Belgium Legislature Through the Associated Press.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times)
 WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The Belgian Legislature has compiled the following statements of the Belgian case in the present European war, to answer the many inquiries that have been received on the subject.

"By the treaty of April 19th, 1839 Prussia, France, England, Austria and Russia declared themselves guarantors of the treaty concluded on the same day between the King of the Belgians and the King of the Netherlands. This treaty provides:

"Belgians form an independent state of perpetual neutrality."

"That is to say, Belgium was forbidden, in case of war, to take the part of any of the belligerents.

"Since then Belgium has fulfilled all her neutrality obligations; she has acted in a spirit of meticulous impartiality. She has left nothing undone to maintain and make respected her neutrality. Germany's obligation to respect Belgian neutrality, was even more emphatically affirmed by one of Germany's greatest men, by the creator of the Empire. Prince, then Count Bismark, wrote in a letter to Baron Nothomb Belgian Minister in Berlin, on the 22 of July, 1870, as follows:

"In confirmation of my verbal assurance, I have the honor to give in writing a declaration which, in view of the treaties in force, is quite superfluous that the confederation of the North and its allies will respect the neutrality of Belgium on the understanding, of course, that it is respected by the other belligerent."
 (Signed)
VON BISMARCK.

"On August 2nd, last in the course of the day, the German Minister in Brussels, H. De Below Saleske gave an interview to the reporters of the newspaper 'Le Soir' and declared to them that Belgium had nothing to fear from Germany. He went so far as to employ this expression: 'You will see, perhaps your neighbors' house on fire, but your house will remain intact.' The same day, at seven o'clock in the evening, he communicated the following note to the Belgian Government:

"The German Government has received unimpeachable news to the effect that the French forces have the intention of marching on the Meuse by Givet and Namur. This news leaves no doubt as to the intention of France to march upon Germany from Belgian territory.

The Imperial Government of Germany cannot help fearing that Belgium, in spite of the best intentions, will not be in a position to repulse without help an incursion by the French of such great magnitude. In this case it is sufficiently certain that Germany is seriously threatened. It is the urgent business of Germany to forestall this attack on the part of the enemy. The German Government would be filled with lively regret if Belgium were to regard as an act of hostility against her the fact that her precautionary measures oblige her to violate on her side Belgian territory.

"In order to avoid the possibility of misunderstanding, the German Government made the following comment:

"1st: Germany contemplates no act of hostility towards Belgium. If Belgium consents to assume in the war which is about to commence the attitude of friendly neutrality towards Germany, the German Government, on its side, engages, when peace is restored, to guarantee the integrity of the Kingdom and its possessions.

"2nd: Germany engages herself on the aforesaid conditions, to evacuate Belgian territory as soon as peace is concluded.

"3rd: If Belgium observes a friendly attitude, Germany is ready in co-operation with the authorities of Belgium to buy for cash everything that is necessary for her troops, and to pay indemnities for damages done in Belgium; but if Belgium behaves in a hostile manner against the troops, and in particular places difficulties in the way of their advance by opposition by the fortifications of the Meuse, or by the destruction of roads, railways, tunnels or other works, Germany will be obliged to consider Belgium as an enemy.

"In that case Germany will enter into no agreement with the Kingdom, but will allow the further relationship of the two states to be left to the decision of arms. The German Government feels that it is justified in hoping that this eventuality will not materialize, and that

the Belgium Government will know how to take appropriate measures to prevent its materialization. In that case the friendly relations which unite the two neighboring States will become closer and more lasting.

"Such is the German note. It will be noticed that there is no question of the alleged entry of French aviators and officers into Belgium, as has been stated in several papers here. The document in fact knocks that fable on the head. The only question given for the violation of Belgian territory is the alleged intention of the French army to march upon Givet and Namur. This assertion is supported by no proof and is denied by the French Government which officially declared to Belgium and England its intentions of not violating Belgian territory. On the contrary, the premeditated intention of Germany to violate Belgian neutrality is proved in the most irrefutable way, namely, by the affirmation of the German Secretary of State, himself, and by that of the German Chancellor.

"To the request of Sir William Goschen, the English Ambassador in Berlin to be allowed to know if Germany would be allowed to pledge herself to respect the neutrality of Belgium, the German Secretary of State replied that this neutrality had already been violated by Germany. Here von Jagow went again into the reasons why the Imperial Government had been obliged to take this step, namely that they had to advance into France by the quickest and easiest way so as to be able to get well ahead with their operations and endeavor to strike some decisive blow as early as possible. It was a matter of life and death to them for if they had gone by the most southern route, they could not have hoped, in view of the paucity of the roads and the strength of the fortresses, to have got through without formidable opposition entailing great loss of time. This loss of time would mean time gained by the Russians for the bringing up of their troops to the German frontier. Rapidity of action was the great German asset, while that of Russia was the inexhaustible supply of troops. (Official report of the British Ambassador in Berlin to the British Government.)

"This convention preceded by a few minutes that in which the German Chancellor, giddy at the sight of the abyss into which Germany was falling, uttered these celebrated words: 'Just for a word NEUTRALITY, a word which in war times has been so often disregarded just for a SCRAP OF PAPER, Great Britain is going to make war on a kindred nation. At what price would that compact (Neutrality) have been kept? Has the British Government thought of that? Sir William Goschen replied, that fear of consequences would hardly be regarded as an excuse for breaking a solemn engagement. (Official report of the British Ambassador in Berlin to his Government.)

"It is very clear from these documents that Germany had premeditated the violation of the neutrality of Belgium and that she has even reconciled herself to the terrible danger of war with Great Britain rather than renounce the advantages she thought she would gain by not respecting the treaty. In the face of these confessions the allegations that France wished to violate the neutrality of Belgium, an allegation supported by no proof, falls to the ground.

"To continue the analysis of the German note, one reads: If Belgium consents to assume in the war which is about to commence, the attitude of friendly neutrality towards Germany, the German Government on its side, engages, when peace is restored, to guarantee the integrity of the Kingdom and its possessions.

"Could Belgium, without being false to her duties of neutrality, take up the position which the German Government calls 'friendly neutrality' That is to say, could she allow the German armies to pass without opposition through her territory? Can the German Government itself answer that question?

"It is enough to re-read the conversation given above between the British Ambassador and the German Secretary of State to come to a clear conclusion in that respect. If the violation of Belgian territory was to procure so signal an advantage to Germany that she had to fear bringing on war with England

to attain it; then for Belgium to lend herself to the passage of German troops must have meant the certainty of fatal consequences for France. Thus for Belgium to have yielded to the German ultimatum would ipso facto have conferred a considerable advantage to Germany to the detriment of the other belligerents, and would have constituted a breach of neutrality.

Germany concludes her note by treaties. She engages, on the conditions already defined, to evacuate Belgian territory at the conclusion of peace. If Belgium behaves in a hostile manner, that is to say, if she does her duty, Germany will be obliged to consider Belgium as an enemy. She would then leave the ultimate arrangements of the relations of them two states to the decision of arms—in other words, if Belgium does not agree to violate the treaty, Germany will treat her as an enemy and adds a veiled threat of annexing a part or the whole of her territory.

"The moral fibre of nations is not always always measured by their size or power. Belgium is small and weak, but her answer bears witness to her love of justice and to her respect of the right. She would rather die with honor than live dishonored.

"That was made clear by the answer of her government. The answer was as follows:

"The German note has been a painful surprise to the Belgian Government. The intentions which the note attributes to France are in contradiction to the formal declarations which were made to us on the 1st of August in the name of the Republic. Besides, if—contrary to our expectations—France is about to violate the neutrality of Belgium, Belgium would be prepared to fulfill its neutrality obligations, and her army would offer to the invader the most vigorous resistance. The treaties of 1839, confirmed by the treaties of 1870, commit to the guarantee of the Powers and notably to the Government of His Majesty the King of Prussia the independence and neutrality of the Kingdom of Belgium."

"The Chancellor of the German Empire said in a sitting of the Reichstag on the 4th of August: 'We are in a state of legitimate defence. Necessity knows no law. Our troops have occupied Luxembourg and perhaps have already penetrated into Belgium. This is against the law of nations. France, it is true, has declared to Brussels that she is determined to respect the neutrality of Belgium as long as her adversary respects it, but we know that France was ready to invade Belgium. France can afford to wait; we cannot. A French attack on our flank in the region of the lower Rhine might have been fatal. It is for that reason that we have been compelled to ignore the just protests of the Governments of Luxembourg and Belgium. The injustice which we thus commit we will repair as soon as our military object has been attained.

"It has been shown above how much value can be attached to the assertion of the alleged intention of France to invade Belgium. That intention, and the realization of that intention, belong exclusively to Germany and they must be left in her possession. This is especially the case in view of the fact that the military dispositions undertaken by France, absolutely refute the allegations of the German Chancellor. So true is this that when the violation of Belgian territory became an accomplished fact, and when the King of Belgium appealed under the terms of the treaty of 1839 for support, in Belgium which these Powers maintaining the neutrality of hers had guaranteed, France was so little prepared to invade Belgium that it took her more than ten days to get her troops into the country.

"The world is familiar with the way Germany has repaid in Belgium the injustice of which she was guilty, to use the words of the German Chancellor.

"Under the pretext that her troops were attacked by civilians, and even under no pretext at all, whole villages have been razed to the ground. Important towns whose boast it was to represent part of the common inheritance of civilization were not spared. Their monuments, which have been respected during the centuries in all the constant wars of which Belgium has been the theater, were deliberately destroyed. Open cities were bombarded. Exorbitant taxation was imposed upon conquered towns, and

Continued on Page Seven

The Ideal Cafe

312 FRONT STREET MARSHFIELD

Renovated and Refurnished Is Now Open for Business Everything First Class

First class cuisine and first class service.
 Fresh shell oysters a specialty.
 Fine steaks.

Arhos, Anest & Arhos, Proprietors

The Loyal Order of Moose

Presents the Dramatic Triumph of the Century

ARIZONA

With Notable Cast of Marshfield
Local Talent

Masonic Opera House—2 Nights Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 14-15

TICKETS All Reserved Seats 50c
 Entire House

Reserved Seat Sale will open at Busy Corner Store
 Monday morning, October 12 at 9 o'clock.

TO BEAT THE BUILDING GAME

has been a hobby with us for a good many years and a lot of our customers will tell you when it comes to getting good, sound, durable framing material at the right price we know our business. Just tell what you want to build and the amount you want to spend and we'll get busy with our pencil and figure out the best your money can buy. Try us.

C. A. Smith Lumber & Mfg. Co.

RETAIL DEPARTMENT
 CUT THE FUEL BILL 1 TWO BY USING OUR WOOD
 PHONE 100. 182 SOUTH BROADWAY

FLANAGAN & BENNETT BANK

OLDEST BANK IN COOS COUNTY
 Established 1880.

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$115,000

Interest Paid on Time Deposits

Officers:
 J. W. Bennett, President.
 J. H. Flanagan, Vice-President.
 R. F. Williams, Cashier.
 Geo. F. Winchester, Asst. Cashier.

Abstracts, Real Estate, Fire and Marine Insurance

TITLE GUARANTEE & ABSTRACT CO., Inc.

HENRY SENGSTACKEN, Manager
 FARM, COAL, TIMBER AND PLATTING LANDS A SPECIALTY.
 GENERAL AGENTS EASTSIDE
 MARSHFIELD OFFICE, PHONE 44-J.
 COQUILLE CITY OFFICE PHONE 191.

The Union Market

OUR COLD STORAGE SYSTEM IS SURE A SUCCESS

Our Prime Roasts of Beef, Lamb, Mutton, Veal and Pork cannot be excelled.

Try one of our Fat Hens or Fryers for your Sunday dinner, that has been properly cooled, and note the difference.

J. E. FORD & CO.

174 South Broadway Phone 58

Try BUCKEYE VANILLA EXTRACT and you will use no other. This Extract will not bake out. We will give a free sample of this Extract to any lady calling at our store.

COOS BAY TEA, COFFEE AND SPICE HOUSE

PHONE 394-J.

BRING YOUR JOB PRINTING TO THE COOS BAY TIMES

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR

E. Lothard McClure
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 Practices in all courts
 Room 12, Flanagan & Bennett

H. H. Harper
 HOUSE BUILDER
 General Repairing and Cabinet Making.
 Phone 349-J.

W. T. Tompkins, D. S. T.
 (Weltmer Method)
 Every known disease
 without drugs or surgery, guaranteed
 and 2, 237 South Broadway,
 Phone 132-L.

I. M. Wright
 BUILDING CONTRACTOR
 Estimates furnished on request

C. O. Gosney,
 CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER
 Estimates Furnished on Request
 My Past Work is My Best
 First and Alder Sts., Marshfield

Dr. H. M. Shaw
 Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat
 GLASSES FITTED
 DR. MATTIE B. SHAW
 Diseases of Women and Children
 Office Phone 336, Rooms 24 & 25,
 202, Irving Block

Benjamin Ostlund
 CONSULTING ENGINEER
 ARCHITECT
 Offices, 206 Irving Block
 Phone 103-L or 267-J.

W. G. Chandler
 ARCHITECT
 Rooms 201 and 202, Coos Hotel
 Marshfield, Oregon

Wm. S. Turpen
 ARCHITECT
 Marshfield, Oregon

Mrs. Olivia Edman, M. T.
 SWEDISH MASSAGE AND
 PHYSICAL GYMNASTICS
 FOR ALL DISEASES
 837 Commercial ave. Phone 300

Joel Ostlund
 PIANO TUNER AND REPAIRER
 Leave orders at W. R. Harlow
 Music Company.
 415 S. Sixth Street, Phone 300

Perl Riley Ballinger
 PIANIST AND TEACHER
 Residence Studio, 217 N. Third
 Phone 368-L

Henrik Gjerdrum.
 PIANO INSTRUCTION
 Studio
 Myrtle Arms.

THE ALICE H.
 SPECIAL EXCURSION TO
 CHARLESTON BEACH HOTEL
 Leaves Marshfield at 8 A. M.
 ROUND TRIP 50c
 Makes connection with
 set Bay and Shore boat
 writing for appointment.
 Marshfield, Oregon

YOU AUTO CALL
 FOR FOOT'S
 Four good cars with careful
 For day service, phone
 Blanco Hillard Park
 For night service, Phone
 Right Cafe.
 D. L. FOOT.

F. L. ADAMS & SON
 DEALERS IN
 NEW AND SECOND-HAND
 GOODS.
 262 No. Front St. Phone 300

LET US MAKE
 YOUR ABSTRACTS

Title & Trust Co. Abstracts
 thoroughly dependable. Immediate
 service, prompt attention
 to all interests of our clients
 M I N I M U M C O S T

I. S. KAUFMAN & CO.

SEND YOUR LAUNDRY
 TO US BY PARCEL POST
 WE FURNISH A BAG AND
 WILL PAY THE POSTAGE
 ON ITS RETURN

COOS BAY STEAM
 LAUNDRY
 PHONE 57-J. MARSHFIELD

DRY WOOD

CAMPBELL'S WOODYARD
 North Front Street,
 Phone 379.

HARNESS SHOP MOVING

E. L. Hopson has moved his
 harness shop to the corner of
 Front and Alder streets. He
 will be pleased to have
 anyone call and inspect his
 stock of Harness, Saddlery,
 First-class repairing,
 reasonable.