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NEWS OF WORLD'S GREATEST WAR DAY BY DAY

HOPES NEITHER SIDE WILL WIN

Mabel Boardman, Chief of American Red Cross, Gives Expression to Her Opinion

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.—When it comes to real neutrality, Miss Mabel Boardman, active chief of the American Red Cross, has it with a sincerity that no one could doubt. She doesn't want any nation of Europe to win. She wants the big war to be a draw.

And this is how she explains her position. Her work, naturally, allows of no favoritism, of no partiality. It demands the distribution of mercy—of supplies, of medical attention, and of kind words to Russian, German, French and English alike. Humanity knows no nationality, as she explained it.

Wants No Bitterness Afterward.
If one side wins, it will mean that there will be large indemnities for the other side to pay. The bitterness engendered by this, the greatest war the world has ever known, will remain. The conquered will still bear malice. He will feel the sting of defeat, the burden of war, the blasting effects on his young men and his industries for years to come. But, on the other hand, Miss Boardman argued, if the big war is a draw, there will be less of the lingering animosity. All nations will have had their bitter lesson; all will have had their revenge—if that's what they desire; all will be on an equal footing. Their big armaments will be shattered, and perhaps this will be the basis for a world peace without armaments.

And Miss Boardman, perhaps more clearly than anyone with whom I have discussed the problem, has the viewpoint of all the nations. She knows how Germany felt about Russia, how France and Belgium felt about Germany, how England and Russia regarded the conflict. With all she has sympathy. She places no blame; she draws no comparison, yet in her position of ministering angel to all nations, she seems to have absorbed their spirit, their viewpoint, and she seems to know just how it must feel to be a citizen of any one of the warring nations—minus the bitterness of their prejudice.

To wipe out the spirit of international prejudice is one of the aims of Miss Boardman's Red Cross work. Her nurses and doctors, without taking sides, are trying to instill in their patients the spirit of humanity; are trying to subdue the element of brutality that to a greater or less extent crops out in any army in war time. Her spirit is that the Red Cross shall leave a pleasant taste in the mouths of all nations. They must return to their homes with the word, "We were well used in the foreign land; the Red Cross nurses of that nation were our friends when we needed friends." In that spirit, any nation must have a better feeling toward its neighbor when the war is at an end.

That is the gigantic task to which this woman has set her heart and her hand, in addition to the big labor of trying to keep peace with the work of giving medical aid, fuel and supplies to the wounded and destitute of Europe's battlefields.

And in this spirit, she has the big broad vision of actual neutrality—malice toward no nation, prejudice toward none; naught but aid, friendship, the helping hand.

ALLIES ORDER 4,000,000 BLANKETS AT CHICAGO

Army Contract Calls for Expenditure of \$20,000,000.
CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 15.—A hurry-up order for 4,000,000 blankets for the armies of the Allies has been received in Chicago. The average price has been set at \$5 per blanket, making a total of \$20,000,000 waiting to be apportioned among the blanket manufacturers and dealers of the Central West. The order is in the hands of a LaSalle street bank. The same bank has been acting as a clearing house for similar orders for leather and harness goods.

"We are in touch with those blanket men who can furnish immediate delivery," declared the banker in discussing the large order. These goods will be paid for just as if they were bought over the counter.

"When we have cleaned up the available supply for immediate shipment we will take up the question of contracts for daily outputs. No one firm can supply them all. Every one familiar with the situation feels that Europe has just begun to call upon the United States for its army wearing apparel and food supplies."

Have your LETTER heads, bill heads, etc., printed at THE TIMES office.

GERMAN LEASED ISLAND

Furore Caused in England by Lease of Channel Possession.

[By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.]
LONDON, Dec. 16.—One of the strangest stories that has been given birth by the great war is that of the Island of Herm, the leasing of which to a German company was recently discussed in the House of Commons. The lease has been terminated, and British troops are billeted on the island, but the question is still being asked, why was England so lax as to rent for a long an island larger than Heligoland, within an hour's steaming of English shores?

Herm is one of the lesser channel islands and at one time supported a considerable population. It is a beautiful spot, with an attractive shell beach. In 1889 it was leased by the Crown for \$70 a year to the "West Bank Heligoland, Ltd." which in turn leased it to Prince Blucher von Wahlstatt, a descendant of the illustrious Blucher of Waterloo and himself a German. The Prince and his family lived quietly for years in the manor house on the island, incurring the great displeasure of those who sought to ramble over the place by closing all save one narrow pathway on the beach and plastering about many warnings to trespassers.

Children were born to the Prince there—she is of the Russian royal family—and one of these, a boy, became a naturalized British subject. At no time was the Prince suspected of using his home in any operations against England, but when the war broke out the matter became one of natural agitation culminating in the Home Secretary being asked for an explanation by Sir William Bull.

The explanation was brief. The government knew the name of the German company holding the lease. It knew moreover, that the rent was about five shillings six pence a week, that steps had been taken to cancel this document, that for some weeks British troops had been on the island. Whether Prince Blucher and family had moved from the Manor House was not made clear.

The popular outcry against the Prince, in the opinion of the London press generally, is unjustified, but The Times remarks rather sarcastically that the public might be told a little more about the German company which was able to acquire so cheaply so much good farm and pasture land, together with numerous cottages, not to mention the Manor House. It also is pointed out that the island is in the heart of the English Channel, within sight of the coast of France, about seventy miles from Portland and 49 from Cherbourg. It could be used as a submarine base, though nothing of the kind appears to have been attempted.

The British submarine "E-9" sunk a German cruiser and torpedo boat recently. A short time ago the German submarine "U-9" sent three British cruisers to the bottom. Why not sink the K-9 on the dogs of war?

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SAY ALLIES ARE BRAVE.

Germans Declare Home People Have Wrong Ideas.

[By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.]
BERLIN, Dec. 16.—Evidences of the reaction of German officers and soldiers fighting at the front against the tendency to belittle the fighting qualities of the enemy continue to accumulate.

Soldiers' letters and returning soldiers speak in terms of high appreciation of the military prowess and soldierly qualities of their opponents and among several hundred wounded with whom the correspondent of the Associated Press has talked in his visits to hospitals the last fortnight no one was found who refused to credit the enemy in general, Russian, French and Belgian and English with bravery and military skill.

Distinctions are drawn, it is true, the British being generally reckoned as the toughest opponents on the west front.

The Germans had a high opinion of the fighting qualities of the French soldier before this war began. The fighting which occurred on the march from the Belgian frontier to the Marne and Paris tended to lessen their respect for the toughness of French moral fibre, but the last two months have changed that again and soldiers' letters reflect increased respect for them. The recent fighting of the remnant of the Belgian army in Flanders also has greatly raised the German estimation of the Belgian soldier, who in the general army opinion, had not greatly distinguished himself at Liège, Namur and Antwerp and the intervening field engagements.

As to the British, field post letters continue to bear out the statement from a German expert as to their robust fighting qualities. One of the latest of these letters, printed in the Cologne Gazette, contains the following striking passage:

"People at home appear to have wrong notions about the fighting qualities of the enemy. The English are the toughest and bravest foe we have to meet. Every individual man keeps on shooting coolly so long as he is not taken prisoner and these trained veterans shoot well. When we storm a position the French will run when we close in with our shouts of 'hurrah,' but the English stick tenaciously to their entrenchments to the last."

Danzer's Arnezzeitung, the leading military publication of Austria, pays a high tribute to the Serbian, Belgian and Russian troops. The Serbians are called brave, but declaration is made that they are without food and ammunition. Credit is given the Belgians for standing with England and France, "when they must have realized that their own cause was irredeemably lost." The press is criticized for its attacks on the Russians, saying they are brave and capable.

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