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Monmouth Meditations

It is one of the anomalies of fate that Joe Clark should have met the death of a soldier. One of the most peacefully inclined of men, one who shrank instinctively from the sight of blood, yet voluntarily he offered his scruples and his inclination on the altar of patriotic effort. He was typical of the sacrifice which is steadily and surely stopping the course of the German juggernaut. The nations opposed to Germany are not war like. They wanted but to be left in peace. But Germany would not leave them in peace. She had acquired the idea that she was called by deity to enforce her superiority upon the world; to push out the sluggards and the weaklings and to substitute for them the superior German. She felt that she was called on to regenerate the world and to make the world pay for the process. But while the neighbor nations were peaceful they would fight before they would lose their liberties. So with the peaceful Joe. Probably the last thing he coveted was military glory. Yet when the necessity arose he turned about face readily. He did not wait to be drafted. He volunteered. Volunteered among the first. The whole process of preparation was irksome to him. He liked his freedom, to do as he pleased. But this too he submitted to the greater cause, working on until he could do his bit for the world. Here is something to think about. When war conditions pinch; when the call for donations or loans become insistent, remember what one lone printer has done. You may not want to discommode yourself, to put up with inconvenience, to sacrifice; neither did Joe. But he did it. That is the point. He gave in a manner to put the ordinary "bit" to shame. Thousands of others are doing it that posterity may enjoy peace. By the side of their sacrifices we may pause with reverent and grateful emotion. "Better love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John Howell has double occasion to thank his neighbors just at present. The other day they invaded his premises, put out a fire on his workshop and wet down his garden at the same time. Who could ask for more than that in the way of accommodation.

Each successive drive of the Germans is scheduled as the biggest yet, but to our way of thinking the biggest effort of the Germans has already been made. This was in the first offensive of the year when the English held them at bay in the neighborhood of Ypres. They came close to breaking through that line of soldiers to the ocean and had they done so would have had a large section of our defenders at their mercy.

The government is following in

the footsteps of big business in laying down rules for the regulation of the habits of employees. For some years, the larger industries have forbidden drinking of alcoholic liquors by their men. Railroad men found in saloons are discharged. Stringent regulations mark the efforts of the larger employers of labor to do away with the waste of company time due to sobering off. The first order a soldier or sailor receives is to "cut out the booze" and keep out of saloons.

Another newspaper gone to the journalistic boneyard. The Falls City News man had a few eccentricities but he put out a paper that was readable and one which will be missed from our exchange list.

One of the most interesting documents that has come out of the war is the memorandum entitled "My Mission to London, 1912-1914" by Prince Lichnowsky, the gentleman to whom was entrusted the affairs of Germany in England during the two years preceeding the war. Lichnowsky, although a Prussian of high standing is of Bohemian origin and his distaste for the Austrians is in evidence in his record of the two years service. His memorandum is one that will be closely studied by historians of the future for, better than any other source, he gives first hand information of events dealing with the causes of the great conflict.

No one can read his story without being convinced that the German rulers were anxious to bring on the war; that they not only refused to take advantage of situations that would have prevented it, but that they suppressed facts and so ordered the trend of events that opposing nations could not escape the fate which befell them.

Two matters especially were up for diplomatic discussion during Lichnowsky's term of office. These were the Berlin to Bagdad railroad and agreements regarding the expansion of the war fleets of the two great powers. In both instances the Prince found the English inclined to be more than fair and made two treaties which the German representative submitted to his home government. The latter agreed to the treaties as far as concessions were concerned but would not accept them unless they were made secret. Sir Edward Grey insisted that treaties be published. This was the cause of disagreement, the inference being that if the treaties were published the German people might realize the friendly attitude of England which would not have worked in with Germany's war plans.

The Germans have always been bitter against Sir Edward Grey claiming that he was responsible for the war but Prince Lichnowsky pays tribute to the English representative as a man of peace. He says of him: "The scion of an old north country family, he joined the left wing of his party and sympathized with Socialists and pacifists. He carries the theory into his private life. Ostentation is unknown to him. The simplicity and honesty of his ways secured him the esteem of his opponents, who were to be found rather in the sphere of home affairs than of foreign policy. Lies and intrigue were equally repugnant to him."

The Prince relates that nothing can describe the rage in the German office at his successes in London. They devised vexatious instructions to make his office more difficult. He was left in complete ignorance of most important matters, matters of which had he known, would have helped him in efforts to avert the war.

He goes through the events leading to the war, stating that he was on the Kaiser's yacht "Meteor"

when the news of the assassination of the archduke of Austria was made public. With a series of striking pen pictures he relates incidents showing how eager the Germans were and how reluctant the English for the war to start. Looking back at these events he says: "After two years, I came to the conclusion that I realized too late that there was no room for me in a system that for years lived on routine and traditions alone and that only tolerated representatives who reported what their superiors wished to read. Absence of prejudice and an independent judgement are resented. Lack of ability and want of character are praised and esteemed while successes meet with disfavor and excite alarm."

"We needed neither wars nor alliances, we needed treaties that would safeguard us and others and secure our economic development, which was without its like in history. If Russia had been freed in the West, she could again turn to the East and the Anglo-Russian rivalry would have been re-established automatically and without our intervention, and not less certainly the Russo-Japanese."

"I had to support in London, a policy the heresy of which I recognized. That brought down vengeance on me, because it was a sin against the Holy Ghost."

He sums up the case against Germany on three counts. First that she urged Austria to attack Serbia although no German interests were involved; second, she refused the services of Britain as a mediator at a time when Serbia under Russian and British pressure had yielded all points at issue but two which could have been readily reconciled; third, she issued an ultimatum to Russia although Austria had not been attacked and declared war on Russia although the Czar pledged his word that he would not order a man to march as long as negotiations were pending. He says:

"In view of the above undeniable facts, it is no wonder that the whole of the civilized world outside Germany, places the responsibility for the world war upon our shoulders."

"Is it not intelligible that our enemies should declare that they will not rest before a system is destroyed which is a constant menace to our neighbors? Must they not otherwise fear that in a few years time they will again have to take up arms and again see their provinces over run and their towns and villages destroyed? Have they not proved to be right who declared that the spirit of Trietschke and Bernhardi governed the German people, that spirit that glorified war as such, and did not loathe it as an evil; that with us the feudal knight and Junker, the warrior caste, still rule and form ideals and values, not the civilian gentleman; that the love of the duel which animates our academic youth still persists in those who control the destinies of the people? Did not the Zader incident and the parliamentary discussions about it clearly demonstrate to foreign countries the value we place on the rights and liberties of the citizen if these conflict with questions of military power?"

"So think our enemies and so they must think when they see that, in spite of capitalistic industrialism and socialist organization 'The living are still ruled by the dead' as Frederick Nietzsche says."

"And what must we expect as the result of this war of nations? The United States of Africa will be British like those of Australia, America and Oceania. And the Latin states of Europe will enter into the same relations with the United Kingdom that their Latin sisters in America maintain with the United States. The Anglo-Saxon

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