

The Observer

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WHY WE ARE AT WAR WITH GERMANY

By EPHRAIM DOUGLASS ADAMS
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"The object of this war is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast irresponsible government, which, having secretly planned to dominate the world, proceeded to carry out the plan without regard either to the sacred obligations of treaty or the long-established principles of international action and honor. It is the power is not the German people. It is the ruthless master of the German people. It is the history of the rest of the world is no longer left to its handling."

—President Wilson, August 27, 1917.

DEMOCRACY VERSUS AUTOCRACY

It is commonly said that this war is one in which America was forced to take part in order to "make the world safe for democracy." What does the phrase mean?

The theories and acts of the German military autocracy definitely deny the right of the people of a state to rule themselves. The German people, in spite of forms of government that make a pretense of popular control, have no such actual control over their governors as exists in democratically organized nations. In those nations the governors can be removed by a vote of the people in a general election; in Germany the people have not this power.

The aristocracy of Germany understand this difference, and are afraid of the spread of democracy in Germany. The whole, much-admired "efficiency" of Germany is primarily due to a desperate and constant effort by Germany's rulers to divert the German people from thoughts of self-government, by offering them material prosperity. And the rulers have succeeded. One of the causes of this war was the necessity, by still further "glorious acquisitions of territory," to hush the murmurings of political discontent in Germany. Victory in war, every so often, is a necessity of the German system. "It is for social as much as for national and political reasons that we must fix our minds incessantly upon war."

"Success is necessary to gain influence over the masses," wrote Bernhardi; and General von Blomberg, before his death, wrote a "Political Testament," since largely circulated in Germany, in which he argued for the retention of Belgium, because, unless it were annexed, the prestige of the military autocracy would receive a fatal blow.

Are we—the Allies—then fighting to impose upon Germany a different system; is that the meaning of "making the world safe for democracy?"

Elithu Root says that American democratic ideals include "liberty not for themselves alone but for all who are oppressed." Lloyd George asserts that if all countries had been democratically organized, this war would not have taken place; that this war will determine not merely international relations, but will affect the lives of peoples within their own nations, for generations to come; that this war is to end in "international democracy," i. e., in liberty, equality, and fraternity, between nations, great and small. General Smuts, formerly a soldier against Great Britain in South Africa, says that the essence of this war is the question whether governments should be founded on military might or on "principles of equity, justice, fairness and equality."

Various writers have depicted this war as a test of democracy, to determine whether democracy can adjust itself to an emergency, that by sheer efficiency it shall at least equal the efficiency of a military autocracy, and assert that on this ground alone the future government of all the nations of the world is at stake. Will Crooks, the British labor leader, says this war "is a people's war. We are all in it, the man at the village pump and in the fields, the blacksmith, the carpenter and joiner, the shipwright, and the man of leisure. We are standing together because we are fighting for liberty."

Yes, this war is one in which ideals of government, of individual liberty, of civilization itself are in conflict. Democracy is lined up against autocracy. The war is in absolute fact a war of ideals. But we are not fighting to impose our ideals upon any nation. What we are fighting for, in "making the world safe for democracy," is to prevent a military autocracy from imposing its authority and its ideals upon us. We are ready to keep on minding our own business, and to let other nations do the same. A military autocracy that proposes to conquer the world must be defeated, to the point where it renounces meddling with other nations, great or small, or there is no peace in the world. That is the issue at stake, and in it rests our safety and the safety of the world.

This is the fifth of a series of ten articles by Professor Adams.

New Material for Paper Pulp.
Experiments in the use of lalang grass for paper pulp have been carried out in Australia. There are millions of tons of lalang grass growing in Queensland. It produces three crops a year, and is considered a curse to the country. It resembles esparto grass and, when dried, yields as high as 90 per cent of first-class paper-making pulp.

REAR ADMIRAL RODMAN



Rear Admiral Hugh Rodman, who is in command of the United States battleships now in foreign waters.

MARINES AGAIN MOVE FORWARD

With the American Army in France. —The United States marines made another attack on the Germans and penetrated the enemy lines for about a mile on a 600-yard front in the Belleu wood, northwest of Chateau Thierry. In addition to prisoners they captured two minenwerfer of large caliber and other material. The two heavy pieces are the largest weapons taken so far by the indomitable soldiers of the sea from the United States. They intend to send at least one of them to Washington to be exhibited to the public.

Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans by the marines who repeated their previous performances of exhibiting their contempt for heavy artillery and rifle fire to which they were subjected by the enemy. Many machine guns are reported to be in the wood and likely were added to the trophies captured by the Americans. Major Edward D. Cole personally is credited with the capture of a number of German soldiers in the course of the engagement.

BRIEF NEWS OF THE WAR

Another phase of the German offensive was opened Sunday morning in an attack between Montdidier and Noyon, over a front of about 20 miles, preceded by a heavy bombardment with shells and noxious gases. The enemy's initial maneuver evidently has in view the bending back of the allied front toward the town of St. Just on the northern wing and toward the railroad junction of Compiègne on the southern flank, getting astride the Oise river and driving southwest toward the French capital.

The French troops appear to be putting up a splendid resistance to this new offensive, especially on the two flanks of the attacking front where the heaviest fighting continues. The Germans have made some progress in the center, where they claim the capture of the heights of Gury, while the French admit the loss of the villages of Reims-sur-Matz and Mareuil.

The marines and other American units blocked the Germans northwest of Chateau-Thierry by driving forward themselves. The Americans also completely stopped three successive enemy counter-attacks.

As the result of the two attacks by the Americans against the enemy northwest of Chateau Thierry 300 prisoners were captured and the Americans extended their line over a front of about six miles to a depth of nearly two and a half miles. While the losses of the Americans necessarily have been heavy on account of the nature of the fighting, the German dead is piled three deep in places. A number of machine guns were added to the American booty. All the allied countries are ringing with praise for the gallant American marines, who plunged into the battle with the valor of seasoned veterans.

\$50,000,000 IS SPENT DAILY

Taxes Gathered in Month Barely Pay Two Days' Expenses.

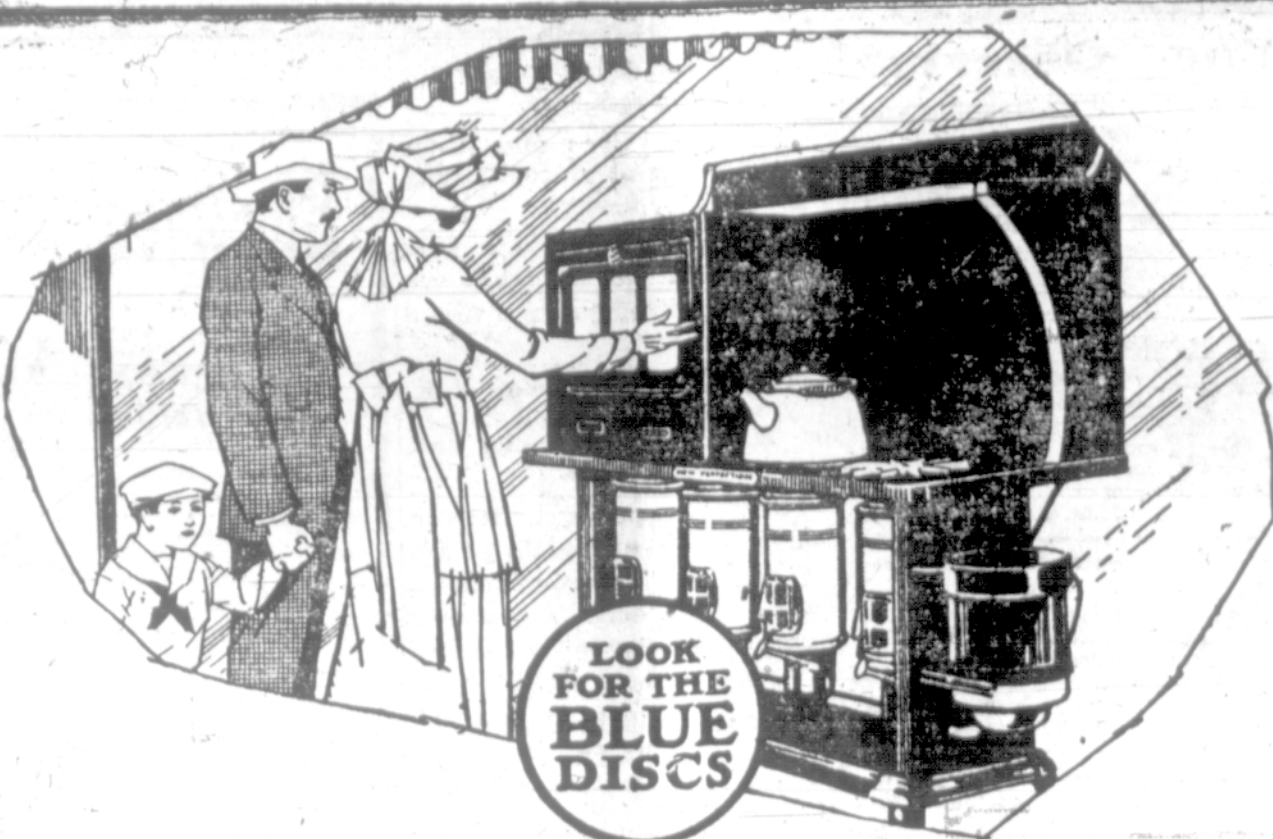
Washington.—Government expenses are now averaging approximately \$50,000,000 daily and taxes gathered from a wide variety of sources every month are barely sufficient, if levies on income and excess profits are excluded to pay war expenditure for two days of the month.

This was shown by a treasury report of tax collections for April, giving the yield of ordinary war taxes for that month as \$93,700,000.

Corporation income and excess profits taxes collected in April were \$127,614,000 and individual income and excess profit receipts were \$41,720,000, making a total of \$169,335,000 from these sources. This represented only a small amount, comparatively, with the \$2,000,000,000 or more which will be collected within the next 10 days.

U. S. Gets Krupp Business.

Buenos Aires.—The Argentine government has negotiated a contract with the United States for the manufacture of 64,000,000 nickel coins. Those now in circulation were made by the Krupps.



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Now is the time to learn how to cook in comfort all the year round—the time to buy a New Perfection Oil Cook Stove. An oil cook stove assures that your kitchen will stay cool even in the hottest summer weather, because the heat of the stove is concentrated on the cooking. There is no smoke or odor; no dust or dirt. And you have all the convenience of gas. Lights at the touch of a match and heats in a jiffy. More convenient than coal or wood. Better and more economical cooking all the year round. The week after next will be New Perfection Oil Cook Stove Week. Look for the Big Blue Discs in your dealer's window. Go in and ask about oil cook stove comfort and convenience.

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Elsie Mae Gordon, the talented young lady who comes to Chautauqua with readings and child impersonations, is one of the leaders of her profession. No other artist is in greater demand for Chautauqua audiences. Miss Gordon's clear rich voice runs the gamut in the expression of strong emotion, sparkling comedy and delicate pathos. There is more than artistry in her work—there is real individuality. As a child impersonator she has few equals and certainly no superiors on the American platform.



Elsie Mae Gordon.

CAPTAIN VON RINTELEN

reputed relative of the Kaiser, whose release was refused by the United States.



Captain von Rintelen, German spy, reputed relative of the Kaiser, whose release was refused by the United States.

MOTHER GOOSE ON THE WAY

She is Coming to Chautauqua to See the Kiddies.

Mother Goose is coming to Chautauqua! The beloved old lady herself will be with the children on the last day, to take them through Story Book Land. Then at night all the kiddies, with her help, will give the big Mother Goose Festival. She will bring the costumes and Jack and Jill, Little Bo Peep, Cinderella, Jack Horner, Old King Cole, and all the other characters of the Kingdom of Fairyland. There'll be the story hour all the other days of the week for the children, too.



Mother Goose.

Recklessness is no part of courage. When Cromwell and his men gave the sublime picture of heroic courage which illuminates English history, it was not that they undervalued the enormous strength of what they fought against; it was that they saw rightness and freedom shining out beyond, and moved toward their fascinating presence irresistibly.—Phillips Brooks.

Fluke's Admiration for Darwin.

The biography of John Fluke contains this comment in one of his letters from England: "Darwin is the dearest, sweetest, loveliest old grandpa that ever was. And, on the whole, he impresses me with his strength more than any man I have yet seen. There is a charming kind of quiet strength about him and about everything he does. He is not burning and eager like Huxley. He has a mild blue eye and is the gentlest of gentle old fellows. . . . None of these men seem to know how great they are. But Darwin is one of the most truly modest men I ever saw."

WHEAT CROP NEAR BILLION BUSHELS

Washington.—The American granary, heavily drained for allied food needs, will be amply refilled. Estimates of the agriculture department showed prospects for total wheat production of 981,000,000 bushels—substantially greater than the average production since 1911 and nearly 30 per cent larger than last year's crop.

If the forecast is fulfilled the crop will be the second largest in American history, exceeded only by the 1,015,000,000 bushels of 1915.

Reports on other grain crops, now vital as wheat substitutes, also showed satisfying gains, with the exception of oats, which apparently will fall slightly below the 1917 yield.

The condition of the winter wheat crop on June 1 was 83.8 per cent of normal, against 70.9 per cent June 1, 1917, and 80.8 per cent, the 10-year average on that date.

Condition of the spring wheat crop was 95.2 per cent, against 91.6 June 1, 1917, and 93.7 the 10-year average; and the condition of all wheat 87.7 per cent, against 78.5 June 1, 1917, and 85.3, the 10-year average.

BEER FOR THE ACTORS

Men to whom the matter of beer supply is of importance will more than ever regret the "good old days" when they learn that on play nights at Hampton court, Shakespeare and his fellows were allowed some four and twenty glasses of free beer. One gallon per head daily to the actors, we are told, and extra on the occasion of performances, was the quantity. The adults must really have had even more than this, for, let us remember, the female roles were all played by young boys, who certainly could not ship such seas. Their share must have gone to the seniors.—London Chronicle.

OFFENSIVE ALONE WINS, SAYS FOCH

London.—The battles can be won in the end only by the army which takes the offensive, is the significant declaration made by General Foch, commander-in-chief of the allies, in an important article contributed by him to a weekly journal, in which he discusses the problem of the soldier and the way to victory.

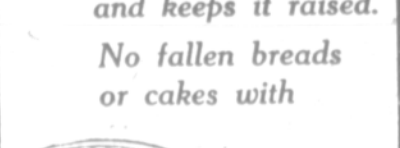
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