

Daily Democrat

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LIGHT ON GERMAN "KULTUR"

At the instance of Senator Robin-
son of Ark., there is reprinted in the
Congressional Record a remarkable
letter from a Prussian girl to a girl
friend in Switzerland. The writer of
the letter was Katie Hamel, daughter
of the state councillor of archi-
tecture of Prussia. It is interesting
because it was not intended for pub-
lication. It reveals the fanatical be-
lief in the superiority of German
ways and ideas which is instilled in
to all Germans through the schools,
the churches, books, newspapers and
all possible mediums. But the letter
speaks for itself, and here it is:

Frankfurt on Oder, July 20, 1916.
My Dear Louise: The contents
of your last letter would have hurt
me had I not known that your
thoughts of our glorious war re-
sulted from sheer ignorance. You
are in a country rendered effeminate
by the influence of old-fashioned
ideas of liberty, a country which
is at least two centuries behind
ours. You are in need of a good
dose of Prussian culture.

It is evident that you, a Swiss
girl with French sympathies, can-
not understand how my heart, the
heart of a young German girl,
passionately desired this war.
Speaking of it some years ago, my
father said to us: "Children, Ger-
many is getting too small for us;
we shall have to go to France again
in order to find more room." Is
it our fault if France will not un-
derstand that more money and
land are necessary for us?

And you reproach us that our
soldiers have been very cruel to
the Belgian rabble, and you speak
also of the destruction of Rheims,
and of the burning of villages and
towns. Well, that is war. As in
every other undertaking, we are
past masters in the making of war.
You have a great deal to learn
before you can come up to our
standard, and I can assure you that
what has been done so far is a
mere bagatelle compared with what
will follow.

As a matter of fact, there is but
one race worthy of ruling the world,
and which has already attained the
highest degree of civilization. That
race is ours; for though we Ger-
mans in general are the lords of
the world, the Prussian is undoubt-
edly the lord par excellence among
the Germans. All other nations,
and among them, unfortunately, the
Swiss, are degenerate and of in-
ferior worth. That is why I have
always been so proud of being a
true Prussian.

Yesterday, again, our pastor ex-
plained to us convincingly that our
first parents, Adam and Eve, were
also Prussian. That is quite easy
to understand because the Bible
tells us that the German God cre-
ated us all after his own image.
If then, all men are descended from
Adam and his wife, it follows that
only Prussians, or at least Ger-
mans, ought to exist in the world,
and that all who push on and prosper
ought to belong to us. You
must admit that that is logic, and
that is why our motto is, "God
with us, Germany above every-
thing."

You know now why we wished
this war. Is it not shameful that
other nations, who have no right
to existence on the earth, wish to
diminish our heritage? We are
the divine fruit and the others are
only weeds. That is why our great
emperor has decided to put an end
to all these injustices and to ex-
terminate the weeds. Do you under-
stand that now? I remain, your
school friend, KATIE HAMEL.

Thirty thousand pounds of mack-
rel were caught at Palm Beach last
week says a Florida dispatch. But
don't get excited. It wasn't the idle
rich Palm Beachers that caught them.
They only helped eat them.

WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

"What is the personal aspect of the
war for you and me?" asked Rud-
yard Kipling at a London war meet-

ing. And he answered:

"We are fighting for our lives and
the lives of every man, woman and
child here and everywhere else.
We are fighting that we may not
be married into actual slavery such
as the Germans have established by
force of arms in large parts of Eu-
rope."

We are fighting that men, women
and children may not be tortured
and burned and mutilated in the pub-
lic streets, as has happened in this
town and hundreds of others.

"We will go on fighting until the
race which has done these things is
not in condition to continue or re-
peat the offenses."

And then he uttered these solemn
words:

"It, for any reason, we fall short
of victory—and there is no halfway
house between victory and defeat—
what happens to us is that every re-
lative, every understanding, every de-
cency upon which civilization has
been built will go, will be washed
out, because it has proved unable to
endure."

"The whole of democracy, which
at the bottom is what the Huns are
fighting against, will be dismissed
from men's minds, because it will
have been shown incapable of main-
taining itself against the Germans."

There may be in this statement a
little rhetorical exaggeration. The
calamity of German triumph may not
be quite so all-embracing as Mr. Kipling
portrays it. But any clear visioned
man or woman must see that he
goes not far beyond the literal
truth.

Germany is fighting civilization.
Germany is fighting democracy. And
if she wins, there will be more than
the material slavery to which she
has reduced the Belgians and other
conquered peoples.

There will be a spiritual slavery,
resulting from the very fact that de-
mocracy has proved inadequate to
the task of resisting autocracy. If
freedom and decency have failed to
make good in their supreme test, how
can men thereafter respect the de-
cencies of our old civilization, or as-
pire to freedom?

Not long ago Americans were busy
admiring the "hundred thousand dol-
lars a year man." Now they're pay-
ing homage to the "dollar a year man,"
—a voluntary worker for Uncle Sam.
In many cases he is the identical citi-
zen. And in any case we find the
new standard nobler than the old.

CONCERNING THRIFT STAMPS

Sings the Arizona Gazette:
A thrift stamp a day,
Keeps the Kaiser away.
A beautiful and inspiring thought,
to which we feel moved to add:

Every stamp that you lick
Makes autocracy sick.

And if you find it impossible to
rise to the height of patriotic liber-
ality indicated by a stamp a day,
there's consolation in the fact that
A little thrift stamp now and then
Helps Europe get her grip again.
While those who are so affluent
that they can afford to invest \$4.13
at a clip, just like that, may chant
joyfully,

Turning dollars into stamps
Turns the Sammies into champs.
And every thrifty patriot, rich or
poor, may bear in mind continually that

He who buys a thrift stamp often
Screws the lid on Wilhelm's coffin.
That's about as much as we feel
equal to. We leave the rest to poets
more inspired.

The Cologne Volkzeitung says:
"The peace Germany—meaning the
German government—wants is just,
because it is based on the eighth
commandment." The eighth com-
mandment is, "Thou shalt not steal."
Is everybody crazy in the Volkzeit-
ung office? Or do they merely think
everybody outside of Germany is
crazy?

THE RELIGION OF THE TRENCHES

"A new religion is going to come
out of the trenches," writes Private
Pearl in the American Magazine. "I
call it 'shirt sleeve religion' because
it is going to be practical and straight
forward and honest."

There is religion there, he assures
us, real religion. The men swear a
good deal in the trenches and they
don't pray or go through the ordinary
forms of religion; but just the same
they are far more religious than they
ever were before, or than the people
at home are now. They have the
big essentials of faith.

"Every mother's son of us is hon-
estly at peace with God. Why? Be-
cause we are just as sure that we are
what the church folks call 'right with
God' as we are that we are in the

trenches. We're often afraid—phys-
ically afraid of getting wounded or
killed. But afraid to die? Not one
bit.
"It's hard to explain to those who
haven't been there, but every fighting
man will understand. We feel that
we have wiped our slate clean by
what we are doing. All the little,
petty weighing of right and wrong
has gone by. It's as simple as black
and white; and what we are doing is
white."

"We have become children again.
We believe absolutely that God un-
derstands, and we are—well, just plain
comfortable in our hearts."

Alone with this sense of security
and peace comes a wonderful streng-
thening of the manly virtues. It is
senseless to talk of the demoralizing
effect of trench life."

"There is one thing certain," says
Pearl. "Your boy is coming home
from this war a better man than he
was when he went into it. I could
tell of dozens of cases I have known
personally of men who were literally
born again in the trenches."

And in this assurance is profound
comfort for parents who are wor-
rying for the spiritual and moral wel-
fare of their sons:

"It's bitter hard, I know, to send
your son away to fight. But if you
realized that the war is going to
give him a post-graduate course in
the very things you've tried hardest
to teach him, maybe it won't seem
so hard. Those things are courage
and loyalty, obedience, self-sacrifice,
honesty, trust in God—are they? Well,
those are the things he will
learn in the trenches. Believing this,
you certainly can send him away with
a smile on your face, a smile of pride
and hope."

The boys will bring that simple,
manly religion back with them. We
won't have to get busy "saving their
souls" when they return. They may
be saving our souls.

The ice men say that commodity is
going to be dearer next summer, be-
cause there's so much of it now. We
supposed the ancient law of supply
and demand had been abolished, not
reversed.

"TRUE GERMANS"

In a book called "Deutsche Reden
in Schwerer Zeit," written by a Ger-
man clergyman named D. Baumgartner,
we find this very Christian senti-
ment regarding the proper German
attitude toward Prussian frightful-
ness:

"Anyone who cannot bring himself
to approve from the bottom of his
heart the sinking of the Lusitania,
who cannot conquer his sense of the
monstrous cruelty to countless per-
fectly innocent victims, and give him-
self up to joy at this victorious ex-
ploitation of German defensive power—
such a one we deem no true German."
There is every indication that his
flock, and Germans in general, agreed
with the reverend Gentleman, and
his spiritual brethren Admiral von
Tirpitz and Kaiser Wilhelm. It must
be said, however, in extenuation of
the German people's "joy at this vic-
torious exploit" that the Lusitania
affair was never truthfully presented
to them.

We prefer to think that the rea-
son they approved of this monstrous
crime was because their political, mili-
tary and religious leaders lied to
them. We prefer to think that it is
credulity rather than cruelty which
is the mark of the "true German."

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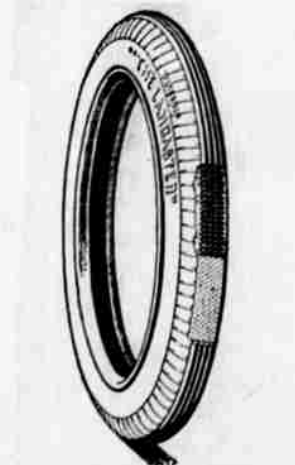
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