

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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AN OUTLAW NATION

When an individual refuses to obey law, he at once becomes known as an outlaw. When the states of the south refused to obey national law, they became outlaw states and subject to punishment by national troops. When Germany deliberately notified the neutral nations of the world that she would not obey the mutually adopted rules for the conduct of war, to which she was a party, then she became an outlaw nation.

A nation differs materially in her standing with other nations of the world than do states or subdivisions of an individual nation. In our own country we have a federal constitution, a congress and United States courts, to enact and enforce laws common to all the states.

International law is recognized in times of peace and usually in time of war as binding. But there is nothing behind these national pledges but national honor. A nation may or may not live up to its pledged obligation, but if it fails to do so, it becomes dishonored in the estimation of the other nations of the world. It becomes an outlaw in the highest moral sense, because it refuses to live up to pledges which it assisted in formulating.

Germany has become an outlaw nation by her own deliberate act and President Wilson was left no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with her. If your neighbor violates his pledged word and becomes objectionable as a citizen and neighbor, you and as most people do, refuse to have further business or neighborly relations with him. You simply let him alone unless his own acts cause you to adopt more drastic action.

This is precisely what President Wilson proposes to do with Germany. Her conduct has become so objectionable towards the rights of American citizens, whose business causes them to travel upon the high seas, that the president, as the representative head of our nation, refuses to have further business relations with her. Consequently he has ordered our ambassador and consular officials to come home and, at the same time, has invited the German ambassador and consuls to quit the territory of the United States.

Germany has the recognized right to declare a blockade surrounding the British empire. She has the right to stop neutral ships on the high seas, go aboard such vessels, and search them for goods declared to be contraband of war. If such goods are found, she has the right to take such ships to her harbors or ports of entry as prizes and, if it is impracticable to convey such ships to a German port or harbor, she has the further right to destroy ship and cargo. But she must first pro-

vide for the reasonable safety of passengers and crew.

The above is one of the articles of international laws of war, to which Germany is a signatory. She now proposes to abrogate this agreement and sink all ships without warning or search, no matter whether carrying contraband of war or whither bound, providing such vessel comes within a certain proscribed portion of the ocean. Because it suits her own purpose only and regardless of the rights of innocent third parties, she proposes to capture or destroy all ships coming within this proscribed limit.

Not since nations have become civilized and recognized that other nations have rights as well as herself, has such a ruthless and barbaric declaration been promulgated as Germany's latest.

During the Civil war, the United States ships of war, halted and searched many ships of neutral nations. If no contraband goods were found in her cargo, she was permitted to go on her way in peace. But if contraband goods were found and they were consigned to southern ports, the ship and cargo was confiscated as a lawful prize.

No one would find fault with Germany if she exercised this class of blockade around England and France. She would be within her rights and in accordance with the recognized law of nations. But to abrogate her pledged word with the other nations of the world and destroy neutral ships without warning regardless of life, stamps her as a nation puffed up with egotism or in such desperate straits that she feels justified in throwing national honor to the winds.

President Wilson has called the German bluff and, unless she backs down from the order to destroy indiscriminately, American ships and American lives are sure to be sacrificed. The only alternative left to America, will be a declaration of war by congress. This action will not long be delayed.

Germany must certainly have a false estimate of the American nation and people. Because we have formed the habit of attending to our own business and are slow to take affront, she assumes that we will submit to almost anything rather than fight. But there is a limit and President Wilson and the American people say that limit has been reached. While we do not wish war with Germany or any other nation, the spirit of American freedom and the right to travel the high seas, is not dead and when it is fully aroused, something is sure to be doing. The American people to a man are behind President Wilson and whatever the cost in blood and treasure, the rights and dignity of the American nation, must be maintained.

American patriotism causes political partisanship to go way-back-and-sit-down when the nation is in danger. President Wilson is receiving the loyal support of republicans as well as democrats in the great national crisis, which now seems at hand. We may quarrel and grow warm over national political questions and carry partisanship to the extreme, so that the disinterested might think we are unreconcilable enemies. But let an outside nation assail us, or disregard our national rights in world matters, then we forget our national politics and become one as a nation with a large sized O.

The legislature will soon enter the home stretch of the legislative session. It is doubtful if the work accomplished for the people is worth the cost of the session. Most people think our legislature is a very expensive luxury, anyway.

Whether or not we will have war with Germany, depends entirely upon Germany's action. President Wilson has given the ultimatum and congress will do the rest if necessary.

A press dispatch states that 100,000 Germans and Austrians have rushed to the courts throughout the country to secure their first naturalization papers. This indicates that these people wish to enjoy the protection of Uncle Sam, in case we go to war with the central powers. Whether they will be willing to assist in the protection of Uncle Sam in such contingencies, is another question.

Should President Wilson's severance of diplomatic relations with Germany be followed by a declaration of war by congress, about the first hostile move on our part would be to confiscate the nearly one-hundred German and Austrian ships which have been interned in our harbors, since the beginning of the war. These ships are probably worth near \$50,000,000 and would be, at least, a quick way to increase our merchant marine. These ships could be used in the coast and South American trade without material danger of recapture or being destroyed.

Our Albany friends who have been attempting to negotiate for the fair are a peculiar bunch, sure enough. They are willing to pay the price we think right, but want us to give them a three-months option, in which time they hope to sell stock enough to raise the money. This would defeat our holding a fair this year and the forfeiture of our franchise with the state would result. This may be the secret object of Cashier Schmitt, who has been the principal spokesman of the committee, so far. It won't do gentlemen. Put up the money in the Scio bank and then we will see if the shareholders will sell, which they may or may not do.

If the United States should be drawn into war with Germany it would be fighting for the interests of all nations by fighting for its own interests. There need be no fear that this country would fight a purely selfish war. It has always fought for liberty, justice and humanity. The war of Independence was fought for liberty in order to escape the injustice of British taxation. The war of 1812 was fought for the freedom of the seas. The Mexican war was fought for the independence of Texas and for its union with this republic. The Civil war had for its ultimate end the extension of liberty to all people within the republic. The Spanish war was fought for the liberation of Cuba and resulted in the same blessing to other Spanish colonies. Every war which this nation has fought has been fought in the cause of those principles for which we now contend, and has resulted in their extension until we are looked up to as their foremost champion.—Oregonian.

An Essay Contest

(Continued from page 1)

in school or at a parents meeting and the best essay in each of the three grades of contests sent to Mrs. G. L. Buland, 606 Maple St., Portland, Ore. by May 1.

If you desire reference material on these subjects you can get it from the State Library, Salem, Or. They are sending out, upon application, loan libraries to assist the schools in this essay contest.

The essays sent to Mrs. Buland will be examined by judges selected by State Superintendent Churchill, the State Board of Health and the Oregon W. C. T. U., by the latter of whom the prizes will be awarded.

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