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Dr. R. J. Vaughan and Henry Cohn made an extensive fishing trip into the interior over the week end.

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WHY WE ARE AT WAR WITH GERMANY

By
EPHRAIM DOUGLASS ADAMS
Executive Head, History Department
Leland Stanford Junior University

"The object of this war is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment controlled by an 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 and long-cherished principles of international action and honor. . . . This power is not the German people. It is the ruthless master of the German people. . . . It is our business to see to it that the history of the rest of the world is no longer left to its handling."
—President Wilson, August 27, 1917.

WE FIGHT FOR GOOD FAITH

"The faith of treaties is the only solid foundation on which a Temple of Peace can be built up." (James Bryce.) Good faith between nations, as between men, is the one and only safeguard from a return to barbarism. Without it brute force, sheer might, must rule. Without it there is no security in human relations—no security, even, for life itself. To keep one's word, when once given, that is the evidence of the progress of civilization, and the test of it.

Hence the case of Belgium becomes the single greatest German offense against civilization in this war. At first, in our American ignorance of world conditions, we did not see this. We do see it now; more and more we realize that until the crime against Belgium is atoned for, there can be no peace, and no hope of a world at peace.

What the facts? By treaties signed in 1815, and again in 1831, and still again in 1839, this last revision being in effect in 1914, it was agreed "Belgium shall form a perpetually neutral state. The five powers guarantee to it this perpetual neutrality as also the inviolability of its territory." These five powers were Austria, France, Great Britain, Russia and Prussia. By such treaties the neutral state was pledged to defend in arms the neutrality of its territory; and each of the great powers pledged itself not only not to march troops into or through the neutral state, but also to aid her, in case her territory were violated.

The world, thinking no nation so base as to break its word, was completely taken by surprise by the attack on Belgium. But we know now from German statements, that German military plans had for years intended to break this pledge. German rulers lied as to this consistently, and lied up to the last day. On the morning before the German troops advanced the German minister assured Belgium she need feel no alarm, and in the evening of that same day he delivered his ultimatum.

The world has never seen so complete a denial of the binding effect of the pledged word. Why has Germany so lost sight of the principle of honor among nations? Her own answer reveals the cause: it is again the plea of might. "The fate that Belgium has called down upon herself (note the hypocrisy of this) is hard, but not too hard. . . . for the destinies of the immortal great nations stand so high that they can not but have the right, in case of need, to stride over existences that can not defend themselves." (Professor Oncken.) When the British Minister at Berlin notified the German Chancellor that Great Britain was in honor bound to defend Belgium's neutrality, the latter argued that this was "Terrible," a war "just for a word—neutrality—just for a scrap of paper." The pitiful—yes, the terrible—significance of such utterances, is that Germans believe them justified.

"If I am asked what we are fighting for," said Prime Minister Asquith, "I can reply in two sentences. In the first place, to fulfill an obligation . . . not only of law, but of honor, which no self-respecting man could possibly have repudiated; secondly, to vindicate the principle . . . that small nationalities are not to be crushed, in defiance of international good faith."

America was not a direct guarantor like Great Britain, of the neutrality of Belgium, though in various conventions (of which Germany also was a signer) we pledged to the maintenance of the world principle of "good faith." But every nation was attacked when Germany broke faith. "The law protecting Belgium which was violated was our law and the law of every other civilized country. . . . It was our safeguard against the necessity of maintaining great armaments. Our interest in having it maintained as the law of nations was a substantial, valuable, permanent interest." (Ellihu Root.)

In the hope of an enduring peace, in the hope of an advancing civilization, we can not forget Belgium. In the hope for unmolested self-development, in the sense of our own security necessary to progress, we must not forget Belgium, until her wrongs are righted.

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

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It's for you to say whether this great work of mercy shall stop.

The Red Cross is yours, just as our Army and Navy are yours; yours to support with the same fervor and loyalty that leads you to the bottom of your purse for Liberty Bonds.

It's for your voice to say whether your Red Cross shall falter now or sweep onward, greater and more helpful than ever before.

And it's your dollars that must answer.

— THIS ADVERTISEMENT BY

PHILL COHN HEPPNER OREGON.