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### AXEL RAHM WRITES OF EUROPEAN WAR

Axel Rahm, son-in-law of Robert Rand, who with his wife is now residing at Helsinki, Sweden, his native land, but who for many years lived in Hood River, where he has many friends, writes the following letter concerning conditions in Europe at the present time, when conditions chaotic in nature are existing on account of the war.

Editor Glacier: Never before in the history of the world have such utterly chaotic conditions existed on the European or any other continent. When you look at a map of Europe and observe how closely the different nations, countries and races are packed together and consider how intimately connected they are by international communications, by financial relations, by postal service, by social intercourse, by mutual discoveries and scientific researches, by marriage and by everything that usually makes one nation what it is, you may be able to imagine what the situation is now, after hell broke loose—yes, I said hell!

It is no wonder that the Adventists in America, as newspaper dispatches from that country inform us, declare the end of the world is at hand. One would almost be tempted to turn Adventist, or believe as they do, so as not to be considered being behind the times in knowledge as to what might seem quite appropriate.

We have heard much about and perhaps felt a little proud over the old European civilization and culture, its learning and scientific achievements, its discoveries and inventions. Although the birth of Christianity is not accredited direct to Europe, yet there it was cradled, fostered and brought to maturity in all its different variations. There it is where Christian thought, Christian brotherhood and Christian influence have been inculcated, by fair means or foul, for nigh onto two thousand years. True, these facts have not served to maintain any particular good will among the different races and nations; rather the opposite, I should say. Still, it was in Europe the first movement towards eternal peace was started, by the proposal of the Car of Holy Russia to establish a permanent international court of arbitration, where all differences arising between the civilized nations could and should be settled. To this proposal most nations willingly consented—with the exception of Germany, who grudgingly agreed to be present at a preliminary conference. That country has ever since been more or less hostile to

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### HOOD RIVER GLACIER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1914

all movements furthering peace on earth and good will toward all mankind.

We all remember President Wilson's and Secretary Bryan's efforts in that direction a year or two ago. Germany flatly refused even to consider a treaty of arbitration. The Kaiser and his fire eating minions, who now so industriously endeavor to throw the blame onto the other fellow's shoulders for the state of things now existing, would not be bound by any agreement that might in any way hamper Germany's action in the future.

"In time of peace prepare for war." Does that hackneyed phrase sound familiar to you? We all have heard it often enough to know it by heart. Where or by whom it was originated I do not know, but that the military fanatics, the jingo element and the whole gun, cannon, and weapon industry in the world, especially the continent of Europe, applying the meaning of the phrase to the best advantage for themselves, that is notorious since the Krupp and military scandals in Germany last year.

The combination of the great powers in Europe, the triple alliance and the triple entente, were formed, we are told, for the purpose of preserving international "balance." How well these combined powers have preserved their purpose and the final grand result is evident. Instead of two warring nations trying to right a fancied wrong, we will soon, practically speaking, behold the most of "civilized" peoples in the world more or less mixed up in a horrible game of death and destruction. Yes, I said game, because it is a game, a most royal one, a sport incomparable, an entertaining frolic of imperial autocrats and their viceroyalty, who care as much for a human life as I care for a fly in swatting time.

Some of us have been made half believers in that preparation for war would prevent war, and if we occasionally have doubted this jingo axiom the doubt has instantly been quelled by the argument that our emaciated intellect could not fathom a wisdom intended for gods.

But there ever a greater fallacy propounded which has gained such wide repetition for containing an almost Solomonian wisdom in a few words: Never save the nation which is so well prepared for killing each other and never has such butchering been done as is now going on on the continent of Europe.

As long as there are autocratic and near autocratic rulers, as long as the great mass of their ineffectual subjects are made to believe that these rulers' power and glory and right to rule are conferred upon them by the grace of God, who in his infinite wisdom has endowed them and only them with the necessary qualifications for their high offices, so long will also war occur.

There are no limitations for the selfishness of a Hapsburg or a Hohenzollern. Any dynasty must be removed, any living being, or beings, that seriously dares to deny that these rulers are rulers by the grace of God, is treated as an infidel, a blasphemer.

### HOOD RIVER GLACIER, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1914

draw the Swedish sword, rusty with a hundred years of blessed peace, and stab the ugly bear somewhere, anywhere, but stab it their Shikobeth.

But no, the great William, and especially his war-crazed offspring, the crown prince, and his boon companions in arms, had no care for the cooings of the dove of peace. They were ready for the long looked for and long expected fray, for the preparation of which the 67 millions of German people have been taxed to death for the last 40 years.

The biggest and most forcible part of the great German war machine was rushed to the little weak Belgium, because over the ruins of that country lay the nearest way to Paris, and this atrocious crime was done in spite of the fact that Germany was one of the signatory powers who had guaranteed Belgium's neutrality. These facts can never be repeated too often, because they must never be forgotten.

Against Belgium and Czarism Germany directed only the smallest and weakest part of her army, not only enough to defend her eastern boundary. And now the ugly bear is pawing away great pieces both of the German and Austrian empires and the peoples of the east are again rolling their compact masses towards the west. How far this so called scourge of the world will go before stopped no one at the present can tell.

One of Berlin's most influential newspapers stated the other day that the final aim of Germany now was, first totally to crush France, next to incorporate Belgium in the empire as crown province, and then to proceed to the German federation; this done the knife would be drawn across the throat of England—and the imperial knife of Germany always cuts to the bone.

The North Sea is strewn with floating mines which German fishing steamers have sown broadcast. Only one small English cruiser has been destroyed by the agency of these mines and that happened on the second day after war was declared. Since that time considerable more than a score of neutral nations' cargo boats have been destroyed by these mines and many innocent lives lost.

At first the German newspapers officially denied the charge that Germany used methods that conflicted with international and "civilized" warfare, but since several of those German fishing vessels were caught red handed in their nefarious trade, no more denials or protests have been heard from that quarter. The English government has at a great expense endeavored to sweep the sea clear of these treacherous devices and merchantmen have since over 250 have been gathered in thus far. Most of the sunken boats were Scandinavians.

I haven't said anything about Austria, because that country follows Germany's lead whether it be for good or evil. Austria would never have dared to deliver that fatal ultimatum to Serbia without Germany's knowledge and consent. Both governments were fully cognizant of its effects and knew that the German Kaiser, though not officially called so, is an absolute autocrat in reality when the question of peace or war is decided.

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