

MILITARISM BLAMED FOR CONFLICT IN EUROPE.

Rev. A. S. Ebinger Makes Thoughtful Contribution to Correct Discussion.

Rev. Paul Ebinger, of this city, requests that the following article be published in the Tillamook Headlight which is contributed by his brother, Rev. S. A. Ebinger, pastor of the German Evangelische Friedenkirche of Birmingham on the European war:

"Almost all papers and almost everybody seems to be bent on saddling the responsibility of this war on the shoulders of Emperor William and Germany. It is ludicrous to note how all other nations lift up their hands in protest and how loudly they assert their innocence.

"The fact is, that all great and near great powers wanted this war, and that they all prepared for it during more than twenty years. The truth is that there has been in very one of the contending nations a strong war party filled with the spirit of militarism and that this war party has won out everywhere. Jaures of France is dead! Of him the current Opinion (August Number) says: 'Jaures never hides his theory that France could do better with Germany than she has ever done with Russia. He appeals perpetually to the socialists of England to promote a Franco-German pact in the interest of the universal disarmament for which he fights so hard, not only from his seat in the chamber, but with his pen in the Humanitarian. Only Poincare stood out for the militarist policy, and he was threatened with the loss of the presidency.' Read what Jaures wrote in the London Chronicle: 'This mad race of armaments is developing a revolutionary situation in France as in other parts of Europe.'

But Jaures is dead and the men of France are led on the battlefields of Europe as the sheep are led to the slaughter house.

"Alas, poor mothers of France!

"Does not England have a peace party? Indeed it has, but it has lost out to the war party. And the war party wanted this war and prepared for this war, and was ready for this war. I quote from the Birmingham News of August 10, page 7. There it says: 'The greatest fleet ever assembled in the world was mobilized at Spithead, England, two weeks before the outbreak of the European war.'

"Alas and the bloom of England's manhood is led to the battlefield of Europe as the sheep are led to the slaughter house!

"Alas poor mothers of England! Has Germany a peace party? Oh it has, and I claim seven-eighths of the common people belong to it, and if those brilliant articles in Collier's about Emperor William and the Morocco affair are true, even William belongs to it. Yet Germany has her war party as well as Russia and all the rest of the powers, and therefore the bloom of Germany's manhood is led to the battlefield as sheep are led to the slaughterhouse.

"Alas, poor bleeding mother hearts of Germany!

"And there are some men whose hearts are of stone, they even rejoice to read of the horrible carnage. I, as an American man, love to think of good Captain Philip and his famous words, 'Don't shoot, the poor devils die.'

"There are some men who make their reports as bloody and as brutal as possible, just for the sake of selling some extras, and there are some men who believe everything they see in print, even a story of how the Germans took out of a train 12 innocent children and shot them, and there are men whose hearts are set aflame reading such reports, so that they even rejoice when they hear that thousands of men are cut down in the flower of manhood. Is it necessary that we make all reports more horrible by false statements just to fill some hearts with hate?

"Let us think of the flood of blood, of the streams of tears, of the agonies of the wounded, let us sympathize with the poor mothers of France, of England, of Germany of Russia and Austria. Neither they nor their sons wished for war and let us swear that we shall not put our foot on this modern Moloch right here in America.

"By the way, only the Czar is an autocrat; all other crowned and uncrowned heads rule with the help of a Parliament, and thus neither, William nor George, neither Poincare nor Franz Josef can be personally held responsible for this war. Let us lay the fault of this war where it belongs—to the spirit of militarism, to the ambition and pride of those who ought to consider the welfare of the people and who never do it.

"We have this very spirit in our midst also, and we as wise men ought to learn in time that when the spirit of militarism emerges war will come and the people will have to foot the bill. One of our Sunday papers brought even now an article telling us that we ought to improve our navy to make it modern. What for? Why, to give the war party a chance to make war on somebody. Have we no war party? Was it the peace party that showed our fleet to all the nations on earth? Was it the voice of the peace party which contended that we ought to build at once more warships? Instead of loading the fault of having caused this war on the shoulders of a man who cannot do as he would choose, let us tramp on the spirit of militarism as long as we can do it, for where there is the gun, there is the shot and the calamity.

"Few people study history and political history, and few people have the talent to do this impartially and even if they have the talent, they lack the time, but the men who know are the men who look deeper and who speak, not rashly but impartially.

"My sympathies are not with the kings nor princes. My sympathies are and will forever be with the suffering people, with the men who must give their young life, with the mothers who have to sacrifice their sons, with the orphans who must bewail the death of their fathers—that mil-

tarism may get a new bloodstained laurel leaf.

"When, oh when, will the people wake up and assert themselves?"

HOW GERMANY AND ENGLAND BECAME INVOLVED.

Both Countries Were Parties to Belgium's Neutrality—Which German Violated.

Some interesting reading is found in what transpired in Berlin previous to the rupture between Germany and England. It plainly shows that Germany, with a good deal of premeditation, had decided to violate Belgium's neutrality, which England felt that both countries were in honor bound to respect, for they had both signed that agreement. As there appears to be some difference of opinion as to who is responsible for the war, the following will spread a small ray of light why Germany and England became involved:

London, Aug. 27.—The British Foreign Office issued in the form of a white paper tonight the report of Sir William Goehsen, the former Ambassador at Berlin, on the rupture of diplomatic relations with Germany.

The report is dated August 8, and says that in accordance with instructions of August 4 from Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador called on the German secretary, Gottlieb Von Jagow. He inquired whether Germany would refrain from violating Belgian neutrality.

"Her Von Jagow," the report continues, "at once replied that he was sorry to say that his answer must be 'no,' as the troops having crossed the frontier that morning, Belgian neutrality had been violated. Herr Von Jagow again went into the reasons why the Imperial government had been obliged to take this step, namely that they had to advance into France by the quickest and easiest way, so as to be able to get well ahead with their operations and endeavor to strike some decisive blow as early as possible.

"It was a matter of life or death for them, as if they had gone by the more southern route, they could not have hoped, in view of the paucity of roads and the strength of the fortress, to have gone through without formidable opposition, entailing great loss of time.

Neutrality Already Violated.

"The loss of time would mean time gained by the Russians for the bringing up of their troops to the German frontier. Rapidity of action was the great German asset, while that of Russia was the inexhaustible supply of troops.

"I pointed out to Herr Von Jagow that this violation of the Belgian frontier rendered, as he would readily understand, the situation exceedingly grave, and I asked him whether there still was not time to draw back and avoid possible consequences which both he and I would deplore.

"He replied that for reasons he had given me, it was now impossible for him to draw back.

German Answer Unchanged.

The British Ambassador went to the German Foreign Office again the same day and informed the secretary that unless the imperial government could give assurance by 12 o'clock that night they would proceed no further with the violation of the Belgian frontier and stop their advance he had been instructed to demand his passports and to inform the imperial government that his majesty's government would have to take all steps in its power to uphold neutral Belgium and the observance of the treaty to which Germany was as much a party as Great Britain.

"Her Von Jagow," says the report, "replied that to his great regret he could give no other answer than that which he had given me earlier in the day, namely, that the safety of the empire rendered it absolutely necessary that the imperial troops should advance through Belgium.

"I gave his excellency a written summary of your telegram, and pointed out that you had mentioned 12 o'clock as the time when his majesty's government would expect an answer, asked him whether, in view of the terrible consequences which would necessarily ensue, it was not possible even at the last moment that their answer should be reconsidered. He replied that if the time given were 24 hours or more his answer must be the same.

"I said that in that case, I should have to demand my passports.

"The interview took place about 7 p.m. In a short conversation which ensued he expressed his regret at the crumbling of his entire policy and that of the imperial chancellor, which had been to make friends with England, and then, through Great Britain, to get closer to France.

Imperial Chancellor Much Excited.

"I said that this sudden end to my work in Berlin was to me also a matter of deep regret and disappointment, but that he must understand that under the circumstances and in view of our engagement, His Majesty's government could not have acted otherwise than it had done."

The Ambassador then went to see the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollwig, and he found him much excited.

"The Chancellor," says the report, "began a harangue, which lasted about 20 minutes. He said the step taken by England was terrible to a degree. Just for a word, 'neutrality'—a word, which in war time had so often been disregarded; just for a scrap of paper England was going to make war on a kindred nation who desired nothing better than to be friends with her. All his efforts in that direction had been rendered useless by this last horrible step and the policy to which, as I knew, he had devoted himself since his accession to office, was tumbled down like a house of cards.

Britain Held Responsible.

"What we had done was unthinkable. It was like striking a man from

behind while he was fighting for his life against two assailants. He held Great Britain responsible for all the terrible events that might happen.

"I protested strongly against this statement and said that in the same way as he and Herr Von Jagow wished me to understand that for strategic reasons it was a matter of life or death to Germany to advance through Belgium and violate the latter's neutrality, so I would wish him to understand that it was, so to speak, a matter of life or death for the honor of Great Britain that she should keep her solemn engagement to do her utmost to defend Belgium's neutrality if attacked. A solemn compact simply had to be kept, or what confidence could any one have in engagements given by England in the future?

"The Chancellor said: 'But at what price will that compact have been kept? Has the British government thought of that?'

Tragedy of Nations Noted.

"I hinted as plainly as I could that consequences could hardly be regarded as an excuse for breaking a solemn engagement. But His Excellency was so excited, so evidently overcome by the news of our action, so little disposed to hear reason, that I refrained from adding fuel to the flame by further argument.

"As I was leaving he said that the blow of England's joining Germany's enemies was all the greater because almost up to the last moment he and his government had been working with us and supporting our efforts to maintain peace between Austria and Russia.

"I said that this was part of the tragedy which saw two nations fall apart just at the moment when the relations between them were more friendly and cordial than they had been for years. Unfortunately, notwithstanding our efforts to maintain peace between Russia and Austria, war has spread and brought us face to face with a situation which entailed our separation from our late fellow workers. He would readily understand that no one regretted this more than I."

Mob gathers Before Embassy.

The British Ambassador declares he handed a telegraph report of the conversation to the telegraph office in Berlin for transmission, but that it never reached the British Foreign Office.

Women and Children in War.

The horrors of modern war, armed with all the new inventions of the last half century, would seem to be less for combatants than noncombatants. Putting it more plainly, the new war enginery visits afflictions and miseries upon women and children which were not felt by them when men would repair to certain places and fight battles hand to hand. In still earlier days, before mankind had evolved far above the savage state, the capture of a town meant butchery of its inhabitants. Those earliest Normans, from whom so many of us are proud to claim decent, slaughtered the children and left none of the women alive save such as they reserved for a fate worse than death. But after man was involved to a higher stage of civilization in his war, far better represented, we think, in the "Chronicles of Old Froissart," they would clash at some point of action and fight it out there until one party took to flight, with the other pursuing. The noncombatants got off easily. In fact, that was the golden age of the noncombatant in war.

That the present age is far from being one in which women and children are left to go unscathed, a dispatch to the London Times describing fierce fighting between the Germans and French for possession of a chain of villages on the boarder of France and Luxemburg, is ample evidence. "One village was occupied by a battalion of chasseurs," the Times correspondent writes, "and was prepared for defence by numerous trenches. The Germans bombarded the village, compelling the chasseurs to evacuate it. After nightfall the Germans increased the bombardment, and the inhabitants sought refuge in cellars as a continuous rain of shells kept dropping on the houses and setting them on fire. Women fell on their knees and prayed and children cried piteously. The sun rose on a village in ruins. It had been under bombardment fifteen hours.

The Germans were not guilty of any violation of the laws of war. No doubt, the bombardment was done as a military necessity, or under an impression that the French troops had not yet evacuated the place. Wherefor it is at once made plainer that the modern enginery of war, wrecking such dire misfortunes and distress upon the week, has become a curse to mankind. If we can no longer fight without fighting women and children, why not stop fighting? This is a question certain to grow and persist in the minds of men all over the world, until there will be an agreement among them, of all civilized nations and tongues, either to stop fighting altogether or to outlaw much modern war enginery or so restrict its use under an entirely new war code that such suffering of the innocents as that at the little village of Badonvillier can never again be inflicted in civilized warfare. If our warfare has come to be more merciless than that of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, or even the thirteenth, then we may find it necessary

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