

BRITISH CHURCHMEN REPLY TO GERMANS.

England's Position in War One of Right and Justice, They Declare.

A document of great importance is published, signed by the archbishops of Canterbury, York and Armagh, the bishops of London and Winchester, the primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, the Bishop of Ossory, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, president of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference; Dr. F. C. Bucket of Cambridge, Rev. R. J. Campbell, Rev. John Clifford, Dr. W. T. Davidson, Dr. P. T. Forsyth, Mr. T. R. Gliver, of Cambridge, Dr. Evelyn R. Hasse, bishop of the Moravian Church, and a large number of the divines of the various churches.

This document is a reply to the appeal of German theologians, which obtained circulation in England and America, with reference to the war, addressed to "the Evangelical Christians abroad," and making special reference to the members of the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh. It was signed by men whose names carry weight throughout the world among those who think and teach and pray. The document states:

"It fills us with amazement that those who occupy the positions held by the signatories of the appeal should commit themselves to a statement of the political causes of the war, which parts so strangely from what seem to us to be the plain facts of this grave hour in European history. They offer in brief words some account of the events of recent years or months, but to the most silent of the facts out of which the war has arisen they make no reference at all.

Quotes the White Paper.
"It has not been a light thing for us to give our assent to the action of the government of our country in this matter, but the facts of the case as we know them have made it impossible for us to do otherwise.

"Of these facts we offer here a brief but a careful summary, derived from the official papers, the accuracy of which cannot be challenged. It is up on these facts that we rest our assured conviction that, for men who desire to maintain the paramount obligation of fidelity to plighted word, and the duty of defending weaker nations against violence and wrong, no possible course was open but that which our country has taken."

The document then proceeds to review the events which led up to the war, as fully set out in the White Papers, published by the government. The violation of the neutrality of Belgium and the obligation of Great Britain are set out in detail. The document proceeds:

"We can only suppose, incredible as it seems, that those honorable and gifted men who signed the German appeal were unaware of the obligations by which we were bound, and also the story of the negotiations. A violation of such promises on our part would have been an act of perfect perfidy.

Influence of Bernhardt.
"When you turn to the generalities which the document contains about German thought and policy and plans we seek in vain for any reference to the teaching of such writers as Treitschke and Bernhardt.

"Does it mean that those who have signed the German appeal regard those leaders and teachers as negligible, or that their own opposition to what those widely read books contain is so well known as to need no assertion? We can not tell, but the facts of the hour, as set forth in the summary, which we have given above, correspond so clearly with what is inculcated and driven home in those writings that we at least find it impossible to separate one from the other.

"Again, we cannot pass in silence statement of the manifesto that unnameable horrors have been committed against Germans living peaceable abroad. We do not know to what the signatories refer in this general statement, but we may be permitted to speak of what is within our personal knowledge. Peaceful and well disposed Germans in this country are being treated with all possible consideration and kindness, and the home secretary has taken them under his own protection.

Principles Dearer Than Peace.
"God knows what it means to us to be separated for a time by this great war from many with whom it has been our privilege—with whom we hope it will be our privilege again—to work for the setting forward of the Christian message among men. We unite whole-heartedly with our German brethren in deploring the disastrous consequences of the war, and, in particular, its effect in diverting the energies and resources of the Christian nations from the great constructive tasks to which they were providentially called on behalf of the peoples of Asia and Africa.
But there must be no mistake

about our own position. Eagerly desirous of peace, foremost to the best of our power in furthering it, keen especially to promote the close fellowship of Germany and England, we have nevertheless been driven to declare that, dear to us as peace is, the principles of truth and honor are yet more dear.

"To have acted otherwise than we have acted would have meant deliberate unfaithfulness to an engagement by which we had solemnly bound ourselves, and a refusal of our responsibilities and duties in regard to the maintenance of the public law of Europe. We have taken our stand for international good faith, for the safeguarding of smaller nationalities and for the upholding of the essential conditions of brotherhood among the nations of the world."

Wilson Proclaims Nov. 26 as Day of Thanksgiving.

Washington Oct. 28.—President Wilson today issued a proclamation designating Thursday, November 26, as Thanksgiving day. The proclamation, which refers to the fact that the United States is at peace while the rest of the world is at war, follows:

By the president of the United States of America.

A proclamation:
It has long been the honored custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for his many blessings and mercies to us as a nation. The year that is now drawing to a close since we last observed our day of national thanksgiving has been, while a year of discipline because of the mighty forces of war and of change which has disturbed the world, also a year of special blessing for us.

It has been vouchsafed to us to remain at peace, with honor, and in some part, to succor the suffering and supply the needs of those who are in want. We have been privileged by our own peace and self-control in some degree, to steady the councils and to shape the hopes and purposes of a day of fear and distress.

Our people have looked upon their own life as a nation with a deeper comprehension, a fuller realization of their responsibilities as well as their blessings and a keener sense of the moral and practical significance of what their part of the nations of the world may come to be.

The hurtful effects of foreign war in their own industrial and commercial affairs have made them feel the more fully and see the more clearly their independence upon one another and has stirred them to a helpful co-operation such they have seldom practiced before.

They have been quickened by a great moral stimulation. Their unmistakable ardor for peace, their earnest pity and disinterested sympathy for those who are suffering, their readiness to help and to think of the needs of others, has revealed them to themselves as well as to the world.

Our crops will feed all who need food; the self possession of our people, amidst the most serious anxieties and difficulties and the steadiness and resourcefulness of our business men will serve other nations as well as our own.

The business of the country has been supplied with instrumentalities, and the commerce of the world with new channels of trade and intercourse. The Panama Canal has been opened to the commerce of the nations. The two continents of America have been bound in closer ties of friendship. New instrumentalities of international trade have been created, which will be also new instrumentalities of acquaintance, intercourse and mutual service. Never before have the people of the United States been so situated for their own advantage or the advantage of their neighbors or so equipped to serve themselves and mankind.

Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do designate Thursday, the 26th of November next, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, and invite the people throughout the land to cease from their wonted occupations and in their several homes and places of worship, render thanks to Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this 28th day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen and of the independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty-ninth.

(signed) Woodrow Wilson.
By the president, Robert Lansing, Acting Secretary of State.

It is not improbable that the peace-loving citizens of Warsaw will unite in a petition to have the name of their town changed to something less suggestive.

Killing off the Fit.

By far the most dreadful consequence of war is its destruction of the very flower of a nation, the young men who fight its battles. These are, as a rule, striplings from 18 to 25 years of age, the pick of its manhood chosen because they are physically perfect, free from the defects of heart lungs, eye and teeth, and thus able to sustain the fatigues of march and conflict. When these young men, the prospective fathers of the succeeding generation, are killed off by the hundreds of thousands, as is now being done, leaving a feeble stock to carry on the torch of life, the effect can not but be disastrous in lowering the vitality, both physical and mental, of a nation. In the wars which began with the French revolution and were continued by Napoleon Bonaparte, covering nearly a quarter of a century, it is estimated that not less than 6,000,000 French soldiers perished—a fearful loss, from which that country has never recovered. If the present war is long continued it is inevitable that the dreadful massacre of young men will have a strong adverse influence on the future of Germany, France and England especially.

It is the contention of Dr. David Starr Jordan, the peace advocate, who has given much study to this question, that in modern war the fatality among officers is especially heavy and that this tells with double effect upon the future, for it is from this class, young men of superior mental and physical attainments, that the leaders of the succeeding years would naturally come. Our own civil war, in which the youth of the South particularly suffered so terribly, is cited as an illustration of this theory. Certain it is that in the last half century the political leaders of the South have ranked decidedly below its statesmen of ante-bellum days.

England has been a great sufferer in this way. The very best of her young men have been sacrificed in endless wars, large and small in every part of the world. The Boer war exacted as traffic toll in this way, and already the present struggle must have counted hundreds of her very bravest and brightest young officers among its victims. Of this phase of war Dr. Jordan says:

"Everywhere in England can be seen tablets in memory of young men gentlemen's sons and scholars, who gave their lives in some far off petty war. Their bodies rest in Zululand, in Cambodia, in the Gold cost, in the Transvaal. In England only they are remembered. In the cathedrals they are recorded by the thousand—Canterbury, Winchester, Chichester, Exeter, Salisbury, Wells, Ely, York, Lincoln, Durham, Litchfield, Chester—always the same sad story, the same array of memorials to young men. What would be the effect on England if all of these 'unreturning brave', and all that should have been their descendants could be numbered among her sons today?"

Some day this fearful injustice to the world will be recognized as one of the most powerful arguments against war. The material losses can be made up, but when a nation's bravest and best, who would be its prospective leaders in later years, are killed off by the thousands there can be no recompenses for the loss.

Call for Bids.

Bids will be received at the office of the undersigned for the clearing in whole or in part of nine acres of land at Sea View, adjoining Rockaway, Oregon, up to November 10th, 1914. Stumps, logs and brush to be fully removed and holes filled up. For further particulars see,

H. T. Botts,
Tillamook Oregon.

The Indiana Board of Pardons a few days ago considered forty-five applications for pardons and parols, but granted only seven parols. The recent tendency is to grant parols rather than pardons, the usual practice being to reserve pardons for clear cases of miscarriage of justice. But the Indiana board is setting a new mark for scrutiny of applications for parols. The parol system, when wisely administered, is approved by humane people. Its purpose is to hold out inducements for the reform of persons convicted of crimes. But there is danger of granting parols too freely. The antecedents of a convict should be investigated thoroughly. Many serious crimes have been committed in various parts of the country within the last year by paroled convicts and in some instances it was found that the offenders had long been habitual criminals. One of the most striking illustrations is the case of the paroled convict who was recently executed in Illinois for a peculiarly heinous murder. It was learned after his last crime that he had made a business of murder and other felonies since boyhood. Lack of care in granting parols in a few cases may cause a popular revulsion against the whole system.

Sunday Law Void.

Eugene Oregon, October 27.—The Oregon Sunday closing law, section 2125 Lord's Oregon Laws, was today declared class legislation and unconstitutional by Judge R. G. Morrow, of Portland, sitting in the Lane Circuit Court. The decision is the result of a test case brought following the closing on Sunday of cigar stores, fruit shops and confectionary stores in Eugene by the District Attorney several weeks ago.

The effect of the decision is to leave Eugene wide open for any class of business on Sunday, except pool-rooms and theaters, which are closed by city ordinance. The District Attorney said tonight that he will not carry the case to the Supreme Court. The decree of Judge Morrow held that the law not only contravened section 20, article 1, of the state constitution, but violated the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

"The law is unconstitutional on more grounds than claimed by the defendant," declared Judge Morrow in returning his decision. "If a young man is not allowed to take his lady friend to get some ice cream on Sunday afternoon she is deprived of that constitutional right of granting life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."

He emphasized the "pursuit of happiness" and continued:
"I've been waiting five years to get a whack at that law, and I'm glad that I've had the opportunity."

What Becomes of the Money.

What can be done by a resourceful juggler with statistics was illustrated by a former Governor of Kansas in a recent article in a weekly periodical on the railroad question. He showed that the annual receipts of the railways of the United States amounted to \$3,000,000,000, making an average expenditure of \$150 for each of the 20,000,000 families of the country. Figuring the average income per family at \$600, he asserted that the average expenditure for railway transportation is one-fourth of this income. Logan McPherson, writing for the New York Evening Post, adduces some other illustrations to show that there must be some sophistry concealed in the ex-governor's argument. He shows, for example, that the farmers of the United States collect \$157-43 per family; that the owners of mines and quarries collect \$46.09 per family; that the manufacturers collect \$409.11 and the insurance companies \$37.46. By adding other items he shows that the average family spends \$987.09, or some \$387.09 in excess of its income.

The fundamental error is in looking upon the railways as parasitic concerns, that live like leeches on the blood of the public. One of the best ways to detect this error is to find out what the railways do with the \$3,000,000,000 a year they collect for transportation. Two-thirds of it is expended for labor, and gets back into the channels of trade. The taxes amount to \$130,000,000 a year. Their interest on their funded debt amounts to \$400,000,000 a year. The annual dividends paid to the myriad stockholders amount to \$300,000,000. Using the Kansas system of illustrating, Mr. McPherson shows that this latter item amounts to 4 cents a day per family, or four fifths of a cent a day per person. Some of this money goes to Europe, but most of it remains in the United States. A large percentage of it belongs to life insurance companies and the security of policies rests upon it.

But the great value of the railways to America is the incomparable service. We have grown so accustomed to it that we can hardly conceive what its permanent impairment would mean. It is only by concrete illustrations that we can realize how cheap transportation is. President Bush in his recent address to the Missouri editors, called attention to the fact that his road hauled a ton of coal fifty miles for a 2-cent postage stamp. It is the aggregate of such small units which makes the imagination staggering \$3,000,000,000 total. The paralysis of the railways would disastrously affect every man, woman and child in the United States, so interwoven is the interest of every industry with the transportation problem. It is the recognition of this fact that has brought sober men to realize that the railroad question is no longer a matter of justice or liberality to ward railway investors alone, but one of the most vital concern to the public itself.

When the German troops are not repulsing the allies the allies are checking the Germans. And thus the war goes merrily on.

With nearly 8,000,000 soldiers engaged in the European war the problem of feeding them becomes a serious one, and rations are already being reduced to the minimum. The actual necessities of the several armies may eventually bring the war to a sudden close.

Ex-Governor Francis once said: "Each year the local paper gives from \$500 to \$1,000 in free lines to the community in which it is located. No other agency can or will do this. The editor, in proportion to his means, does more for his town than any other ten men, and in all fairness he ought to be supported—not because you like him or admire his writings, but because the local paper is the best investment a community can make. It may not be brilliantly edited or crowded with thought, but financially it is of more benefit to the community than the preacher or teacher. Understand me, I do not mean mentally, and yet on moral questions you will find most of the papers on the right side. Today the editors of the local papers do the most for the least money of any people on earth."

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