

GERMANY PUTS BLAME ON FOE.

Sinking of Lusitania Declared Justified.

Berlin, May 30.—Germany, in its reply to the United States, flatly declares the sinking of the Lusitania to have been justified on the grounds of self-defense. The Lusitania, it contends, carried ammunition to be used in killing German soldiers. It is also contended that the Lusitania was an auxiliary cruiser of the British navy, that she was armed and that she carried Canadian troops, as well as war material.

No indication of desire or intention of abating the submarine plan of warfare is given in the German reply. The note, however, is not framed as a direct answer to the American demands, but is rather an ad interim reply, setting forth that certain facts are first to be decided on before the main issues are discussed by the two governments.

Spring of Neutrals Intended. The Berlin government takes up first the case of the Gulfight and the Cushing. It says these are now being investigated, but that it is not Germany's intention to submit neutral ships on the high seas, guilty of no hostile acts to attacks. When neutrals through no fault of their own are damaged Germany will pay indemnification, she says.

The case of the Falaba is also mentioned, and in this instance it is declared that the captain of the ship is himself to blame because of his effort to escape and to summon aid.

Destruction of Lusitania Upheld. The declaration that the Lusitania had cannon aboard and was an auxiliary cruiser of the British navy is made strongly. All blame for the destruction of the vessel is placed on the British owners, who are accused of attempting "deliberately to use the lives of American citizens as protection for the ammunition aboard and acted against the clear provisions of the American law, which expressly prohibits the forwarding of passengers on ships carrying ammunition and provides a penalty therefor."

The reply says it deems these circumstances "important enough to recommend them to the attentive examination of the American Government."

Early Proposals Recalled. The reply says that final decision on the demands of the United States is withheld until receipt of an answer to the preliminary note, but it reminds the United States that it "took cognizance with satisfaction" of the mediatory proposals submitted by the United States to Berlin and London as a basis for a modus vivendi for maritime warfare.

The realization of these proposals, says the reply, "was defeated, as is well known, by the declinatory attitude of the British government."

Notice to School District Boards. The attention of the school board is called to some laws that were enacted at the last State Legislature that are now in force and should be observed. Chapter 217, Sec. 1 and 2, Session laws, 1915, in substance, requires that a budget be formed by the board, a copy sent to the Superintendent and a copy posted on the door of the school house at least ten days before a meeting is called for an election for the purpose of voting a tax upon the property of the district. The budget should be itemized so as to show the amount of funds that will be required to meet the demands of the district for the several different items of expense.

If there is a paper published in the district the budget must be printed in the paper for at least two weeks before the time set for the meeting. If no newspaper is published in the district then the above stated notice is to be placed on the door in all that is required.

Districts maintaining high school grades must publish notices of all annual and all special school meetings, together with the budget if a tax levy is to be made.

We suggest that the levying of taxes be postponed until about November 1, when the County Assessor shall be able to furnish the districts with valuations for bases for tax purposes for the coming year. However should a district be disposed to avoid a second meeting, your attention is called to a feature which prevents the voting or the recording of a levy for more than 6 per cent above what it was at the last election of the last levy.

Ed Howe's monthly is now printed on pink paper, and still it doesn't look at all wicked.

Cleveland is to have the largest horticultural exhibition ever given in the United States, it is said, although we have always thought Texas gave that every year spread over the entire state.

How to Crank an Automobile is Told In Terse Language.

As the season is now approaching when the honk, honk of the motor horn will be heard in the land, it is, perhaps, not amiss for us to publish a few suggestions for motorists on how to start an engine. Here they are:

- 1. Crank the engine.
2. Remove the spark-plug, empty carbureter—and crank the engine.
3. Sandpaper the fly wheel, fill the radiator—and crank the engine.
4. Kick the pup and plow cigarette smoke into the exhaust pipe—and crank the engine.
5. Test the batteries, smash something inexpensive, empty the gasoline tank—and crank the engine.
6. Repeat a verse from the Koran, recite "A man's a man for a' that," tie a wet towel around the cylinders, take off the oil cups—and crank the engine.
7. Take the motor entirely apart, put it together again with your fingers crossed, drop a quarter in the tank—and crank the engine.
8. Crank the engine suddenly without doing anything else. This often surprises it into running.
9. Turn your coat inside out, oil the cylinders, throw away the gas-wheel and crank the engine.
10. Repeat the names of the prophets in Arabic, put a gumdrop in the cylinder, spit tobacco juice all over the front tires, roll up your sleeves, connect the batteries with your watch, take off your necktie, yell "Hell" into the gasoline tank—and crank the engine.

There isn't the least sense in any of these rules, yet each one has started an engine in its time.

The Editor.

Consider the editor. He weareth purple and fine linen. His abode is amongst the mansions of the rich. His wife hath her limousine and his first born sporteth a racing car that can hit her up at forty flat.

Lo! All the people breaketh their necks to hand him money. A child is born unto the wife of a merchant in the bazaar. The physician getteth ten golden plunks. The editor writeth a stick and a half and telleth the multitude that the child tippeth the beam at nine pounds. Yea, he liveth even on a centurion. And the proud father giveth him a cremo.

Behold, the young one groweth up and graduateth. And the editor putteth into his paper a swell notice. Yea, a peach of a notice. He telleth the wisdom of the young woman and of her exceeding comeliness. Like unto the roses of Sharon is she and her gown is played up to beat the band. And the dressmaker getteth two score and four iron men. And the editor getteth a note of thanks from the S. G. G.

The daughter goeth a journey. And the editor throweth himself on the story of the farewell party. It runneth a column solid. And the fair one remembereth him from afar with a picture postal card that costeth six for a jiny.

Behold, she returneth and the youth of the city fall down and worship. She picketh one and Lo, she picketh a lemon. But the editor calleth him one of our most promising young men and getteth away with it. And they send unto him a bid to the wedding feast and behold, the bids are fashioned by Muntgomery Hawkbuck, in a fairy city.

Flowery and long is the wedding notice which the editor printeth. The minister getteth ten bones. The groom standeth the editor off for a twelve month subscription.

All flesh is grass and at last the wife is gathered into the silo. The minister getteth his bit. The editor printeth a death notice, two columns of obituary, three lodge notices, a cubit of poetry and a card of thanks. And he forgetteth to read proof on the head, and the darned thing cometh out, "Gone to Her Last Roasting Place."

And all that are akin to the deceased jumpeth on the editor with exceeding great jumps. And they pulleth out their ads and cancellleth their subscriptions and swing the hammar unto third and fourth generations.

Oregon Outdoors.

"Oregon Outdoors" is a very attractive 48 page folder just issued by the Southern Pacific. This folder is a very decided departure in its construction from the ordinary travel literature. The cover consists of an attractive outing design in striking colors. The inside front cover bears a beautiful engraving of Portland, with Mt. Hood in the distance, and a reproduction of a Caroline Testor rose in natural colors in the foreground.

The book throughout is attractively decorated with roses and contains many beautiful half-tones of scenery in Western Oregon. One very decided departure in this booklet is the presentation of photographs of live wild animals in their native lair. One of these pictures is a family of bears treed; another is a full grown cougar. In the center of the book is a large panoramic view of the Greater Lake, which gives a very comprehensive idea of the area of this wonderful attraction. Editor Putnam of the Medford Mail Tribune and Judge Kelly of Medford have been caught in the act of angling in the turbulent Rogue River, which makes a very striking and attractive picture for a booklet of this character.

Another decided departure is a section devoted to mountain climbing. Some unique pictures are shown of the Mazamas in the higher altitudes.

The book is brim full of life and action and should do much to attract tourists, sportsmen and lovers of outdoors to our beautiful summer playgrounds.

Echos of the Street.

Motor cycles in the arena may not have shown all that can be done with them. While the sight—and sound—of a bunch of them on a well made piece of country turnpike may suggest a group of daring young men riding galling guns at breakneck velocity, firing backward two shots a second, that isn't all there is in a motor cycle or in the fearlist cyclist.

When may we expect them to stride bareback two of these rackety machines at once, or perform acrobatics in full career; jump through a fiery hoop or tur nsammcrsaults? We are prepared for anything. Those easy, teetery things that circus athletes do under canvass are already tame compared with the wild violence of an accomplished motorcyclist, who goes by like a projectile, so that he is merely a streak in the atmosphere, unrecognizable and unrecognizing.

Where are you going this summer? Don't know, but it seems as if it would be discretion to go where the steam heat can be turned on at a moment's notice.

A free state fair in Kansas may merely precede free grand opera; and then we should certainly find out exactly how much people care for grand opera.

John D. pays an income tax on a total fortune of \$900,000,000. Uncle John seems to have given up all hope of keeping up with Uncle Andy in not dying disgraced.

A carrot does business entirely on its color—the same way a ben davis does.

It is disseminated that the Palm Beach suit is new generally worn except of Palm Beach.

Baptized and received into close communion in the Entente—Italy.

Harvest hands by the thousands are wanted in Oklahoma, whence they will be passed on to Kansas, then to South and North Dakota; two months work. Better harvest handling than panhandling.

Billy Sunday may undertake Chicago, but New York, apparently, is to be left until there is nothing else to do.

It is traditional for the doctor to look at the patient's tongue—that means fever or no fever; but there are 287 kinds of fever.

Not as ready to perceive what the populace like was Philadelphia when she started her band concerts, and now the young folks in attendance dance all over the adjacent sidewalks and in the streets when the band starts up; whereas St. Louis is to provide dancing platforms of hardwood and polished surface.

It was a condition and not a theory that at once confronted Philadelphia, and a copper who knows all about dancing has been stationed near each band while it is in operation to see that exuberant dancers behave with due decorum and don't undertake the can can or other uncouth figures so much admired of late.

"I'm against all this Argentine stuff and bunny hug business," says one of the new preceptors of the public dance "but they can do anything else just so long as they keep moving."

It isn't the new sheet music that fills the display window that always fills the trump of fame.

Even the doctors will turn. One of them tells us that if he put current numbers of the magazines on his waiting room table they would be carried off.

Stone walls do not a prison make, nor three lines, sixteen words a paragraph, though, typographically, it leaves nothing to be desired.

Japan has promised the open door in China, but she has got a new lock and key for it in case of emergency.

It's a confounding problem; if they admit that Harry Thaw is sane, they admit the mistake they made in not sending him the way the law provides for murderers.

We now hesitate in charging sun spot with causing drought.

Magazines may have deteriorated as to their contributors, but look at the entertainment you can now get out of their "blurbs."

There are classes and classes in this otherwise democratic country. Some families have as many as six automobiles.

Imaginary dialogues: "What makes these spring chickens so tough?"

"They were hatched in an incubator. They had to be tough in order to hatch at all."

A cotton mill by main strength, Memphis is determined on. Its Business Men's Club is raising \$500,000 to build one.

Troubles never come singly. At Houston, Tex., numbers are required on the automobiles, both at the front and at the back.

It has been raining at Flagstaff and other Arizona points for a month. Some years there isn't water enough even to moisten the rivers of the Southwest.

Apropos of Nothing in Particular.

Clothes do not make the man, but they are the perfect indicator of him. Real affection requires a few fables in its object for spice.

Worry is an affliction, but it never accompanies shiftlessness. What are you going to do if you simply can't enjoy a moving picture show? Take a nap, of course. The surroundings are dark and quiet.

"I am glad I can't afford to travel very much," remarked Elizabeth, Theresa the little schoolmarm, already have eleven picture postcard albums all filled. Spare the rod and spoil the fish.

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