

# True Patriots Will Not Do Anything to Embarrass Their Government or Wantonly Take Risks That May Bring on War.

From The New York American, February 10, 1917.

The neutral nations which declined to join the United States in severing relations with Germany did so because they believed that such an act would not be neutral.

There is a division of opinion, and Sweden, Holland, Chile and Argentina are as much incensed over the British blockade and restrictions upon neutrals as they are over the German submarine blockade and restrictions upon neutrals.

The American has pointed out, time after time, that the solid basis of a League of Neutrals must be firm opposition to ALL aggressions of ALL belligerents.

A league that would NOT USE FORCE to stop the depredations of one belligerent while it WOULD USE FORCE to stop the depredations of the other would not be a neutral league. It would be a partisan league.

Now partisanship does not and cannot make for peace.

It makes only for more war. Partisanship cannot conciliate. It can only excite more anger.

The British blockade of Germany, Austria and neutral Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway is as lawless as the German blockade of England, France and Italy.

Evidently the injured neutrals will not join a league to resist the German restraints upon neutral commerce and not to resist the British restraints upon neutral commerce.

A neutral like Sweden, which suffers almost entirely from the unlawful blockade of its commerce by England, would never join such a league as that.

But we do not in the least doubt that ALL neutrals would join a league to enforce neutral rights **EQUALLY** against the allies and the Teutons. Because that would be a fair programme, a NEUTRAL programme and a programme that would benefit ALL NEUTRALS ALIKE.

We have all the time felt that such should have been our own course.

We have never been able to

see why the unlawful aggressions of England upon our commerce should not be resisted with the same force and determination that German aggressions have been resisted.

Nor can we yet see how such a policy is exactly neutral. For example, our jingoes assert that it is a deadly blow at our honor and rights when our ships and our citizens on foreign ships are hindered from voyaging to England.

Yet for two years past not a single American ship has been permitted to voyage to Germany or to Austria, both of which are larger and more populous countries than England, and both of which have long been heavy customers of ours and always at peace with us.

Under the LAW OF NATIONS and the EXPRESS, WRITTEN, RATIFIED agreements of PARIS, THE HAGUE and LONDON, American neutral ships have the right to voyage unmolested to Germany or to Austria with cargoes of food for civilian use and with cargoes of rubber, wool, cotton, textile goods and other articles that all the nations agreed at The Hague to declare INVIOLABLY NON-CONTRABAND.

That ought to deprive of the halo of patriotism those warmongering editors, theorists and college professors of whom Congressman Moore spoke; and we may add the warmongers in the pulpit, who so eagerly have tried to create an unholy war. They spoke of "peace without honor" in order to drive us into "war without honor".

If American ships paid the same heed to the German blockade that they have paid to the British blockade there would be no American ships sunk and no American citizens drowned by the Germans.

Now, from the standpoint of plain, hard-headed common sense, we are unable to see why it is patriotic and honorable for American ships to abandon the lucrative trade with Germany and Austria for fear of destruc-

desperate push on the western front and one more co-ordinate offensive on the Russian, Italian and Macedonian fronts, and when the frightful deathgrapple is over, there will be peace negotiation.

In the meantime Germany will strive to strangle England in the anaconda folds of her submarine blockade, while the German armies strive to hold their wall of steel against the allied assaults.

We say this with accurate and authoritative assurance of truth.

No armed interference of ours WILL NOW BE HEDED. Neither will any armed interference of ours AFFECT IN ANY WAY AT ALL THE RESULT, except to strengthen Germany's submarine warfare

by extending its field of operations from a narrow zone of twenty miles TO THE WHOLE VAST SURFACE OF THE SEAS.

Now we advocate neither submission to dishonor nor any regard for peace or fear of the consequences of war, if either of the warring nations inflicts unforgivable injuries upon us.

But we do say that it is a public and private duty of all Americans to use reasonable prudence in avoiding danger zones into which they voyage only at the risk of their lives and the risk of plunging their country into all the horrors of war.

Such prudence is the highest patriotism, and every sensible American man and woman who reads this will say so.

## THERE IS ONLY ONE SURE WAY FOR CONGRESS TO CURB DANGER.

There has not often been uttered in Congress a more necessary admonition than that which Senator Stone of Missouri, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and a man very near to the President has issued yesterday from the floor of the Senate chamber.

There is neither any standard of honor nor patriotism nor self-interest which does not apply with exactly equal force to THE INTERRUPTION OF AMERICAN COMMERCE WITH GERMANY BY THE BRITISH and to THE INTERRUPTION OF AMERICAN COMMERCE WITH ENGLAND BY THE GERMANS.

The argument is made, of course, that the Germans sink American ships and drown American citizens that try to run their blockade, while the British have not done so.

But the common sense answer, and the sufficient answer, is that the British have fired on no American ship and injured no American citizen because no American ship has ever armed itself and tried to run the British blockade.

If American ships paid the same heed to the German blockade that they have paid to the British blockade there would be no American ships sunk and no American citizens drowned by the Germans.

The German submarine blockade is illegal, and the British cruiser blockade is also illegal. The British Order in Council that no American ship can voyage to Norway, Sweden, Denmark or Holland without first calling at an English port and being searched, and that the United States can only ship just the amount of goods prescribed by the British Admiralty to such neutral nations, is letter for letter a copy of the British Order in Council OVER WHICH WE WENT TO WAR WITH ENGLAND IN 1812.

That blockade and those orders were illegal then and are illegal now, but while our fathers fought such insolence with arms—and won their fight—we submit tamely.

If we were to act with scrupulous fairness, we would EITHER LAY AN EMBARGO OR DECLARE WAR AGAINST BOTH GERMANY AND ENGLAND for identically illegal trespasses upon our rights on the free seas, or else we would put up with both until they had ceased fighting and then carry our case against both to an international tribunal, as we did against England in the matter of the Alabama.

The President is a historian, as well as a statesman, and he doubtless recognizes the force of these truths and would be more than delighted if American shipowners and American citizens would keep themselves out of danger of destruction and their country out of danger of war by staying away from the danger zones of the German blockade, exactly as they have stayed away from the danger zones of the British blockade for more than two years.

The European war will end in a few months.

The representatives of the allied governments, who met a few weeks ago in Rome, know that we speak the truth when we say that it was then and there agreed that this Spring and Summer campaign should be the last, result as it might; that it was only upon this agreement that two of the allied governments were persuaded to go through another campaign.

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## Dr. Butler "glaubt".

"Freiheit, die ich meine" und Freiheit in Columbia. Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler ist seit fünfzehn Jahren Präsident der Columbia Universität. Shakespeare sagt in seinem Kaufmann von Venetien: "Gott schuf ihn, also lohnt ihn für einen Menschen gelten." Die Trustees haben diesen Butler gewählt, also lohnt ihn als Präsidenten gelten. Er ist es und da er es gern bleiben möchte, bemüht er sich eifrig den Trustees zu Gefallen zu sein; die Trustees von Columbia sind pro-britisch, folglich ist Butler pro-britisch, und die Butlers sind immer weit extremer in ihren möglichst laut beteuerten Neigungen als die Herrschaft, damit die ja von der Treue des Bedienten überzeugt sei.

Dr. Butler ist Präsident der Columbia Universität, weil er dazu erwählt wurde; Columbia ist die größte Universität dieses Landes, an ihrer Spitze müßte der gräßige Pädagoge des Landes stehen. Das ist Dr. Butler nicht, obwohl er sich dafür halten mag. Er steht nicht auf der Stufe mit Männern wie Holden-Hale, Schuman-Cornell, Judson-Chicago, Wilbur-Leigh Stamford, Gibbons-Princeton, Lowell-Harvard, und seine Universität genießt nicht das Ansehen, dessen sich die andern rühmen können. Columbia ist die größte Universität des Landes, nicht die bedeutendste; ihre Größe ist nur eine Frage der Zahl.

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Dr. Butler hat seine Mitteilungen bei dem Efeler der Hansestämmer in Pittsburgh gemacht. Wir haben das Recht nicht gesehen, aber Pennsylvania ist kein Prohibitionstaat und die Bankette in der Stadt der Munitionsminister zeichnen sich durch große Reichhaltigkeit aus. . . man darf nicht zu streng ins Gericht gehen.

Dr. Butler ist kein bedeutender Pädagoge, dazu fehlt ihm die Großzügigkeit, die Höhe der Bildung und die Größe des Verstandes, die Gedankenfreiheit und Wahrheitsliebe über persönliche Vorteile stellt. Vor wenigen Tagen sprach Dr. Butler zu den Studenten, sprach mit dem momentan beliebten Zingelius, der sich fälschlich als Patriotismus aufspielt und Krieg predigt, wo Friedensworte allein Zeichen der wahren Vaterlandsliebe sind. Den Kriegshelden bleibt heute billiger Ruhm, es gehört mehr Mut dazu, den Frieden zu verteidigen. Dr. Butler versteht sich in seinem Efeler und seiner fanatischen Altersgenossen zu dem Wort: "Es ist unsere Pflicht als Amerikaner, für poor little Belgium zu kämpfen!" Ein Student hatte den Mut zu rufen: "Und wie ist das mit poor little Greece? . . . Columbianische Gedankenfreiheit — die von einem Butler verdeckte Gedankenfreiheit: der Student wurde prompt hinausgeföhrt.

Gedankenfreiheit, Gedankenfreiheit unserer lieben Butler: Graf Ilja Tolstoi, der Sohn des berühmten Leo Tolstoi, durfte im Internationalen Club der Columbia Universität nicht sprechen... weil Dr. Butler und Prof. Prince es verboten haben: sie teilen Tolstois Ansichten nicht. Kann ein Tolstoi dafür, daß Butler und Prince so beschränkt sind?

Und ein Butler ist Präsident von Columbia, die unter einem bedeutenden Mann auch die bedeutendste Universität des Landes sein könnte.

— Unter Feuerwehrmannen in den Feuerwehrmannen aus B.: "Mein Lieber — wir hab' die Feuerwehr! Kaum brennt's, ist der Brand wieder glöscht."

Feuerwehrmann aus A.: "Die bessere Feuerwehr han wir, bei uns da brennt's überhaupt net!"

— In der Zeitungspedition. — Alle Jungfer: "Die feine Heimatsgefühl haben Sie, falls nicht Widerfuhr erfolgt, in achtzigigen Zwischenpausen jedesmal aufzunehmen — die Mittag ist jedesmal um fünf Laufende zu erhöhen!"

— Der als Schmuggler bekannte David Seger von Bolzens (Vichtenstein), verunglückte bei Elberg bei einer Schnüffelsohrt über den Rhein und ertrank. Seine Sondel wurde von der schweizerischen Grenzwache aufgefunden.

— Kinder und Mutter: "Aber Bubi, du hast mir doch versprochen, daß du deinen Apfel noch dem Abendbrot essen wirst, und jetzt sehe ich..."

Bubi: "Aber Mutter, es ist doch Eises Apfel: meinen habe ich ja noch hier in der Tasche!"

— Major Oberst (zu einem Soldaten, der eine Kiste Rum auf dem Rücken trägt): "Was hast Du denn den Rum her, Kerl, wohl geholt?"

Zu Befehl: "Herr Oberst haben doch selbst gesagt, wir wollen ruhmvoll wieder zurückkommen."

— Gemüliche Erklärungen Reitern (König): "Das ist allerdings der Schirm, den ich vor der Wogen bei Ihnen fliegen ließ... wie sieht der aber jetzt aus?"

Wirt (Leinwand): "Ja, was es aber auch in den vier Wochen immer für Besser war!"

Cecil Rhodes said "the British flag is an asset". They seem to have annexed the American flag, the stars and stripes, as a British asset too. We notice the ammunition papers, exhorting the people: "If you have a flag, display it, if you have none, buy one."

The flag of America should never be an asset of England, America's most insidious enemy.

It is too proud a flag, to wave for anything but America.