

# Neutrality And Public Opinion.

Address by Hon. CHARLES NAGEL, former Secretary of Commerce and Labor under the Administration of Pres. Taft.

Delivered under the Auspices of the Deutsche Gesellschaft of St. Louis.

(Continued.)

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Also, it is important to remember that an Ambassador of Belgium, when these communications between Great Britain and his country were brought to his attention, in an extended communication which is on hand, made the declaration that the understanding between the two countries had effected the surrender of Belgium neutrality.

Does it not stand to reason that Germany may not be interested in increasing the hatreds in the North Sea? With the exception of Italy, her only means of communication with the world is by way of the North Sea—with the neutral powers, Holland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. If interests are to be defended, Great Britain has perhaps as much or more reason to make the North Sea insecure for the double purpose of discouraging commercial intercourse with Germany, and of giving Great Britain an excuse to maintain a practical blockade of German ports, with her fleet secure on the western coast of England.

Then there was the tale that the Kaiser had one hundred socialist shot. We know that the socialists who fell were at the front. One socialist voted against one war appropriation, and more has been made of that than of the resignation of three of Great Britain's most distinguished citizens from her Cabinet, because they did not approve of the war.

We hear about atrocities. I shall not go into that subject. We know that there are atrocities in all wars, and that there are bad people in all countries. But, upon reflection, the American mind will hardly accept that the German soldier—at least a product of a schooling system and of a system of labor and work—is more brutal than an army that is composed of English, French, Belgians, Russians, Japanese, Hindus and Turcos. It does not appeal to the imagination and judgment, and rather than listen to all these accusations, I would take the words of Lord Roberts—an Englishman such as Great Britain has ever had, a man, every inch of him—who, in writing the book "Forty Years in India," observed the moderation and the modesty that Grant showed in his memoirs, and who deprecated these accusations because, as he said, "there are atrocities in all wars." Finally, as investigations are made by Americans, and even by Englishmen, these accusations fall to the ground.

And so about the attacks upon the coast. It is the purpose now to have us believe that these attacks are barbarous and savage. It is true a man reading an account like that is bound to put down the paper. One child or one woman killed or injured in that manner is enough of tragedy for a whole war. Have you read about the little peasant girl in Galicia who received the highest order from the Austrian Emperor because her leg was shot off while carrying water to the fighting soldiers? But let us remember that the first attack on an undefended coast was made by the British ship Pegasus, while the coast of England is at least defended; and the first attack on land was made upon unfortified Düsseldorf in Germany. That was the introduction in the early part of the war, which has been followed up since then at other points; and the only difference between the two is that the one has been effective and the other was not.

That brings to my mind the point to which your chairman referred, and which should not be forgotten. Great Britain will naturally make much of these attacks because she has not smelt foreign powder in her country for several centuries. I do not say that rejoicingly, but these are facts. Great Britain has fought many wars, and has had many peoples help her fight, but she has had no fighting on English soil. Granting that her men have fought like brave men—and they have been and are a brave people, in spite of everything that may be said now—they have not known for centuries what it is to have English women and children subjected to the ravages of war.

Germany, on the other hand, knows what war means. She has never had time to forget, and she is not apt to declare war hastily.

When abroad last summer I asked whether I could get a piece of old German furniture, I knew I could get French and Italian, but I wanted a representative piece of old German. I was told it could not be had, because the thirty years' war had left none. That is the whole story. No one knows how that country has been devastated by war fought upon its soil, often by foreign contending forces. Only the other day I read that no historian has ever dared to put in print the real story of the thirty years' war. Was it very different in the Napoleonic wars? Humiliation—heroism, but no recognition in the treaty of Vienna. Had Germany been given Elsaß and Lothringen by treaty then, that question would have been justly and finally settled. She was denied even so much. She was left to take these provinces in 1870, and thus was sowed the seed for another war. Germany knows the story that England has forgotten; and the people of Great Britain are naturally more sensitive, in view of their experience during the last few centuries about the real sufferings of war.

Who is responsible for justifying herself from these accusations? We must not look for an answer to the question, "Who is responsible for justifying herself from these accusations?" We must not look for an answer to the question, "Who is responsible for justifying herself from these accusations?"

Germany is today the essential standard-bearer of western civilization against eastern encroachment because England has for the time being abandoned the cause. That is the fundamental explanation. The war being inevitable, the question really was how other countries would align themselves. About France there could be no doubt. She had decorated the statue of Elsas all these years, and the people who did that could not resist the war fever when the chance came. She had her war party and the day had come. Every one accepts that, and every one—even her enemies—feel profoundest sympathy for her. But that does not say that Elsas has not been as well governed by Germany as Ireland has been by England. The serious question was whether England would ally herself with her natural friend, Germany, to postpone war, or with her traditional enemy, Russia, to bring war about. As Grey said, she considered her own interest. She had a civilized competitor against whom she had no cause for war, but for whose humiliation she was willing to become a party to any combination.

In my judgment, she committed the greatest blunder in her history, because her unquestioned triumph would be her profoundest defeat.

If Great Britain succeeds with Russia and Japan in defeating Germany for the time being, is there doubt in your minds that Russia will take Constantinople, will in that way control the way to India, and will lay the first foundation for the dismemberment of the British Empire? Who would settle the questions which must surely arise in such a contingency between England and her Eastern ally?

Who are Great Britain's allies? First and foremost, Russia. Is that a combination to invite our confidence and our sympathy? What has become of the sentiment that was created in years past by the writings of Kennan about the horrors of Siberia? What has become of the impressions that were created by the fate of Finland? What is there to change the attitude of the United States, whose people sympathized with Japan against Russia and are now asked to side with Russia against Germany? Where is the popular demand that forced an abrogation of all treaties between the United States and Russia because of the oppressive measures which Russia exercised against citizens of the United States visiting their old homes? Do those who prate about brutality really wish the triumph of a government whose reputation speaks naught but oppression?

And what of Japan? What is the foundation and where is the justification of that alliance? Will anybody believe that Japan entered the war without definite assurance of concessions? Then what has become of this abhorrence of conquest? Does any one know when, under what circumstances, and with what obligations the treaty between Great Britain and Japan was made? Was it an offensive and defensive treaty against the world? If we were excepted, was as much true of other countries? If so, who are they? And if Germany alone was in mind in that treaty do we not get a hint as to responsibility for this war?

I ask is not such a condition suggestive for us—for the future in the far East? Who are the other allies? The Hindus? No. They are not allies. They have not the independence to form an alliance. They are citizens for the purpose of being soldiers, and for no other. I do not desire to criticize the Hindu, but I am endeavoring to see just how it would look to us. It is somewhat anomalous, it appears to me, to know that a Hindu is practically excluded from Canada, and if he gets in, is generally sent back, although he comes under the flag of Great Britain. And yet the Canadian and the Hindu are fighting side by side in the name of civilization against Germany. Not unlike Australia, suspicious of the encouragement to Japan in the Pacific Ocean, but glorifying in the combination of their fleets to humiliate Germany.

Is there anything inspiring in the presence of the Turk? No American will say that he ought to be a soldier in such a war. He belongs to a subject race. There is no thought of his fighting for his own independence or cause. The highest motive that can be attributed to him is his joy in

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## Wright's Biography

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## Nothändige Töpferhändler.

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Ueber ein noch fonderbares Tier berichtet die englische Marine, nämlich über — weiße Mäuse. Auch ihre Haltung und Pflege ist amtlich vorgeschrieben, und zwar auf den Unterseebooten. Auf den englischen Unterseebooten ereigneten sich bei früheren Probenfahrten dadurch mehrfach Unfälle, daß schädliche Gase in den Mannschiffsraum ausströmten. Nun hat man durch besondere Versuche erkannt, daß gewisse Vögel sowie vor allem weiße Mäuse gegen eine bestimmte Luftverfälscherung sehr empfindlich sind. Sobald auch nur geringe Mengen von schädlichen Gasen in der Luft sich zeigen, lassen die weißen Mäuse ein ängstliches Pfiepen hören. Infolgedessen erging die Vorschrift, daß auf jedem englischen Unterseeboot in bestimmten Räumen Käfige mit weißen Mäusen aufzufahren sind. Auch in die Flagge der englischen Unterseeboote sind, um sie als Unterseebootsflagge zu kennzeichnen, derartige Mäuse aufgenommen worden.

In San Antonio, Tex., wurde der Löwenbändiger, Kapitän Harry Carlisle, der "Miller Brothers Show" angehörend, welche dort Vorstellungen gibt, deren Reinertrag für die Erdbeben-Verleiden in Italien bestimmt ist, von einem jungen Löwen angegriffen und wäre jedenfalls gerettet worden, wenn man ihm nicht rechtzeitig hätte zu Hilfe kommen können.

Im Alter von 80 Jahren hat sich Henry Meyers im Hause seines Sohnes in Leech Corners bei Greenville, Pa., erschossen. Er hatte mit der Familie das Abendessen eingenommen und ging dann in sein Schlafzimmer, wo er sich aus unbekanntem Grunde das Leben nahm.