

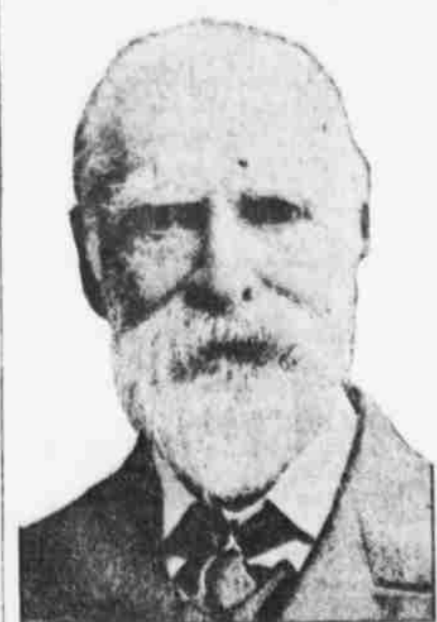
BRYCE'S REPORT ON TERROR IN BELGIUM

British Commission Charges that Civilians Were Slain and Country Devastated by the Germans.

RULES OF WAR ARE VIOLATED

LONDON, May 12.—Viscount Bryce, former British ambassador at Washington, and now chairman of a special government committee appointed to investigate and report on "outrages alleged to have been committed by German troops during the present war," has submitted the report of the committee to Premier Asquith.

FORMER AMBASSADOR WHO REPORTS ON HORRORS IN BELGIUM.



VISCOUNT JAMES BRYCE.

Associated with Lord Bryce on the committee were Sir Frederick Pollock, Sir Edward Clarke, Sir Alfred Hopkinson, H. A. L. Fisher, vice-chancellor of the University of Sheffield, Harold Cox and Kenning Gurney. The committee was appointed by Premier Asquith on January 22, last, and was given broad instructions to investigate "alleged outrages, the maltreatment of civilians and breaches of law and established usages of war."

The most important findings of the committee are summed up in the following conclusions at the close of the report:

It is seen that the committee have come to a definite conclusion upon each of the heads under which the evidence has been classified:

First, that there were in many parts of Belgium deliberate and systematically organized massacres of the civilian population, accompanied by many isolated murders and other outrages.

Second, that in the conduct of the war generally innocent civilians, both men and women, were murdered. The bodies of men, women, children and children were buried.

Third, that looting, house burning and the wanton destruction of property were ordered and countenanced by the officers of the German army, and that elaborate provision had been made for systematic incendiarism at the very outbreak of the war, and that the same was done frequently where no military necessity could be alleged, being indeed part of a system of general terrorization.

Fourth, that the rules and usages of war were frequently broken, particularly by the use of gas, including women and children, as a shield for advancing forces exposed to fire, and in the degree by killing, in the frequent abuse of the Red Cross and the white flag.

Unequalled for Centuries.

"Sensible as they are of the gravity of these conclusions, the committee conceive that they would be doing less than their duty if they failed to record them as fully established by the evidence. Murder, lust and pillage prevailed over many parts of Belgium on a scale unparalleled in any war between civilized nations during the last three centuries.

"Our function is ended when we have stated what the evidence establishes, but we may be permitted to express our belief that these disclosures will not have been made in vain if they touch and rouse the conscience of mankind, and we venture to hope that as soon as the present war is over, the nations of the world in council will consider what means can be provided and sanctions devised to prevent the recurrence of such horrors as our generation is now witnessing."

Evidence is Conclusive.

The report makes an official document of sixty-one printed pages, or upward of 30,000 words, accompanied by maps, showing the various routes of the army and the chief scenes of desolation. It states at the outset that 1,300 witnesses have been examined, the depositions being taken by examiners of legal knowledge and experience, and administered without authority to administer an oath. The examiners were instructed not to "lead" the witnesses, and to seek to bring out the truth by "cross-examination and otherwise. The committee also submit extracts from a number of diaries taken from the German dead, chiefly German soldiers, and in some cases officers.

"We began the inquiry with doubts whether a positive result would be obtained," says the report. "But the further we went and the more evidence we examined, so much the more was our skepticism reduced. There might be some exaggeration by one witness, possible delusion in another, inaccuracies in a third. When, however, we found that things which at first seemed improbable were testified to by many witnesses coming from different places, the points in which they all agreed became more and more evidently true. When this concurrence of testimony showed itself in hundreds of depositions, the truth of the broad facts stood out beyond question. The force of the evidence is cumulative."

Numerous Murders in Villages.

The committee states that it has received a great mass of evidence on "scenes of chronic outrage" in the territory visited by the towns of Aerschot, Malines, Vervors and Louvain. It states the total number of outrages is so great that the committee cannot refer to them all. The report states that the latter of Malines was the occasion later of "numerous murders, committed by the German army in repeating through the villages, and in the second place it led to the massacres, plunderings and burnings at Louvain." The report adds:

"The committee is especially impressed by the character of the outrages committed in the smaller villages. Many of these are exceptionally shocking and cannot be regarded as contemptible and described by the responsible commanders of the troops by whom they were committed. The inference, however, which we draw from these occurrences is that when once troops have been encouraged in a career of terrorism, the more savage and brutal natures, of whom there are some in every large army, are liable to those regions where they are least subject to observation and control. . . .

"Evidence goes to show that deaths in these villages were due not to accident, but to deliberate purpose. The wounds were generally stab or cut, and for the most part appear to have been inflicted with a bayonet."

Women Massacred in Louvain.

Reference is made to the terrible conditions at Louvain, where the report states "massacre, fire and destruction went on. . . . Citizens were shot and others taken prisoners and compelled to go with the troops. Soldiers went through the streets saying, 'Man hat geschossen.' One soldier was seen going along shouting in the air as he went:

"The massacre of civilians at Louvain was not confined to its citizens. Large crowds of people were brought into Louvain from the surrounding districts, not only from Aerschot and Gelford, but also from other places. For example, a witness describes how many women and children were taken in carts to Louvain, and there placed in a stable. Of the hundreds of people thus taken from the various villages and brought to Louvain as prisoners, some were massacred there, others were forced to march along with citizens of Louvain through various places, some being ultimately sent to the Belgian lines at Malines, others were taken in trucks to Cologne, others were released.

"Some were marched through Cologne afterwards for the people to see. Ropes were put around the necks of some and they were told they would be hanged. A firing squad was prepared and five or six prisoners were put up, but were not shot. . . . This taking of the inhabitants in groups and marching them to various places must evidently have been done under the direction of a higher military authority. The treatment of the prisoners was under the eyes and often under the direction or sanction of officers, and officers themselves took part in it. . . .

"It is to be noticed that cases occur in the depositions in which humane acts by individual officers and soldiers are mentioned, or in which officers are said to have expressed regret at being obliged to carry out orders for cruel action against the civilians. Similarly, we find entries in diaries which reveal a genuine pity for the population and disgust at the conduct of the army. It appears that a German non-commissioned officer stated definitely that he was acting under orders and executing them with great unwillingness. A commissioned officer on being asked at Louvain by a witness, a highly educated man, about the horrible acts committed by the soldiers, said 'he was merely executing orders,' and that he himself would be shot if he did not execute them.

"We are driven to the conclusion that the harrying of the villages in the district, the burning of a large part of Louvain, the massacres there, the marching out of the prisoners, and the transport to Cologne, (all done without inquiry as to whether the particular persons seized or killed had committed any act, were due to a calculated policy, carried out scientifically and deliberately, not merely with the sanction, but under the direction of higher military authorities, and were not due to any provocation or resistance by the civilian population."

Diaries of Germans Quoted.

A division of the report is given to diaries of German soldiers. The entry of a sergeant of the First Guards regiment, who received the Iron Cross, says under date of August 19: "A transport of 30 Belgians came through Dulsburg in the morning. Of these, eighty, including the oberburgomaster, were shot, according to martial law." The diary of a member of the Fourth company of Jagers, says, under date of August 23: "About 220 inhabitants and the village were burnt. Artillery is continuously shooting. Just now, the crossing of the Meuse behind Dinant. All villages, chateaux and houses are burnt down during the night. It is a beautiful sight to see the fires all round us in the distance." Another diary, by a member of the Second Mounted battery, First Kuchessner Field Artillery regiment, No. 11, records an incident which happened in French territory near Lille on October 11:

"We had no fight, but we caught about twenty men and shot them."

"The committee says of this last diary: 'By this time killing not in a fight would seem to have passed into a habit. . . . The report adds that the most important entry is contained in diary No. 13. This contains no name and address, but names referred to in the diary indicate that entries were made by an officer of the First regiment of Foot Guards. The entry, made at Berneton on August 24, says: 'We took about 1,000 prisoners; at least 500 were shot. The village was burnt because the inhabitants had also shot. Two civilians were shot at once.'"

Scene of Systematic Outrages.

The conclusions of the committee, as to the various detailed recitals, are as follows:

"We must now sum up and endeavor to explain the character and significance of the wrongful acts done by the German army in Belgium:

"If a line is drawn on a map from the Belgian frontier to Liege and continued to Charleroi, and a second line drawn from Liege to Malines, a sort of figure resembling an irregular Y will be formed. It is along this Y that most of the systematic (as opposed to isolated) outrages were committed. If it is taken, it will be found to cover most of these organized outrages. Termonde and Alost extend, it is true, beyond the Y lines, and they belong to the month of September. Murder, rape, arson and pillage began from the moment when the German army crossed the frontier. For the first fortnight of the war the towns and villages near Liege were the chief sufferers. From August 19 to the end of the month outrages spread in the directions of Charleroi and Malines, and reach their period of greatest intensity. There is a certain significance in the fact that the outrages around Liege coincide with the unexpected resistance of the Belgian army in that district, and that the slaughter which reigned from August 19 to the end of the month is contemporaneous with the period when the German army's need for a quick passage through Belgium at all costs was deemed imperative.

"There lies a distinction we draw between two classes of outrages: 'Individual acts of brutality—ill-treatment of civilians, rape, plunder and the

like—were very widely committed. These were more numerous and more shocking than would be expected in warfare between civilized powers, but they differ rather in extent than in kind from what had happened in previous, though not recent, years.

Many German Soldiers Intoxicated.

"In all wars many shocking and outrageous acts of men of criminal instincts whose worst passions were unloosed by the immunity which the conditions of warfare afford. Drunkenness, moreover, may turn even a soldier who has no criminal habits into a brute, who may commit outrages at which he would himself be shocked in his sober moments, and there is evidence that intoxication was extremely prevalent among the German army, both in Belgium and in France, for plenty of wine was to be found in the villages and country houses which were plundered. For example, a witness appears to have been perpetrated by men under the influence of drink. Unfortunately, little seems to have been done to repress this source of danger.

Killing of Civilians Deliberate.

"In the present war, however—and this is the gravest charge against the German army—the evidence shows that the killing of non-combatants was carried out to an extent for which no previous war between nations claiming to be civilized (for such cases as the atrocities perpetrated by the Turks on the Bulgarian Christians in 1876, and on the Armenian Christians in 1894, do not come into that category) furnish any precedent. That this killing was done as part of a deliberate plan is clear from the facts herebefore set forth regarding Louvain, Aerschot, Dinant and other towns. The killing was done under orders in each place, and the orders were fixed date. Some of the officers who carried out the work did it reluctantly, and said they were obeying directions from their chiefs. The same remarks apply to the destruction of property. House burning was part of the program, and villages, even large parts of a city, were given to the flames as part of the terrorizing policy.

"Citizens of neutral states who visited Belgium in December and January report that the German authorities do not deny that non-combatants were systematically killed in large numbers during the first weeks of the invasion, and this, so far as we know, has never been officially denied. If it were denied, the flight and continued voluntary exile of thousands of Belgian refugees would go far to contradict a denial, for there is no historical parallel in modern times for the flight of a large part of a nation before an invader.

Defense by Germany.

"The German government has, however, sought to justify their severities on the grounds of military necessity and have excused them as retaliation for cases in which civilians fired on German troops. The committee states that in which such firing occurred, but no proof has ever been given, or, to our knowledge, attempted to be given, of such cases; nor of the stories of shocking outrages perpetrated by Belgian men and women on German soldiers."

Referring to a statement by the chancellor of the German empire on September 12, last, that Belgians had committed outrages on the German soldiers, the committee says:

"No evidence whatever seems to have been adduced to prove this, and though there may be cases in which individual Belgians fired on the Germans, the statement that 'the whole civilian population of Belgium was called out' is utterly opposed to the fact.

"An invading army may be entitled to shoot at sight a civilian caught red-handed, or anyone who, though not caught red-handed, is proved guilty on inquiry. But this was not the practice followed by the German troops. They do not seem to have made any inquiry. They seized the civilians of the village indiscriminately and killed them, or such as they selected from among them, without the least regard to guilt or innocence. The mere crime, 'civilisten haben geschossen,' was enough to hand over a whole village or district, and even outlying places, to ruthless slaughter.

"We gladly record the instances where the evidence shows that humanity has not wholly appeared from some members of the German army and that they realized that the responsible heads of that organization were employing them, not in war, but in butchery: 'I am merely executing orders, and I should be shot if I did not execute them,' said an officer to a witness at Louvain. At Brussels another officer said: 'I have not done one hundredth part of what we have been ordered to do by the high German military authorities.' . . .

Committee at First Incredulous.

"That these acts should have been perpetrated on the peaceful population of an unoffending country which was not at war with its invaders, but merely defending its own neutrality, guaranteed by the invading power, may excite amazement and even incredulity. It was with amazement and almost with incredulity that the committee first read the depositions relating to such acts. But when the evidence regarding Aerschot, Louvain, Andenne, Dinant and the other towns and villages, the cumulative effect of such a mass of concurrent testimony became irrefragable, and we were driven to the conclusion that the things described had really happened. The question then arose how they could have happened. Not mere military license, for the discipline of the German army is proverbially stringent, and its obedience explicit. Not from any special ferocity of the troops, for whoever has traveled among the German peasantry knows that they are as kindly and good-natured as any people in Europe, and those who can recall the war of 1870 will remember that no charges resembling those proved by these depositions were then established. The excesses recently committed in Belgium were, moreover, too widespread and too uniform in their character to be mere sporadic outbreaks of passion or rapacity.

"The explanation seems to be that these excesses were committed in some cases

ordered, in other allowed on a system and in pursuance of a set purpose. This purpose was to strike terror into the civil population and dishearten the Belgian troops, so as to crush down resistance and extinguish the very spirit of self-defense. The pretext that civilians had fired upon the invading troops was used to justify not merely the shooting of individual franc-tireurs, but the murder of large numbers of innocent civilians, an act absolutely forbidden by the rules of civilized warfare.

Spirit of War Defiled.

"In the minds of Prussian officers war seems to have become a sort of sacred mission, one of the highest functions of the omnipotent state, which is itself as much an army as a state. Ordinary morality and the ordinary sentiment of pity vanish in its presence, superseded by a new standard which justifies to the soldier every means that can conduce to success, however shocking to a natural sense of justice and humanity, however revolting to his own feelings. The spirit of war is defiled. Obedience to the state and its war lord leaves no room for any feeling that even the women and children brought into the victims. It cannot be supposed to be a national doctrine, for it neither springs from nor reflects the mind and feelings of the German people as they have heretofore been known to other nations. It is specifically military doctrine, the outcome of a theory held by a ruling caste who have brooded and thought, written and talked and dreamed about war until they have fallen under its obsession and been hypnotized by its spirit.

Official Monograph Quoted.

"The doctrine is plainly set forth in the German official monograph on the usages of war on land, issued under the direction of the German staff. This book is pervaded throughout by the view that whatever military needs suggest becomes thereby lawful, and upon this principle, as the diaries show, the German officers acted."

"If this explanation be the true one, the mystery is solved, and that which seemed scarcely credible becomes more intelligible though not less pernicious. This is not the only case that history records in which a false theory, disguising its loyalty to a state or to a church, has perverted the conception of duty and becomes a source of danger to the world."

Another division of the report is on the "killing of non-combatants in France."

This is not as detailed as the case of Belgium, as the committee states that the French official report gives the most complete account as to the invaded districts in France.

Maltreatment of Women.

A special chapter is given to the treatment of women and children. The latter, it is said, frequently received milder treatment than the men. But many instances are given of "calculated cruelty, often going the length of murder, towards the women and children." At

Aerschot, it was, women and children were herded into the church, which had recently been used as a stable, and for forty-eight hours with no food other than coarse bread, and with the common diseases of life. In other cases women and children were marched long distances the marches being marked by the attending Uhlans. A woman was seen lying on the ground, having been brutally kicked by a private. Others were struck with the butt end of rifles and at Louvain women and children were chased about the streets by soldiers. A witness gives a story, very circumstantial in its details, of how women were assembled in the market place of the city. Two young German officers assisting. Another witness tells of a carnival of officers, at which the woman of the house was shot dead, and her husband then compelled to dig a grave in the garden and then bury his wife. The report goes on:

"In the evidence before us there are cases tending to show that aggravated crimes against women were sometimes severely punished. One witness reports that a young girl who was being injured by a drunken soldier at Louvain, the offender was then and there shot. Another described how an officer of the Thirty-second regiment of the line was led out to execution for the violation of a request or with the consent of the girl's mother. These instances are sufficient to show that the maltreatment of women was no part of the military scheme of the invaders, however much it may appear to have been the inevitable result of the system of terror deliberately adopted in certain regions.

Civilians Used as Screens.

Many instances are given of the use of civilians as screens during the military

operation. Another branch of the report deals with looting, burning and destruction of property. The general conclusion, the report says, is that the looting and destruction of property which took place was only in a very small minority of cases justified by military necessity. Cases of fire on military objectives, and of the use of the white flag are also given. As to the latter, the report says:

"There is in our opinion sufficient evidence that these offenses have been frequent, deliberate and in many cases committed by whole units under orders. All the facts mentioned are in contradiction of the Hague convention, signed by the great powers, including France, Germany, Great Britain and the United States, in 1864."

FARMERS WARNED NOT TO PLOW UP WHEAT

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Special warning to farmers was issued today by the Department of Agriculture cautioning against plowing under wheat apparently killed by the Hessian fly, which during the last fortnight has been found in large numbers in local areas in Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Nebraska. The department advises if the crop fails to show progress for another ten days it would be time to plant corn or sorghum. It says such wheat sometimes develops into especially large heads and yields from eight to twenty bushels an acre.

A Hint for Coming Maternity



In a little book designed for expectant mothers more complete instruction is given in the use of "Mother's Friend." This is an external embrocation applied to the abdominal muscles for the purpose of relieving the strain on ligaments, cords and tendons.

In thus bringing relief and avoiding pain great good is accomplished. It serves to ease the mind, indirectly has a most beneficial effect upon the nervous system and thousands of women have delightedly told how they were freed of nausea, had no morning sickness and went through the ordeal with most remarkable success. "Mother's Friend" has been growing in popular favor for more than forty years. In almost every community are grandmothers who used it themselves, their daughters have used it and they certainly must know what a blessing it is when they recommend it so warmly. Strictly an external application it has no other effect than to ease the muscles, cords, tendons and ligaments involved hence is perfectly safe to use by all women. It is used very successfully to prevent caking of breasts.

"Mother's Friend" is prepared in the laboratory of Bradford Regulator Co., 404 Lamar Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.

LEHIGH VALLEY ANTHRACITE THE COAL THAT SATISFIES More Heat—Less Ash—No Smoke—Ask Your Dealer.

San Francisco HOTEL SUTTER

The leading first-class Hotel of San Francisco which has not raised its rates. Rooms from \$1.50 per day up. Direct car line to Excelsior. Send for booklet and room chart showing prices of every room.

Advertisement for Cottage Evaporated Milk, featuring a can of milk and a cup of coffee. Text: 'For Coffee, Cereals or Cooking. Here is an evaporated milk WITHOUT THAT COOKED TASTE—a milk that has overcome the last objection to an evaporated milk. Cottage Evaporated Milk. Sterilized. Unsweetened. can be used for every purpose for which fresh milk or cream is used—for beverages, for cereals, for the baby's milk and for cooking. And it is always fresh, sweet and pure. No danger of souring. It is good and of uniform richness to the last drop. The Milk Without the Cooked Taste. IN TWO SIZES 5 and 10 cents. At All Good Dealers. AMERICAN MILK COMPANY CHICAGO.

Large advertisement for Kellogg's Krumbles. Features a box of Krumbles and a woman in a kitchen. Text: 'Kellogg's Krumbles. ALL WHEAT READY TO EAT. LOOK FOR THIS SIGNATURE W.K. Kellogg. Taste is the thing that counts. All the "food value" and "health value" in any food doesn't count for much unless you enjoy the food itself. When it comes to flavor—the big success of the day is KRUMBLES. All the food value of wheat in the most appetizing form. KRUMBLES has a natural satisfying sweetness that makes you go easy on the sugar bowl. Look for this Signature—W.K. Kellogg.

Continuation of Bryce's report text from the previous page, detailing the findings of the committee on the treatment of civilians in Belgium.

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Advertisement for Horlick's Malted Milk. Text: 'HORLICK'S The Original MALTED MILK. Unless you say "HORLICK'S" you may get a Substitute. SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. Northwestern University College of Engineering. Five acres of wood, through trained, small classes, in which each student receives an unusual amount of individual attention from his professor. Excellent buildings designed for the purpose, with up-to-date apparatus. Course of instruction in the most important engineering projects and to meet engineering students, unhampered by extraneous traditions. Wins for "Best Preparation for Engineering" and "Booklet of Views." JOHN F. MAYNARD, Director Evanston, Illinois.