

Neutrality.

By WILLIAM C. ALPERS.

Aufruf!
Alle deutschsprechenden Männer in Nebraska sind hiermit aufgefordert, sich dem

Orden der Hermanns-Söhne
anzuschließen. Der Orden der Hermanns-Söhne ist der größte und verbreitetste deutsche Orden in den Vereinigten Staaten. Der Zweck des Ordens ist, außer Unterstützung in Krankheits- und Sterbefällen, die deutschsprechenden Bürger dieser Republik zu vereinigen, um ihre geistigen und leiblichen Interessen besser fördern zu können.

Da das Deutschtum in der gegenwärtigen Zeit vielen Anfechtungen ausgesetzt ist, sollte es die Pflicht jedes Deutschen sein, sich dem Orden der Hermanns-Söhne sofort anzuschließen. Nähere Auskünfte erteilt

Carl Hoffde, Groß-Sekretär,
Columbus, Neb.

According to the leading Encyclopaedia, a Neutral State is one that abstains from all assistance or interference between the belligerents in a war. Among the international laws on Neutrality, all authorities, also the highly esteemed Kent's Commentaries, give the following as the most important ones: Neutral nations must not loan money to any of the belligerents, nor guarantee a loan, nor allow the transit of belligerent troops through their country. Nor must they allow the equipping of a warlike expedition to any of the warring parties, nor permit the exportation of ammunition and arms. It is clear that the successful carrying out of these laws requires the necessary power, as was stated already by Alexander Hamilton, in the Federalist: The rights of neutrality are respected only where they are defended by an appropriate power.

If we apply these simple principles of Neutrality to the actions of the Americans in the present war, we cannot arrive at a different result than that our pretended neutrality is nothing else but a hypocritical cloak for English favoritism.

Neutrals must not loan money, — but millions are sent to England. Neutrals must not guarantee a loan, — but the silent assistance of our National banks resembles a guarantee in a dangerous way. Neutrals must not equip expeditions, — but English agents are allowed, without interference, to enlist citizens of the United States in their ranks, without the loss of citizenship. It is said that in the city of New York alone twenty thousand were enlisted. Neutrals must not furnish arms or ammunition to the belligerents, — but whole fleets loaded down with ammunition sail for England.

Our government tries to extricate itself from the responsibility for all these unneutral acts by saying: Yes, all these things are done, but not by the government; by private people, and we have nothing to do with the acts of private men, — they do not stand under international law.

It is well worth while, at this point, to examine the bearing of the so-called international laws. Are they really laws? The very life of a law depends on the duty, the absolute necessity of its being obeyed. A strong threatening power, the executive of the state, stands behind every law in order to enforce it when and where it appears necessary. Wherever this power performs its duties, the laws of the country are respected and carried out. In Germany, the children are taught from the first years of their lives that laws are made to be obeyed. Therefore the courts and the officers are respected in Germany; therefore everyone moves and conducts himself in his allotted circle without transgression into the rights of his neighbor; therefore the superiors are held in esteem; therefore the pupils obey their teachers, and the young respect the elder. Here in the United States, where a strong executive is often missing, or where it is corruptible or negligent, or indifferent, the sublimity of the laws sinks low, and instead of being followed and respected, they are often evaded and despised. But still, there is an executive that now and then exerts itself.

Not so, with the so-called international laws. Here, every executive power is lacking; there is nobody whose duty it is to enforce the laws. Strictly spoken, therefore, they are not laws, but only agreements, mutual concessions and promises, which, to follow and carry out is left to the sense of justice of every state. It might be said that if all nations agree to these pacts and one should dare violate them, the others might punish this violator and bring it in line by force of arms. But the theory, "For before a nation would risk such a daring step, she would quietly look for allies, so that the greater power would be on her side. As, therefore, these so-called international laws lack all enforcing power, the submission to them depends entirely on the good will and moral conscience of the leaders of neutral nations. The higher the ethical conception of the leading statesmen is, the more sincere they are in the recognition and observance of the so-called principles of humanity, the more willing they will be to obey these laws. If, therefore, a government tries to hide behind a mere technical excuse by unloading the responsibility for unneutral acts on private persons or enterprises, such government lacks ethical conception, and its arguments become mere claptrap. Suppose there was an authority to enforce these international laws, it would certainly reach these manufacturers of ammunition, and these money lenders, and stop their shameful traffic. In such a case, would our government interfere to protect its own citizens, and thereby become an accomplice? It is, therefore, the moral duty of every neutral government to prevent all trade that violates international agreements, or it becomes an accomplice by its quiet consent. Private persons may violate and disregard these agreements between nations, because there is no authority to punish them except their own government. But for this reason a government is equally guilty by omitting this punishment. Nobody to whom humanity and charity are more than mere words, can arrive at different conclusions, and all impartial and real neutrals recognize this obligation of a government. Only he who draws profit from this blood money has the courage to defend this abominable traffic. I know a manufacturer here in Cleveland, who, in the beginning, refused orders for ammunition with aversion, saying that his self-respect did not allow him to be indirectly engaged in the murder of his fellowmen; but when he saw that his neighbors made thousands and hundreds of thousands over night, he gradually weakened,

and now, he refuses orders for wagons, plows and other articles for the peaceful development of our country because his profits are many times larger in the manufacture of ammunition. It is therefore not industrial necessity nor lack of other work that excuses or promotes this traffic; it is simply the greed for mammon. But when the same government that silently consents to, and encourages this traffic, mounts the high stool of moral indignation and makes itself ethical judge of the acts of others, we naturally are seized with nausea and disgust at such hypocrisy. And how often and thoroughly has this been done. To the citizens of German and Austrian extraction, this fact is really stunningly inexplicable. Throughout the whole country there goes a storm of hatred of our countries, and a predilection for the enemies, and especially the English.

It is perfectly natural that the man whose relatives fight in the armies of the allies, should sympathize with them, just as well as we sympathize with our relatives. But while the sympathy for the one side is called just and virtuous, we are not only denied the right to sympathize but our motives are vilified, and our strongest of these vilifications come from the two most hated men, of whom the one was President a short time ago, and the other is President now.

Only a few days ago, the grandiloquent Colonel of Oyster Bay spit the venom of his hatred on the hyphenated Americans, — as it pleases him to call the citizens of German birth. He did so after the fashion of a boorish politician who gloats in the applause of the thoughtless mob. Nowhere in his harangues does he cite a case of any citizen born in Germany who had turned traitor, — simply because he does not know of any such case. He talks in vague, general terms and always bases all his abuse on the claimed violation of Belgium by the Germans. And such utterances flow from the mouth of the same man who can refer, with a cynical grin, to the day: "When I took Panama." In one and the same speech he criticizes the present President and applies to him almost vulgar epithets, and immediately afterwards abuses and condemns the German-Americans for exercising the right of free criticism and open judgment. Perhaps it is not worth while to worry over the abuses of this reviler. His unlimited self-glorification and imagined infallibility in all political matters have long ago made him harmless, so that most of his hearers do not take him seriously, and so to hear his harangues is to the performance of a comedian or the antics of a clown.

The eloquent Colonel, however, is surpassed by the present President, who, in a recent speech, called American citizens of German descent "creatures of passion, disloyalty and anarchy, who have poured the poison of disloyalty into the arteries of our national life; who have sought to bring the authority and good name of our government into contempt," etc. When I read these words the first time, I shuddered and trembled with inner rage and excitement. I could believe that the highest official of this country could so far forget himself in his hatred of Germany and the Germans. It is true, he adds carefully, in order to cover himself, that there are but few of them. But the object of the words was accomplished. The dragon teeth of hatred and discord were sown, and the seed grew up quickly. With avidity the press libbed the terrible words and drew the consequences. I have in my possession copies of twenty-one of the leading newspapers of large cities in all parts of the Union, printed the day after the quoted expressions were made, and the headlines, in letters two or three inches long, read as follows:

"The President raps Teuton traitors."
"German-Americans called Anarchists by the President."
"German traitors flayed by the President."

"All German citizens are traitors," says the President. And so on. In vain we ask: What induced this man to these abominable utterances? Why does he not cite one single case? Is this the thanks for German loyalty, German work, German devotion? A man who claims to be a knower of history, draws such results from his studies. Let us open the leaves of American history, beginning with the war of the Revolution. Would the President call Steuben and DeKalb traitors?

In 1781, in an address to a convention in New York, Alexander Hamilton complained about the defective carrying out of the demands of the Continental government in respect to furnishing munitions and arms by the single states, and adds that the only states that did comply with these demands were New York and Pennsylvania, two states that were not settled by English, but by Teuton races. Even at that time was shown the German sense of duty. — The Pflichtgefühl, — that made the German the most loyal citizen of the new country. Also, Thomas Jefferson writes to Col. Clayburne in August 1787: "Of all the settlers, I prefer the Germans. They are bound to make our best citizens." In the same way we might quote from the writings of every thinking statesman, as often as the question of loyalty is touched.

The Germans also went voluntarily into the war for the defense of the Union. It is not more than 60 years that the citizens of the state of birth of our President, — and among them their most loyal ally, while every able-bodied German in this country offered his life in defense of the United States under the leadership

of men like Franz Sigel and Carl Schurz. Can the President mention one single case where the German-Americans, individually or collectively, were disloyal to their new home? And if he would read German history he would look in vain for a Benedict Arnold. Nor will he find one drop of disloyal blood in the veins of German-Americans. — It is more than astonishing how blind this man has been in all his actions since the war broke out. Why does he try to incite hatred and discord in the ranks of more than ten millions of the best citizens of this land? What a wonderful opportunity he had to gain for himself the name of the greatest benefactor of mankind, if, right at the beginning of the war, he had stopped the exportation of arms and ammunition. Thousands have blessed him. He might have put a stop to the murder in Europe. The blessings and tears of thanks of the mothers, wives and children of all the warring nations would have been his reward. I say all nations, for the pain and heart pang of widows and orphans is the same in all countries, be they English, French, German or Russian. But he loyalty to this most glorious of all names; with sneering contempt he looked upon the blessings and prayers of thanks. He preferred to be cursed, and the malediction and heart cries of many thousands of widows and orphans sounded more gloriously in his ears. Instead of becoming the benefactor of mankind, he preferred to be the willing tool of English interests, or, as some call him, the first British President of America.

In my long active life I have always abstained from participating in political agitation. Only once did I make an exception. Only once, when the present President had been nominated, I rejoiced in the nomination. I welcomed in him the man of culture, the man of knowledge, the man of quiet scientific conception of all questions. I saw the end of the party regarding religion, and the rise of a new glorious era of freedom. For this reason I rushed into the whirlpool of the campaign. I worked, and addressed my friends in his favor, from free will; and thousands of citizens of German extraction, who, like myself, were disgusted with the wire-pulling politicians, welcomed this new, long hoped-for era with joy. Many different elements contributed to his election, the most important without doubt, the discord in the camp of his opponents. But I believe that the German-Americans, of whom at least 90% voted for him, decided the election in several states.

Our disillusion has been bitter, but thorough. Instead of a far-seeing scholar, we have elected a nagging school-marm. Instead of a man of world-wide culture and education, — a narrow hearted fanatic, instead of a man who could rise above parties and nations, — an obedient servant of the money power. If his party should be reckless enough to re-nominate him, the German-Americans will remember this sower of hatred, and I hope that none of us will forget his self-respect as a born German, and vote for him again.

The beautiful structure of real neutrality and international peace has been shattered and destroyed by this war. The most pitiful part is played by the so-called Pacifists, the peace societies. They have not risen to one single strong, courageous action. If the many influential, wealthy and powerful men who formed these societies had courageously practised what they preached, they might have enforced the embargo on arms and ammunition, — the first and most powerful means to promote international peace. But they bowed before their God, — Mammon. Many of them put their dove of peace in a hidden cage and preferred to earn millions in the manufacture of ammunition! Indeed, wonderful apostles of Peace.

To bring about international peace, a complete change in the hearts of all mankind must take place. The word Patriotism must take a higher, purer meaning. In its name they burn and murder. Each one in the armies of all the belligerents believes to serve his country and to bring a glorious sacrifice by giving his life for it.

Patriotism, today, is closely related to international hatred, and this international hatred is the cancer of mankind. It is a terrible disease that again and again breaks forth anew, that kills thousands, millions, and that in spite of all these devastations, is fondled and nursed in every country. A dire specter that is covered by leaders and teachers of every country, with gaudy colors, clad in golden garments, and is then paraded before fanatic masses as a wonderful goddess. At one time it was the same with Religion. In her name unthinkable cruelties were committed, pernicious wars conducted. The more devoted one was, the more ardently he wished for the destruction of his neighbor of different creed, the higher his heart would beat at the view of an auto da fe. Fortunately, all this is different now. Mankind has a higher and nobler conception of the duties and workings of religion. Love and peace have taken the place of hatred and discord. Thus, also Patriotism must be led on a higher, nobler path. The hatred of nations, the contempt of the neighbor must be removed from it, and the love of one's own country must include the love of all fellowmen, even the lowest and most distant. Not until this change in the conception of this most beautiful of all national virtues has taken place, may we hope for international Peace.

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Der zweite Automobil-Kontest der "Täglichen Omaha Tribune" gelangt heute abend zum Abschluss. Die letzten Bestimmungen müssen unter Einhaltung unserer früher veröffentlichten Bedingungen eingehalten werden. Diese Bestimmungen werden bis Samstag den 19. Februar aufbewahrt und um 11 Uhr morgens geöffnet, um welche Zeit die letzte offizielle Zählung und Preisverteilung stattfindet, wozu alle Kontestanten herzlich eingeladen sind.

Der dritte Automobil-Kontest der "Täglichen Omaha Tribune" beginnt am Montag den 21. Februar und dauert bis zum 19. April, 1916. Unsere Leser sind freundlich eingeladen, sich an diesem Kontest zu beteiligen. Wie im ersten und zweiten, so wird auch im dritten Kontest ein jeder Beteiligte ein Gewinner sein. Der Kontestant mit der höchsten Stimmzahl erhält ein feines neues Ford-Automobil, wie im Bilde an anderer Stelle des Blattes gezeigt wird, und die übrigen Kontestanten bekommen 10 Prozent für ihre Arbeit. Es ist zu empfehlen, daß sich Kandidaten sofort anmelden, denn wer gleich zu Anfang einen guten Vorsprung erlangt, ist später nicht leicht mehr einzuholen. Man schneide den Nominationscoupon aus und sende ihn heute noch an die Omaha Tribune, worauf dem Kandidaten sofort alle Bedingungen und Anweisungen über den Kontest zugehen werden.

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F-18 Otto Siemes, Sekr.

Achtung, Bürger-Verein von Creighton!

Unsere General-Versammlung und Wahlen findet Sonntag, den 20. Febr. nachmittags 2 Uhr in der Billie Halle in Creighton statt. Nach der Versammlung wird eine schöne Unterhaltung stattfinden und sind alle Mitglieder dringend ersucht, zu erscheinen.

F-18 Henry Schwarz, Präsi.

Beileids-Beschluß

Der Omaha Loge No. 27, Orden der Hermanns-Söhne.

Schon wieder hat der Schmitzer Tod sich eine Bahn durch unsere Reihen geöfnet, indem er unsern Bruder Hermann Schaeffer nach kurzen Krankenlager den Lebensjahren abgekürzt hat, wodurch seine Familie ihres Oberhauptes und unsere Loge eines unserer Gründungsmitglieder beraubt worden ist, dessen Hinscheiden von seiner Familie sowie von unserer Loge von Herzen bedauert wird.

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Daß dieser Beileid dem Protokoll einverleibt wird, sowie daß den trauernden Angehörigen eine Abschrift dieses Beileides zugehändigt wird und derselbe im Nebraska Germanen-Orden und der Omaha Tribune veröffentlicht wird.

Datiert Omaha, Neb., am 13. Februar 1916.

Das Komitee:
Fritz Deich,
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