

NAVAL HOPES OF HUNS BASED ON LIES AND BLUFF

Capt. Persius, German Critic, Says Teutons Never Had a Chance in Sea Fight With Allies.

London, Nov. 20.—(British Wireless Service).—Captain Persius, the German naval critic, publishes in the Berlin Tageblatt an article containing revelations regarding the German fleet. He says the hope that the German fleet would be able to beat the British fleet rested upon the bluff and lies of the naval authorities.

In August, 1914, Germany had about 1,000,000 tons in warships, the writer points out, while Great Britain had more than double that, quite superior to the German. In the Skagerrak battle, he declares, the German fleet was saved from destruction partly by good leadership and partly by favorable weather conditions. As it was, the losses of the German fleet were enormous, and on June 1, Captain Persius says, it was clear that the Skagerrak battle must be the only general naval engagement of the war.

Tirpitz Was Obstinate.

On all sides, continues the writer, Admiral von Tirpitz was advised to construct only submarines, but he remained obstinate. On October 1, 1915, several members of the Reichstag, made an earnest appeal to the army command—not to the naval staff—with the result that an order was issued terminating the construction of battleships in order that the material might be used for the making of U-boats. In the meantime, so great a scarcity of material had arisen that it became necessary to disarm a number of the battleships and take the metal. In this manner, at the beginning of 1916, 23 battleships had been disarmed, as well as one newly built cruiser.

Many Ships Destroyed.

At the beginning of this year, Captain Persius states, the German navy consisted only of dreadnaughts and battleships of the Helgoland, Kaiser and Markgraf types, and some few battle cruisers. All the ships which von Tirpitz had constructed from 1897 to 1906, at a cost of innumerable millions, had been destroyed, and the U-boats that had been constructed had proved unable to fight against British warships.

In 1917, he states, 83 submarines were constructed, while 66 were destroyed. In April, 1917, Germany had 126 submarines and in October 146. In February, 1918, it had 136 and in June of the same year 113, according to Captain Persius' figures.

Few Subs Active.

Only a small percentage of these submarines were actively operating at any given time, Captain Persius declares. In January, 1917, for instance, when conditions were favorable for submarine work, only 12 per cent were active, while 30 per cent were in harbor, 38 per cent under repairs, and 20 per cent "incapacitated."

In the last months, he reveals, it was very difficult to get men for submarine work, as experienced seamen looked upon the submarine warfare as political stupidity.

Captain Persius tells of the mutiny that broke out at the beginning of this month when the German navy was ordered out for attack. Had the seamen obeyed, the writer remarks, innumerable lives would have been lost, and he declares, that "every thinking man" therefore, is of the opinion that the seamen on November 5 rendered an invaluable service to their country.

Sir George Cave Sees Alliance of Germans With the Bolsheviks

London, Tuesday, Nov. 20.—Sir George Cave, who recently resigned from the position of secretary of state for the same department, in speaking in the House of Lords last night, said that although there was a pause in hostilities the enemy's activities have not ceased.

"Germany has already begun to try to destroy the unity of the allies and our unity at home," he said. "I believe there is a close alliance between bolshevism and Germany. I have had evidence of this during the last week."

Regarding the press bureau, he saw no reason why it should be abolished. "We ought not to relinquish the weapons provided by the defense of the realm act for dealing with bolshevism," he said.

Farmers Asking for Place on Peace Meet Delegation

Washington, Nov. 20.—President Wilson was asked today by the Farmers' National headquarters, representing a number of farm organizations, to appoint a representative of the agricultural interests of the country as a delegate to the coming peace conference. The president also was asked by the farmers' organization in a letter made public here to ask "all belligerent nations, to appoint delegates to a peace conference which shall sit simultaneously with the peace conference of accredited delegates at the same place."

American Headquarters.

Paris, Nov. 20.—The American representatives at the peace conference and their staffs will occupy a building on the Place de la Concorde, which has been the headquarters of the American Red Cross since June. Headquarters for the Red Cross now are at the Hotel Regina.

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The Abandoned Room

By Wadsworth Camp.

From the entrance of the village it was only a few steps to the station. Several carriages stood at the platform, testimony that a train was nearly due. He prayed that it would be for New York. He didn't want to wait around. He didn't want to risk Katherine's driving in on some errand.

His mind, intent only on escaping prying eyes, was drawn by a man who stepped from behind a carriage and started across the roadway in his direction, starting at him incredulously. His quick apprehension vanished. He couldn't recall that surprised face. There was no harm being seen, miserable as he was, dressed as he was, by this stranger. He looked at him closer. The man was plainly dressed. He had small, sharp eyes. His hairless face was intricately wrinkled. His lips were thin, making a straight line.

To avoid him Bobby stepped aside, thinking he must be going past, but the stranger stopped and placed a firm hand on Bobby's shoulder. He spoke in a quick, authoritative voice:

"Certainly you are Mr. Robert Blackburn?"

For Bobby, in his nervous, bewildered condition, there was an ominous note in this surprise, this assurance, this peremptory greeting.

"What's amazing about that?" he jerked out.

The stranger's lips parted in a straight smile.

"Amazing! That's the word I was thinking of. Hoped you might come in from New York. Seemed you were here all the time. That's a good one on me—a very good one."

The beating of Bobby's heart was more pronounced than it had been in the deserted house. He asked himself why he should shrink from this stranger who had an air of threatening him. The answer lay in that black pit of last night and this morning. Unquestionably he had been in error. The man would tell him how.

"You mean," he asked with dry lips, "that you've been looking for me? Who are you? Please take your hand off."

The stranger's grasp tightened. "Not so fast, Mr. Robert Blackburn. I care you haven't just now come from the Cedars?"

"No, no, I'm on my way to New York. There's a train soon, I think."

His voice trailed away. The stranger's straight smile widened. He commenced to laugh harshly and uncouthly.

"Sure there's a train, but you don't want to take it. And why haven't you been at the Cedars? Grandpa's death grieved you too much to go near his body?"

Bobby drew back. The shock robbed him for a moment of the power to reason.

"Dead! The old man! How—"

The stranger's smile faded.

"Here it is nearly 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and you're all dressed up for last night. That's lucky."

Bobby couldn't meet the narrow eyes.

"Who are you?"

The stranger with his free hand threw back his coat lapel.

"My name's Howells, I'm a county detective. I'm on the case, because your grandfather died very strangely. He was murdered, very cleverly murdered. Queerest case I've ever handled. What do you think?"

In his own ears Bobby's voice sounded as remote and unreal as it had through the blackness last night.

"Why do you talk to me like this?"

"Because I tell you I'm on the case, and I want you to turn about and go straight to the Cedars."

"This is absurd. You mean you suspect—You're placing me under arrest?"

The detective's straight smile returned.

"How we jump at conclusions! I'm simply telling you not to bother me with questions. I'm telling you to go straight to the Cedars where you'll stay until you're wanted—Until you're wanted."

The merciless repetition settled it for Bobby. He knew it would be dangerous to talk or argue. Moreover, he craved an opportunity to think, to probe further into the black pit. He turned and walked away. When he reached the last house he glanced back. The detective remained in the middle of the road, staring after him with that straight and satisfied smile.

Bobby walked on, his shaking hands tightly clenched, muttering to himself:

"I've got to remember. Good God, I've got to remember. It's the only way I can ever know he's not right, that I'm not a murderer."

CHAPTER IV.
The Case Against Bobby.

Bobby hurried down the road in the direction of the Cedars. Always he tried desperately to recall what had occurred during those black hours last night and this morning before he had awakened in the empty house near his grandfather's home. All that remained was his sensation of travel in a swift vehicle, his impression of standing in the forest near the Cedars, his glimpse of the masked figure which he had called his conscience, the echo in his brain of a dream-like voice saying, "Take off your shoes and carry them in your hand. Always do that. It's the only safe way."

These facts, then, alone were clear to him: He had wandered, unconscious, in the neighborhood. His grandfather had been strangely murdered. The detective who had met him in the village practically accused him of the murder. And he couldn't remember.

He turned back to his last clear recollection. When he had experienced his first symptoms of slipping consciousness he had been in the cafe in New York with Carlos Paredes, Maria, the dancer, and a strange man whom Maria had brought to the table. Through them he might, to an extent, trace his movements, unless they had put him in a cab, thinking he would catch the train, of which he had talked, for the Cedars.

Already the forest crowded the narrow, curving road. The black-brown place was in the midst of an arid thicket of stunted pines, oaks, and cedars. Old Blackburn had never done anything to improve the estate or its surroundings. Steadily during his lifetime it had grown more gloomy, less habitable.

With the silent forest thick about him Bobby realized that he was no longer alone. A crackling twig or a loose stone struck by a foot might have warned him. He went slower, glancing restlessly over his shoulder.

A high wooden fence straggled through the forest. The driveway swung from the road through a broad gateway. The gate stood open. Bobby remembered that it had been old Blackburn's habit to keep it closed. He entered and hurried among the trees to the edge of the lawn in the center of which the house stood.

Feeling as guilty as the detective thought him, he paused there and examined the house for some sign of life. At first it seemed as dead as the forest stripped by autumn—

almost as gloomy and arid as the wilderness about it. He had no eye for the symmetry of its wings which formed the court in the center of which an abandoned fountain stood. He studied the windows, picturing Katherine alone, surrounded by the complications of this unexpected tragedy.

His feeling of an inimical watchfulness persisted. A clicking sound swung him back to the house. The front door had been opened, and in the black frame of the doorway, as he looked, Katherine and Graham appeared, and he knew the resolution of his last doubt was at hand.

Katherine had thrown a cloak over her graceful figure. Her sunny hair strayed in the wind, but her face, while it had lost nothing of its beauty, projected even at this distance a sense of weariness, of anxiety, of utter fear.

Bobby was grateful for Graham's presence. It was like the man to assume his responsibilities, to sacrifice himself in his service. He straightened. He must meet these two. Through his own wretched appearance and position he must develop for Katherine more clearly than ever Graham's superiority. He stepped out, calling softly:

"Katherine!"

She started. She turned in his direction and came swiftly toward him. She spread her hands.

"Bobby! Bobby! Where have you been?"

There were tears in her eyes. They were like tears that have been too long coming. She took her hands. Her fingers were cold. They twitched in his.

"Look at me, Katherine," he said hoarsely. "I'm sorry."

Graham came up. He spoke with apparent difficulty.

"You've not been home. Then what happened last night? Quick! Tell us what you did—everything."

"I've seen the detective," he answered. "He's told you, too? Be careful. I think he's back there, watching and listening."

Katherine freed her hands. The tears had dried. She shook a little. "Then you were at the station," she said. "You must have come from New York, but I tried so hard to get you there. For hours I telephoned and telegraphed. Then I got Hartley. Come away from the trees so we can talk without—without being overheard."

As they moved to the center of the open space Graham indicated Bobby's evening clothes.

"Why are you dressed like that, Bobby? You did come from town? You can't tell us everything you did last night after I left you, and early this morning?"

Bobby shook his head. His answer was reluctant.

"I didn't come from New York just now. I was evidently here last night, and I can't remember, Hartley. I remember scarcely anything."

Graham's face whitened.

"Tell us," he begged.

"You've got to remember!" Katherine cried.

Bobby as minutely as he could

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(Continued Tomorrow)

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Opens Line Between Japan and New Orleans

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