

To urge that American goods be purchased merely because they are American, is to put a premium on indifference to quality on the part of those who rest their hope on simple favoritism. It is also to announce publicly to the world that we have no sympathy large enough to extend beyond our own borders. Too much self-sufficiency is as bad for an individual as for a nation.

JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.”

Warren, Pa., Oct. 10.

In a great war the chaplains of each army pray for victory, and the soldiers say amen. Think what that means.

The Almighty cannot answer both prayers. The Author of Justice cannot do injustice.

The army that has no excuse is asking Jehovah, Who loves justice, to uphold injustice; and the army that has excuse is asking Him to ward off injustice by doing injustice.

Each army is asking the Creator to help destroy that which He has created.

Each is asking Jehovah, Who commands them not to kill, to use His power to help them kill.

Each is asking our Father, Who commands men to love their enemies, to help them kill their brothers.

“God is Love.” Yet each army is asking Him to break the hearts and blight the lives of women and children.

The Infinite Designer has planned that men should live together, work together, prosper together, progress together, enjoy together. He has so made men that the very necessities and desires of their nature impel them to do this. And yet in war men ask God to put the unnatural in place of the natural—ask Him to turn system into chaos, prosperity into ruins, progress into poverty, civilization into barbarism, happiness into misery, and so to put discord into His own heavenly harmonies and mingle with His beneficent acts the deeds of a demon.

Who taught men to pray such prayers?

ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of The Public for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, October 27, 1914.

The European War.

The twelfth week of the war has brought no decisive result, nor any incident as striking as the fall of Antwerp. In Eastern Europe the German advance on Warsaw has been checked. In Western Europe continuous fighting and heavy casualties have left the armies substantially in the positions they occupied a week ago. The war now seems to be settling down to an endurance struggle. [See current volume, page 1016.]

The Campaign in Western Europe.

The battle line still extends from Belfort, near Switzerland, to the sea, a little south of Ostend. Fighting at some point of the line has been continuous. When the German advance down the west coast of Belgium had been checked at Nieuport and Dixmude, heavy re-enforcements were brought from Antwerp and other cities of Belgium held by the Germans, and a desperate effort made to continue the advance. The casualties are reported to have been exceptionally heavy in this struggle, which was participated in not only by the armies, but by the navy and the aircraft. At the cost of tens of thousands the Germans have succeeded in crossing the Yser River a few miles from the coast, between Nieuport and Dixmude, but have been unable to make further advance. The range of the guns of the British warships compels the German army to keep clear of the coast, and to conduct their campaign on more difficult ground. The engagement extended from the North Sea to the Somme River, involving heavy losses, but resulting in little change of position. It is expected that the two armies will now entrench themselves in northern France and Belgium, as they have along the Aisne River. The German army continues to be the more effective, man for man; but time is gradually bringing up the strength of the Allies, both in numbers and in efficiency. The French light field guns are reported to be superior to the German guns of similar size, but the German 42-centimeter guns far outrank anything of the Allies; and wherever they can be brought into use they have made a way for the army to advance. The guns are so heavy, however, that they cannot be moved over rough ground, and must have a special foundation from which to be fired. King Albert with his little army of Belgians is fighting with the Allies in the southwest corner of Belgium, the only territory that remains in his possession. General von Moltke, German chief of staff, and nephew of the von Moltke who held the same command in the war of 1870, is sick, and his place is temporarily occupied by General von Falkenhayn.

The Campaign in Eastern Europe.

The conflicting claims put forth at Petrograd, Berlin and Vienna leave the actual situation in doubt. It seems certain that the German advance on Warsaw has been checked, and the overlapping claims of Russia and Germany indicate that the Russian claim that the Germans had been driven back fifty miles is true. Such retreats, however, when made in good order often result in a reformation on a new base, and another advance. No decisive action has taken place. The Austrians have taken hope from their more aggressive German allies, and have made a campaign in Galicia that has taxed the Russian resources to the utmost.

They claim to hold the Carpathian passes, and to have advanced to Przemysl and Lemberg, but the Russians appear to have the stronger force. The campaign in Bosnia has resulted in nothing conclusive. Claims of success by the Austrians are offset by like claims of the Servians and Montenegrins. Turkey, which has long been suspected of a desire to aid Germany, has given renewed assurances that she will remain neutral. Her war preparations, however, continue. The court sitting at Sarajevo, Bosnia, is reported to have found guilty of treason Gavrio Prinzip, the assassin, and Grabez, a student, Nedeljo Gabrinovics, and 21 of Prinzip's accomplices for the killing of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife. This assassination precipitated the present war.

Belgium.

Brand Whitlock, the American minister to Belgium, says that less than two weeks' supply of food remains in the cities, and that the rural districts have still less. Nearly 7,000,000 people will face famine unless relief comes quickly from the outside world. Though the Germans seized the food in some of the cities for their troops, they disclaim all responsibility for feeding the Belgians. Reports received by Mr. Whitlock from Louvain, Liege, Namur and Termonde say that the conditions are worse than in Brussels. The beet and cabbage crops have been lost, and meat and milk supplies have been cut off by the invaders, who took all the cattle. People whose homes have been ruined are wandering helplessly from place to place. One hundred soup kitchens are feeding 100,000 destitute in Brussels. The American commission was unable to ship its first cargo of food from England, amounting to 2,500 tons, until the 28th. This food from England must be replaced, and future supplies will have to come from neutral countries. The Belgian Minister at Washington, Mr. Havenith, is bending all his efforts to the securing of relief for his destitute countrymen.

South Africa.

Colonel Maritz, the Boer officer who deserted the Union of South African forces to join the Germans in German Southwest Africa, is officially reported defeated at Kakamas, Gordonia district of Bechuanaland, by the Union forces. Colonel Maritz is said to have been wounded in the engagement, and have fled to German territory. His forces are put at 1,000, several hundred of whom were Germans. This is Maritz' second defeat, the first not having been given to the press.

Japan.

Having possessed themselves of the islands in the Pacific archipelagoes that served as bases for the German war ships, the Japanese navy patrols the routes of trade. No headway is announced by

Japan in its campaign against Kia-Chau. Repeated attacks have been made on the German fortifications, but without success.

On the Sea.

The only important naval activities reported are the operations of the British and French warships off the coast of Belgium in co-operation with the Allies on short. Light draught warships have been able to approach near enough to the land to drive the German forces three to four miles inland. Great Britain has released the three American vessels that had been seized. The tank steamer, John D. Rockefeller, was released upon the showing that her cargo would not be reshipped to Germany. The Brindilla and the Platuria, German ships transferred to the American flag since the beginning of hostilities, have also been released. Great Britain accepts the doctrine of "ultimate destination" and urges shippers to show the real destination of their goods. The declaration that cotton was not even conditional contraband, and might be shipped in neutral vessels either to neutral nations or to belligerents has been followed by large purchases of American cotton by the Germans. The question of transferring foreign ships to American registry during hostilities was not raised.

Mexico and the United States.

Reports from Mexico are contradictory and very confusing. The Aguas Calientes Convention voted to place the government in the hands of a committee of five. It also instructed General Carranza to give the assurances asked by the United States that Mexicans employed by the American Government in Vera Cruz would not be molested after the withdrawal of troops, and that importers would not be levied upon a second time for goods imported during American occupancy. General Carranza refused to issue such a proclamation, but said he would give oral assurances. Conflicting reports come to this country regarding General Carranza's retirement. The Washington administration considers the prospects for a peaceable settlement to be bright. [See current volume, page 1017.]

The armistice was broken by General Herrera, a Carranza follower, who attacked the Villa garrison at Parral, Chihuahua. The fight is reported to have lasted five hours, and to have resulted in a loss of 300 killed. The Villa men hold the town.

The Labor War.

A definition was given on October 15 of the order of the President forbidding employment in the Colorado coal fields where Federal soldiers are stationed, of persons not citizens of Colorado. In