

SCISSORS AND PASTE

Vol. I. No. 21.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1915.

ONE HALFPENNY.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

HOSTILE FEELING IN THE UNITED STATES.

To judge from the Press, a serious agitation is brewing over the alleged form of Japan's demands on China. Throughout the Middle West there are two indignant articles upon Japanese opportunism to one on German barbarism.

For various reasons it is hoped that steps may be taken in appropriate quarters to put things right. There is fear of the harm a fresh outbreak of Japanophobia might do at this critical juncture, and there is a conviction among those who know conditions in Peking that the whole business is probably a Teutonic attempt to improve the crude process of direct misrepresentation heretofore employed by Count Bernstorff and his satellites in order to make trouble between the United States and our Eastern ally.

The Japanese demands are described in quarters which ought to be well informed as quite reasonable. They are believed to constitute little more than a request for certain concessions and facilities in Shantung which the Germans got without anybody protesting, for certain concessions in the Japanese zone in North China, and for certain mining rights in another part of China. That, however, is not the story that has reached America. According to the official Chinese complaint, which has been given great publicity, Japan wants something almost tantamount to the establishment of a Japanese Protectorate over China. Even the Administration is alarmed, or perhaps it is more correct to say has been alarmed, for it is understood to have addressed inquiries to quarters competent to give a correct and reassuring answer.

But if the Administration is able to form a correct estimate of the situation at Peking, the general public is less happily placed. Of course, the Chinese Government in misrepresenting Japanese policy may be merely trying to grind its own axe. But that does not lessen the necessity of putting things right, especially in view of the fact that we are represented as approving Japan's policy.—London "Times."

A DEADLOCK AT PEKING.

Peking, Feb. 21.

On Thursday the Chinese Government notified the Japanese Minister that it was ready to resume negotiations in regard to 12 of the Japanese demands. The Minister replied that he was waiting for instructions from Tokyo. On Saturday the reply from Tokyo was conveyed by the Japanese to the Foreign Minister that Japan insisted on the whole of the demands being negotiated.

President Yuan Shih-kai maintains his determination not to negotiate any demands calculated to impair China's sovereignty and the treaty rights of other Powers.—London "Times."

JAPAN AND UNITED STATES' SHIPS.

The United States Government accuses Japan of applying to Pacific coastal shipping measures in regard to contraband which are similar to those enforced by Britain in the Atlantic.

Giving evidence before the Congressional Shipping Committee, several Companies allege that Japan was holding their vessels and

searching them on the high seas. Representative Towner urged Congress to empower the President to prohibit the exportation of supplies.—Sydney "Daily Telegraph."

STRIKES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

About 200 men employed at one of the Government supply stores at Northampton struck work yesterday morning as no reply had been received to a demand for an increase of wages from 26s. to 30s. a week.

The men were interviewed by Captain Box, who asked them to return to work pending a reply from the War Office, which is expected to-day, but they refused. Guards were posted at the entrance to the depot, and in the afternoon a large number of Army Service Corps men were drafted to the stores to do the work of the men on strike.

Demanding an increase of 6s. a week 8,000 Liverpool carters handed in strike notices yesterday.

So far voting among Clyde engineers, 10,000 of whom are out on strike, on the offer by the employers of 2d. increase, as opposed to the men's demand for 2d., shows an overwhelming majority against the acceptance of the 2d. The result is expected to be definitely known to-morrow. The men do not regard the new Government tribunal with favour. Their opinion is that it will be no more effective than Sir George Askwith's Board.—London "Daily Mail," Feb. 23.

Increased Wages for Dublin Labourers.

The shipowners of Dublin, it is officially announced, at a meeting to-day, decided to advance forthwith quay labourers' wages by 3s. per week (or 6d. per day), as a war bonus.—Dublin "Evening Mail."

ZEPPELIN OVER CALAIS.

Paris, Feb. 22.

A Zeppelin airship, travelling southwards, passed over Calais last night and dropped bombs. The material damage caused was immediately repaired, but five persons were killed by the projectiles.—London "Morning Post."

GERMAN AEROPLANES OVER ESSEX.

The visit of a German aeroplane to Essex on Sunday night was certainly meant for a larger purpose than the destruction of a baby's perambulator. It was probably in the nature of a reconnaissance, and was perhaps meant to test the vigilance and efficiency of our preparations against air attack. A night flight across a corner of the North Sea is a creditable achievement, and may be the prelude to an operation on a more extensive scale.—London "Times."

COMMISSIONS FOR SOCIALISTS.

The Berlin newspapers announce that the son of the Socialist representative in the Reichstag for Stuttgart, and the son of the Socialist representative for Mannheim have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The idea of a Socialist being an officer in the German Army has hitherto been inconceivable; these promotions show what a great effect the attitude of the German Socialists in the present political situation has had on the authorities.—London "Morning Post."

THE RESTORATION OF POLAND.

Petrograd, Feb. 12.—News has reached here from an apparently authentic source that Germany and Austria have declared the independence of Poland, to become operative on February 14, when it is planned to hold a convention at Cracow, Galicia, to choose a King. It is said Archduke Karl Stephen of Austria is a likely candidate.

The convention members are to be elected by ballot by the population in such parts of Poland and Galicia as are now in the possession of the Austrians and Germans, it is said.

Germany has yielded German Silesia to the proposed kingdom.

Pending the holding of the convention the temporary government is headed by Ignatz Laschinsky, Socialist member of the Austrian Reichstag.—"New York American."

IRELAND—1915.

On Thursday last Mr. Jeremiah Reen, Head Porter of Clonmel Railway Station for many years, was ordered by a military officer, under direction of the authorities, to leave Clonmel within twenty-four hours, and informed that he could not be permitted to reside in Tipperary, Waterford, or Cork Counties, and that his future place of residence should be notified to the authorities. It appears that Reen, who, it is alleged, was a strong Sinn Féiner, had an altercation at the railway station with a carter named Barrett. Barrett made a report to the police, and the military authorities took action as detailed above. Reen is a married man with eleven in family, and has had 23 years' service with the Railway Company.—Clonmel "Nationalist."

BRITISH COMMANDER "LOST AT SEA."

Commander Robert Jeffreys, R.N., the announcement of whose death ("lost at sea" on or about the 10th inst.) appears in our Obituary Column to-day, was aged thirty-nine, the second son of Mr. John Jeffreys, Canterton Manor. From 1903 to 1908—in which year he was promoted to commander—the late officer was lieutenant and first lieutenant of the "Albemarle." In 1909 he studied at the Military Staff College, Camberley, and commanded a division of the Sixth Destroyer Flotilla from 1911 to March, 1913, when he was appointed flag commander to the Commander-in-Chief, Devonport. On Aug. 5 last year he became Commander of the cruiser "Grafton."—London "Morning Post."

"KITCHENER'S ARMY."

Simultaneously with the promises of "ultimate success" through the submarine campaign, the Germans are being told that "Kitchener's plan" for putting a new British force into the field in the spring has broken down. The "Taegliche Rundschau" of Friday asserts that, lacking officers, guns, uniforms, and equipment, it is quite impossible for England to put 700,000 trained men into the field, even if she has been able to induce so many to join. "The publication of the figure of six new armies of three corps apiece was a bit of genuine English bluff, intended to deceive people who are not quite right in their heads."—London "Daily Mail."

Scissors and Paste.

(Issued every Wednesday and Saturday.)

Send your Subscription at once to the Manager,
67 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

NOTICE.—All literary communications should be addressed to the Editor, "SCISSORS AND PASTE," 67 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin. Business communications to the Manager.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1915.

ENGLISH RULE AND IRISH INDUSTRY.

"From Queen Elizabeth's reign until the Union, the various commercial confraternities of Great Britain never for a moment relaxed their relentless grip of the trades of Ireland. One by one each of our nascent industries was either strangled in its birth, or handed over, gagged and bound, to the jealous custody of the rival interest in England, until at last every fountain of wealth was hermetically sealed, and even the traditions of commercial enterprise have perished through disuse."

"The owners of England's pastures had the honour of opening the campaign. As early as the commencement of the sixteenth century, the beeves of Roscommon, Tipperary, and Queen's County, undersold the produce of the English grass counties in their own market. By an Act of the 20th Elizabeth Irish cattle was declared a 'nuisance,' and their importation prohibited. Forbidden to send our beasts alive across the Channel, we killed them at home, and began to supply the sister country with cured provisions. A second Act of Parliament imposed prohibitory duties on salted meats. The hides of the animals still remained; but the same influence put a stop to the importation of leather. Our cattle trade abolished, we tried sheep-farming. The sheep-breeders of England immediately took alarm, and the Irish wool was declared contraband by Charles II. Headed in this direction, we tried to work up the raw material at home; but this created the greatest outcry of all. Every maker of fustian, flannel, and broadcloth in the country rose up in arms, and by an Act of William III. the woollen industry of Ireland was extinguished, and 20,000 manufacturers left the island. The easiness of the Irish labour market and the cheapness of provisions still giving us an advantage, even though we had to import our materials, we next made a dash at the silk business but the silk manufacturer, the sugar refiner, the soap and candle maker (who especially dreaded the abundance of our kelp), and every other trade or interest that thought it worth its while to petition, was received by Parliament with the same partial cordiality, until the most searching scrutiny failed to detect a single vent through which it was possible for the hated industry of Ireland to breathe. But although excluded from the markets of Great Britain, a hundred harbours gave her access to the universal sea. Alas! a rival commerce on her own element was still less welcome to England, and as early as the reign of Charles II., the Levant, the ports of Europe, and the oceans beyond the Cape of Good Hope were forbidden to the flag of Ireland. The Colonial trade alone was in any manner open, if that can be called an open trade which for a long time precluded all exports whatever, and excluded from direct importation to Ireland such important articles as sugar, cotton, and tobacco. What has been the consequence of such a system, pursued with relentless pertinacity for two hundred and fifty years? This—that debarred from every other trade and industry, the entire nation flung itself back upon the land, with as fatal an impulse as when a river whose current is suddenly impeded, rolls back and drowns the valley it once fertilised."—**The Marquis of Dufferin** (1867).

"NOW THIS ENGLAND TRIES HER WORST."

All the hate poets were set to work to compose laureate odes on the "18th." Here is a typical verse (in rough translation) from an "Eighteenth" poem by Richard Nordhausen, one of the hate-laureates recently decorated by the Kaiser:—

Treacherous and heaven-accursed,
Now this England tries her worst,
Seeks to starve our babes and wives,
Seeks to end our greybeards' lives
England, see! thy power decays,
Famine stalks through thine own ways;
Though thou clothe thy coasts in steel
The weapon thou forged thou thyself shalt feel.

—London "Daily Mail."

IRELAND IN GERMANY'S NATIONAL EPIC.

Our second great National Epos is the "Lay of Gudrun." . . . To the Gudrun Lay belongs still more than to the Nibelung Lay, the title of "a poem in praise of faithfulness." . . . In imitation of the Nibelung Lay the first heroic feat begins thus:—

HAGEN OF IRELAND.

"There lived in Ireland once, a king of great possessions;
His name it was called Sigebant, his father's name was Ger;
His mother's name was Uota, and a king's daughter was she,
Through her lofty virtue, her lord was glorified." Etc., etc.

Hagen, the son of King Sigebant of Ireland, was, when a child of seven years, stolen during a great feast by an old man, and grew up under the care of three princesses, his companions in misfortune. One day he obtained possession of weapons, quickly learned to use them, slew the old man along with his sons, and so rescued himself and the three maidens, of whom he married the most beautiful, Hilde, after safely returning home. To them is born a daughter, also named Hilde, whose daughter Gudrun is the heroine of the Epic.—"History of German Literature," by **Dr. Robert Koenig**, Bidefeld and Leipzig, 1908, page 24.

"DRIVING THE POLES FROM THEIR COUNTRY."

The policy of Prussia aimed at destroying the Polish language and nationality and at driving the Poles from their country, and the same policy was pursued in Alsace and Lorraine.—"Daily Independent."

Population.			
	Galicia ("Austrian Poland.")	Posen ("Prussian Poland.")	Alsace- Lorraine.
1869-71	5,444,683	1,583,843	1,549,738
1910-12	8,160,783	2,099,831	1,874,014

Ireland.			
	1871.	1911.	
	5,412,377	4,390,219	
	Area.	Pop. to Sq. Mile.	
Ireland	32,586	135	
Galicia	30,321	265	
Posen	11,196	187.6	
Alsace-Lorraine	5,604	333.9	

—Statistics in "Statesman's Year Book," 1880-1914.

BELGIAN NEUTRALITY.

"Britain Ordered War Peremptorily."

Those who insist that neutrality is real and sacred are committed by the facts to the following propositions:—1. Germany has not violated Belgian neutrality: she has made war on Belgium, which her guarantee of Belgium's neutrality in no way abrogated her right to do: and her guarantee of Belgium's neutrality still stands in spite of the war and actually entitles her to treat a violation of it by another Power as a *casus belli*. 2. France and England have violated the neutrality of Belgium by invading her and fighting on her soil, though they are not at war with her. 3. Germany offered to keep the peace with Belgium on a condition—that of a right of way—which Britain was the first to demand and enforce by war in China. 4. Britain and France refused to respect Belgian neutrality except on a condition which they knew would not be fulfilled, and which in any case Belgium could not control, namely, that Germany would keep the peace with Belgium. 5. Germany offered peace to Belgium. 6. Britain ordered war peremptorily. I defy any international jurist to put a creditable complexion on these propositions except by showing that they are a "reductio ad absurdum" of the theory of neutrality, and admitting that Belgium might as well have been a free country as a neutralised one for all the use the guarantee proved. And it is because I was not duped by that theory that I have set myself from the first to discredit the Belgian pretext for the war and to induce our Ministers and newspapers to drop it. I did so even before the documents found in Brussels by the Germans left the Foreign Office so completely bowled out on the Belgian point by the German Chancellor that it had not a word to say, and was reduced to hiring a street boy to put out his tongue at him. That was what came of not taking my advice and evacuating an untenable position.—**George Bernard Shaw** in the London "Nation."

OPERA FOR LILLE.

Towards the end of this month a well-known German theatrical company is announced to appear in Lille for a fortnight. The idea is an inspiration of the Crown Princes of Prussia and Bavaria. The military authorities will give the players their travelling and hotel expenses, and the players themselves have patriotically decided to give their services for nothing.

The town theatre at Lille is capable of holding 2,500 spectators, and it is proposed to have the performances in the afternoon, when it will be more convenient for the wounded and convalescent to attend.

The performances will embrace the operas "Lohengrin" and "Der Evangelimann" and the comedies "Extrablätter," "Annaliese," and "Immer feste druff"—the latter being special favourites in military circles.—London "Daily Chronicle."

IN THE "DUG-OUTS."

"In our little dug-out we used to derive considerable amusement from some of the reports sent home by despatch riders. When times were dull, some of the fellows used to see who could turn out the most lurid reports from about 100 miles from the firing line, and I believe they would get up competitions as to which could get the most improbable stories printed. Personally, neither I nor any of the fellows of our little coterie had had a shot at a German, and if anybody could have had a chance of this it would have been us. The only time I have used my revolver has been to kill horses."

"We noticed another amusing thing, and this was an account of a well-known man who was invalided home through a wound in his leg. He stated that he got this through a bursting shrapnel shell; and, as a matter of fact, I knew he and one or two others were playing about with a rifle. This went off, and shot three of them in different places, and they, of course, had to be invalided home."—**A. J. Sproston** in the London "Motor Cycling."

ANOTHER SONG FOR JOHN BULL.

The Star Spangled Banner,
Oh, long may it wave
From our ships if it makes
Those Germans behave.
—"New York American."

AN ENGLISHMAN'S FACE.

"Oval or Intelligent?"

"To the Editor of the 'Times.'
"Sir,—A little light might be shed, with advantage, upon the high-handed methods of the Passports Department at the Foreign Office. On the form provided for the purpose I described my face as 'intelligent.' Instead of finding this characterisation entered, I have received a passport on which some official, utterly unknown to me, has taken it upon himself to call my face 'oval.'—Yours very truly,

"BASSETT DIGBY.

"28 Half Moon Street, Mayfair, W., Feb. 14th."—London "Times."

SPURS FOR CYCLISTS.

Cyclist Divisions now receive spurs, and it is hoped that airmen also will be provided with these useful weapons regardless of the extra cost to the public.—"The Rifleshot," Birmingham.

ENGLAND'S PREPARATION FOR THE WAR.

Mr. A. W. Goodison, Bradford's Labour elective auditor, in his annual report, just issued, publishes a letter which he found included in the minutes of the Cleansing Committee of June 3. Its significance will not be lost:—

"Loan of Steam Waggons—War Office.—A letter from the War Office was submitted inquiring whether in the case of national emergency the Committee would be willing to put their two steam waggons at the disposal of the Government. The Committee expressed their acquiescence with the suggestion, and gave instructions for the War Office to be notified of the charges of the Committee for the use of the waggons."

"Who says we were not preparing for war?" asks Mr. Goodison. If such a letter had been found in the minutes of a Committee of a German town, our Press would declare it conclusively proved that Germany had planned the war!—"Labour Leader."

NEWS FROM BERLIN.

(German Wireless, per the London "Times," "Morning Post," and "Daily Mail.")

THE RUSSIAN STEAMROLLER.

The "Tageblatt's" review of the last week says:—"Until the contrary is proved it must be assumed that the Russian offensive against East Prussia is, finally, utterly broken, and that the freeing of Galicia from the enemy is only the question of a short time. The French and English calculations on the Russian steamroller are checkmated."

THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT.

According to the "Neue Freie Presse," the present progress of the Session of the Italian Parliament is favourably looked upon in diplomatic circles. The result of the voting regarding the proposal to carry on a non-political debate proves that the Government is completely master of the situation, and will not allow itself to be diverted from the path it has mapped out for itself.

THE BLOCKADE.

Absolutely no impatience is displayed anywhere over the lack of news of unusual activities due to begin on February 18, and general confidence exists that everything is going as it should.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE DARDANELLES.

Constantinople.—The correspondent of the "Agence Milli" telegraphs regarding the bombardment of the Dardanelles:—

"The enemy fleet, consisting of four English and four French ships, opened fire on February 19 with cannon of the largest calibre. The Ottoman artillery did not return the fire, but waited till the enemy came closer.

"The English and French squadrons approached the coast thinking that they had silenced the fortresses. At this moment the Ottoman artillery opened fire. Of the eighteen shots fired by the Ottoman artillery only four failed. The others all struck home. The admiral ship suffered heavy damage and was towed out of the line of battle by torpedo-boats. Two other enemy ships were disabled and withdrew.

"After having wasted 600 shells the enemy fleet, three units of which were made almost completely useless, was forced to retire."

THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Berlin, Monday.

Main Headquarters reports:—

In the eastern theatre of the war the pursuit after the winter battle in the Mazurian district has come to an end. During the clearing up of the north-west of Grodno and in the battles reported during the last few days in the Bobra and Narev district, one commanding-general, four other generals, and approximately, 40,000 men were taken prisoners.

Up to the present seventy-five cannon, many machine-guns (actual number not yet ascertained), and much other war material were captured.

The total booty taken in the winter battle in the Mazurian district is thereby increased up to date to seven generals, over 100,000 men, over 150 cannon, and quantities of other material of all descriptions, the amount of which cannot yet be approximately estimated, including machine-guns, cannon of a heavy calibre, and ammunition, which were frequently buried by the enemy or sunk in the lakes.

Near Loetzen and in the Midimer See eight cannon of a heavy calibre were either dug out or pulled out of the water.

The 10th Russian Army, under General Baron Sievers, may hereby be considered as being completely destroyed.

New battles appear to be developing at Grodno and north of Suchovol.

The reported battles north-west of Ossoviecs and Lomja, as well as those at Prasnysz, are taking their course.

There is no news from Poland south of the Vistula.

THE AUSTRIAN REPORT.

At the front in Russian Poland and Western Galicia there have been only artillery battles and skirmishes. Isolated hostile attacks have easily been repulsed.

In the Carpathians, numerous Russian attacks are continuing in the western sector during the night as well as the day. All these attempts to approach our line of entrenchments have failed with great losses for the enemy.

South of the Dneister big battles are developing. Strong hostile groups were repulsed

yesterday after a prolonged fight. Two thousand prisoners and four guns and war material were captured.

The number of prisoners we have taken since the end of January in the Carpathian battles, which number in the Russian communique has been stated to be false, has now augmented to 64 officers and 40,806 men, with 34 machine guns and nine guns.

CUNARD COMPANY AND THE AMERICAN FLAG.

THE "ORDUNA."

Passengers abroad the Cunard liner "Orduna," arriving yesterday, declared the vessel had dashed out of Liverpool under the American flag on January 31, crossed the Irish Sea to Queenstown under the same colours, and bore them part way out of that port. In the face of an emphatic official denial from the company they maintained that the "Orduna" was the first British steamship to use the Stars and Stripes for self-protection, anticipating by six days the now famous ruse of the "Lusitania."

"It was just after the German submarine raid and England was taking every precaution," said James Ford, a mechanical engineer, of Lynn, Mass. "We were not out of eyeshot of the landing stage at Liverpool before Old Glory went up at the taffrail in place of the Union Jack. The passengers all became interested, some of them a little nervous. There were many who did not sleep that night on the Irish Sea.

"We carried the flag of the United States to Queenstown. There as we rocked in the offing it was replaced by the British merchant standard, but after we had dropped the pilot and put to sea again we saw the Stars and Stripes reappear, and they were kept at the taffrail until we were well out of the danger zone."

"As usual, the "Orduna" was flying the American flag from her foremast and the British flag from her taffrail when she left Liverpool, and she was flying the same flags when she entered New York Harbour," declared Herman Winter, Assistant General Manager of the Cunard line, speaking for the Company. "The colours forward indicate the destination of a steamship; those aft, her nationality. There is no truth in the statement that Captain Taylor replaced the nationality flag with the American colours."

"But I saw Old Glory snapping from the taffrail in the wind," insisted H. T. Strong, of No. 126 West Forty-sixth Street. "I know, for when I heard the passengers talking of the incident I walked after to the steerage deck and saw for myself. The American flag was there."

Captain Thomas McComb Taylor, commander of the "Orduna," refused to talk of the incident. To a final question as to whether he had received orders from the Admiralty to fly the American flag he replied: "Orders from the British Admiralty are meant for privacy."

It was after a consultation with Captain Taylor the Cunard Line issued its statement.—"New York American," Feb. 11.

"ORDUNA" FLIES THE U.S. FLAG.

At eleven o'clock last night the liner "Orduna," which at present is running in the Cunard service, came alongside the Liverpool landing stage, having completed the voyage from New York. The passengers stated that on the way from Queenstown she had hoisted the American flag as a protection to Americans on board. No submarines were sighted, and there were no untoward incidents of any kind.—"Irish Times," Feb. 23.

CUNARDERS AS BRITISH WARSHIPS.

Royal Naval Reserve Merchant Vessels.

The vessels named below are held by the Cunard Company at the disposal of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty and receive an annual subvention:—

Name of Steamer.	H.P.	Tonnage.	
		Gross.	Net.
Lusitania ...	68,000	31,550	9,145
Mauretania ...	68,000	31,938	8,984

In addition to the above, the Company holds all vessels, for the time being the property of the Company, at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for war or purchase.—"British Navy List," January, 1915, page 422.

How to Shoot Leagues are being formed now that rifles cannot be procured.—"The Rifle-shot," Birmingham.

THE BLOCKADE.

"Ville de Lille" (French), sunk by submarine off French coast on 16th Feb.

"Bjoerke" (Norwegian), sunk by mine in North Sea on 19th Feb.

"Belridge" (Norwegian), torpedoed in English Channel on 19th Feb.

"Dinorah" (French), torpedoed off Dieppe on 19th Feb.

"Evelyn" (American), sunk by mine off Borkum on 19th Feb.

"Cambank" (British), sunk by submarine in Irish Sea on 20th Feb. Four lives lost.

"Downshire" (British), sunk by submarine in Irish Sea on 20th Feb.

"Regin" (Norwegian), sunk off Dover on 23rd Feb.

"Maggie Barratt" (British), missing since 13th Feb.

"Membrand" (British), missing since 15th Feb.—Dublin "Evening Mail."

DUTCH CREWS REFUSE TO SAIL.

Amsterdam, Feb. 22.

There is some anxiety in Amsterdam amongst seamen regarding the effect of the German declaration of a blockade. On Saturday some members of the crew of the vessel "Amstelstroom," running between Amsterdam and English ports, refused to go on board, demanding double wages for risking their lives. But the demands were not granted. However, the "Amstelstroom" was able to leave, as the men who refused were replaced. To-day part of the crews of the vessels "Zaanstroom," "Rynstroom," "Ystroom," and "Texelstroom" refused also to go out. All those ships belong to the Hollandsche Stoombootmaatschappij.

My Ymuiden correspondent telegraphs that the crews of three trawlers bound for Yarmouth have refused to leave.—London "Morning Post."

ITALIAN PRECAUTIONS.

Rome, Feb. 22.

Admiral Viale, Minister of Marine, has ordered Italian merchantmen in North-west European waters to fly the Italian flag continuously, to paint the Italian colours in a large rectangle, and the name and port of origin of the vessel on both bows, and to illuminate these distinctive marks during the night. On the approach of submarines captains are to stop immediately and send a boat with the ship's papers to prove nationality.—London "Morning Post."

SIR EDWARD GREY'S DENIAL.

Washington, Feb. 22.

Sir Edward Grey has sent to the State Department through the British Embassy here an emphatic denial of the intimation from Berlin that the British intended to destroy an American ship in the war zone and to charge a German submarine with the deed in the expectation of precipitating a crisis between the United States and Germany.

Sir Edward Grey characterises the assertion as a falsehood.—London "Morning Post."

AMERICANS AND ENGLISH NAVALISM.

An audience of 4,000 in the New York Hippodrome, of whom a goodly proportion spoke German, celebrated the eve of Washington's birthday in the good old German-American way by "twisting the lion's tail." Incidentally, the audience showed its true-blue American patriotism by hissing the name of Mr. Bryan, the Secretary of State, for a minute.

"America's attitude in the present war" was the sole topic of the discussion, and the speakers—rapturously applauded with "hochs" as they attacked England's "navalism" as a menace to the United States—called the "Lusitania's" action in flying the Stars and Stripes "a debasement of the American flag," and adopted by guttural acclamation a resolution declaring that the seizure of the "Wilhelmina" was "a clear invasion of our right as a neutral nation" and demanding the "unhampered right of our merchants to transport food stuffs to neutral nations and non-combatants in belligerent nations."

The speakers were Mr. E. W. Martin, representative of South Dakota; Mr. S. G. Porter, representative of Pennsylvania; and Mr. O. B. Colquitt, the ex-Governor of Texas. Mr. Colquitt was the Governor of Texas who served a notice on the President that he would cross the Rio Grande with his force of sixteen Texas rangers and settle the Mexican question if President Wilson did not act.—London "Daily Mail."

Keep this before your mind: "Everything that is not Irish must be Foreign"

You who refuse to buy foreign goods. We who sell Irish Goods only.

GLEESON & CO.,

TAILORS & DRAPERS,

11 UP. O'CONNELL STREET, DUBLIN.

THE BRITISH WAR TAX AND THE BREWERIES.

All breweries, the great combinations as well as the smaller companies and firms, have been seriously affected by the war. It is evident that shareholders must be prepared for reduced dividends as the result of the increased taxation on beer, and, in a less degree, the shortening of the hours of sale, and, above all, the enormous increase in the cost of malt, barley, and coal.

The reduction in the consumption of beer is practically that estimated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his expert advisers—namely, 25 per cent., increasing during the winter and spring to 35. During the first half of the quarter up to November 18 there was an abnormal increase in the consumption of beer, not less than 32 per cent. This was more than discounted, however, by a falling-off during the six weeks ended December 31 of 38.5 per cent. The brewers are very hard hit by the dwindling sales of high gravity beers, from which they derived their chief profit. It is now taxed as high as 35s. per barrel, and the working man has virtually ceased to call for it. Moreover, it is considered unlikely that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will get the revenue for which he budgeted. The brewing industry fully recognised that higher taxation must be submitted to at such a crisis, but brewers generally are of opinion that the excessive taxation has at least partially defeated its object. They have, in addition, a special grievance. The Government has forbidden the export of malt, but the prohibition is inoperative, as the buyer for a neutral country has no difficulty whatever in obtaining from the Government representatives a permit for exportation to a neutral port. The price has already gone up 25 per cent. and every purchase made for abroad tends to force it still higher.—London "Times."

GERMAN PRESS REPLY TO MR. CHURCHILL.

The "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung," commenting on Mr. Churchill's speech on Monday, says:—

"What is advantageous to us is right; what prejudices us is not only wrong, but actually a crime." To this simple formula entire international law in war as represented in England can be reduced. If England endeavours to starve our whole people by means of a brutality without precedent in the history of war, she is acting in accordance with supreme moral laws. As England expects to profit from it, Germany takes counter-measures, and her action is called nothing but "a system of open piracy and murder." Such hypocrisy ceases to surprise Germans and will be judged outside Germany in a just way.

The "Cologne Gazette" describes Mr. Churchill's speech as a mixture of brag and hypocrisy. Regarding Mr. Churchill's words, "We have not prevented neutral ships from trading direct with German ports," the "Cologne Gazette" quotes the case of the "Wilhelmina," and says:—

German ideas cannot comprehend such a gross want of veracity. British hypocrisy is required in order to make this possible. It lies without turning a hair, and will say that day is night if it serves England's interests. Mr. Churchill knows that we are acting in self-defence against British warfare. But why waste so many words? Our arms will give our answer.—London "Times."

ATROCITY STORIES.

Last week we received a postcard from Parkhead calling our attention to a "letter from the front," which had been published in the "Evening Times," on the 5th inst. The letter was said to be sent by one M'Gregor, of 541 Great Eastern Road, Parkhead, the father of Private Robert M'Gregor, but my correspondent informed me that no one bearing the name of M'Gregor lived at that address.

There was nothing objectionable in the letter in question, it being a rather "realistic" description of a battle with the Germans, in the course of which the Gordon Highlanders were saved by the Connaught Rangers. We could conceive of no reason why anybody should "fake" such a "letter from the front," and still less could we conceive any motive on the part of the "Evening Times" people for deliberately publishing a letter with a bogus address. So we paid no heed to the post card.

But two or three days afterwards we received a letter from Govan, drawing attention to a horrible catalogue of atrocities, alleged to have been sent by "Mr. Robert Campbell, 29 Minard Terrace, Govan," by his son, "James Campbell, who is with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders in France," and by "Mr. Robert" sent to the "Glasgow News," who published and "scare-headed" it.

But, after making enquiries, we discover that there is no Minard Terrace in Govan. There is a Minard Road in Govan. There is a Minard Avenue in Partick, but the numbers only run 1 to 6, and there is no Campbell in the Post Office Directory. There is a Minard Road at Crossmyloot, but no number 29. There is a Minard Road at Partick, but no number 29.—"Forward," Glasgow.

METHODS OF RECRUITING.

There are methods of recruiting—and there are other methods:—

On Monday, 15th inst. (says a correspondent), the Head Post Office in George Square was the scene of a raid from a trio of recruiting agents for the Post Office Rifles (London). They arrived armed with the authority and good wishes of the Postmaster-General (Mr. Hobhouse), and spent some time accosting young postmen engaged in the preparation of their deliveries.

Meanwhile, the Chief Inspector and the Inspector-on-Duty were interested spectators. The military men had a number of stock arguments in support of their mission, e.g., Belgium, etc.

Their second session was held in the Sorting Department, where they enjoyed the full liberty to "buttonhole" any eligible Postman (Sorting Clerks were left severely alone). By a strange coincidence the Chief Superintendent and the Postmaster were "on the floor," and manifested great interest in the proceedings.

The position of a youth, under such circumstances, and on Government premises can be easier imagined than described, and would appear to be perilously near intimidation. Someone has asked would the Postmaster-General allow an officer of the Salvation Army free access to the staff to enquire as to their spiritual welfare?—"Forward," Glasgow.

THE SECRET OF THE KAISER'S POWER.

Professor Schiller, writing to the "Kreuz Zeitung," says that the power which the Kaiser has shown since the beginning of the war must fill all his subjects with amazement, and cause a glow of pride in all their hearts that a man of such magnificent gifts rules over them.

The Professor, searching about for the secret of the Kaiser's power, discovers it "in the deep, true, and sincere religiosity of the monarch." It is this which supports him in all his trials, and it is from this source that he draws the abundant supplies which sustain him. We have the Professor's word for it.—London "Daily Chronicle."

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND THE BIG INTERESTS

In the course of the Parliamentary discussion last Thursday, Messrs. Asquith and Bonar Law agreed firmly and inflexibly that nothing

could be done by Parliament to stop the shipping sharks, the coal kings, and the big interests from bleeding the public to excess during war time. They were enthusiastically and rapturously cheered by many of their followers on the back benches.—"Forward," Glasgow.

Members of the Bantam Brigade began to study a bit when they read of the ordinary-sized fellows being up to their waists in mud in the trenches.—"The Rifleshot," Birmingham.

1d. THE SPARK 1d.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 1915.

Ireland's Grub.

STILL SMALL.

WOLFE TONE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

Emmet Anniversary Celebration

(UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF MESSRS. J. T. JAMESON),

IN THE

Round Room, Rotunda,

Thursday, March 4th, 1915.

THE COMMEMORATION ADDRESS

WILL BE DELIVERED BY

MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH.

PRICES 6d., 1/-, 1/6, 2s.



You Score

For Ireland a Nation,
every time you buy
from

WHELAN & SON,
ORMOND - QUAY, - DUBLIN.

As Gaels ourselves, we understand your wants, and have for years specialised in G.A.A. Outfitting.

We give absolutely the best value in Ireland. Everything we supply is Irish Manufacture, and subject to return if, on examination and before using, you are not entirely satisfied.

Send card for our free illustrated Catalogue, and save money for yourself and Ireland.

Whelan & Son, 17 UP. ORMOND QUAY, DUBLIN.

RIFLES.

American .22 Target Rifles, from 10/- upwards. Rifle Slings, Pull-throws, Oil, Bayonets, Sight Protectors. Rubber Ground Sheets, 2/-. Rubber Overall Coats, 7/6. Blue or Khaki Puttees, 1/6, 2/6, 6/6. Sailors' Canvas Leggings, 1/6. Large Stock of .22 Ammunition, lowest prices.

JOHN LAWLER & SON

2 FOWNES'S ST., DAME ST., DUBLIN.

TELEPHONE No. 515.

CORRIGAN & SONS

UNDERTAKERS AND JOB
CARRIAGE PROPRIETORS,

5 LOWER CAMDEN STREET, DUBLIN.

PHILIP MEACHER

TEA AND WINE MERCHANT,

4 NTH. EARL STREET, DUBLIN.

J. J. and Sons Ten Years' Old. J. J. and Sons
Seven Years' Old.

ABOUT CAHILL'S COD LIVER OIL and Malt Extract; now is the time to start taking it; nourishing and strengthening; 1/- and 1/9 bottles.—Cahill, Chemist, Lower Dorset Street.

Printed for the Proprietor by Patrick Mahon, Yarnhall Street, Dublin, and published at the Office, 67 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.