# SEEK TO ABSOLVE KAISER OF BLAME

## Zimmermann Asserts Neither He Nor People Wanted Conflict

## ACCUSES NAVY CHIEFS

## Propaganda Made All Believe U-Boats Would Bring England to Her Knees

By JOSEPH HERRINGS

*Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger*

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Berlin, Dec. 3, via Copenhagen (delayed).

With the approach of the front-line armies to the heart of Germany the old reactionary press seems to take heart again, and today we find Eugen Zimmermann, in the Lokal Anzeiger, despite all the evidence to the contrary published within the last few days, trying to exonerate Wilhelm Hohenzollern from all blame for the war. He writes:

"The German people never wanted this war, and for the sake of fair play we must add that Wilhelm II never wanted it."

After thus having put the German people on the same level with the last of the Hohenzollerns, Zimmermann attempts to unload all the blame, as far as Germany is concerned, on stupid diplomacy and that "new invention named propaganda for certain war measures." He recites how the German people believed in the speedy and decisive effect of the U-boat war, and how they were told that by its means England would be brought to her knees in five months. Zimmermann, however, reminds his readers that the Lokal Anzeiger had as long as possible protested against the U-boat war, not wishing America to join Germany's enemies, and had acquiesced only when sea ruthlessness was a fait accompli.

Zimmermann holds the Navy Department, which should have known better, and Bethmann-Hollweg and Helferrich, who from stanch antagonists of the U-boat war suddenly turned to be its enthusiastic supporters responsible for bringing America into the conflict and influencing the Kaiser the wrong way at that fatal hour. The Lokal Anzeiger, like many other papers and persons, he says, had to take it for granted that the Navy Department knew what it was about and that perhaps new technical methods and inventions had given Germany such a means of conducting the U-boat war that it could not fail. Alas! the paper admits, this method never paid.

"The time of propaganda is over now," Zimmermann continues; "let the light of truth in on everything that is past, but also on what is still before us. It is the truth we want concerning this democratic movement now sweeping over our poor country."

The writer then gives his idea of democracy and finally comes to the conclusion that the present Government must have the support of a well-disciplined army (but no Red Guards), such as Russia has. The officers are now released from their allegiance to the monarch, he sets forth, and why should not the most efficient of them organize new republican forces?

Your correspondent understands that the government is indeed considering such a plan, but the suggestion coming from a paper like the Lokal Anzeiger must necessarily cause suspicion, in view of the spirit among the front-line officers.

Zimmermann ends by declaring: "The Lokal Anzeiger remains a paper for orderly German citizens of all classes as it always has been."

### Should Be in Prisoners' Dock

The Tagliche Rundschau is less diplomatic that the Lokal Anzeiger saying:

"The present rulers of Germany have for four years done everything to weaken her might and power, so that finally she collapsed and her competitors grew great and strong. Those who today cry loudly for a state court of justice ought themselves to occupy the prisoners' dock. They played havoc with the interests of their own country."

The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says:

"What has been heretofore has probably gone, never to return; but after all it was a system in itself sound, full of vitality, capable of development to the last moment. It was the system to which the German Empire owed its prosperity and greatness."

Reventlow, too, excuses the Kaiser saying that his only fault was a certain passivity in late years, but that no blame for the war rested on him.

# WORLD ADMIRATION IS OURS

## Vanderlip Declares Americans Do Not Realize Strength

New York, Dec. 6.—(By A. P.)—Although America has been called a nation of boasters, "we do not fully realize how great we have become," and how important a part the United States is to play in international trade after the war, declared Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank of New York, in an address here yesterday.

Speaking at the twelfth annual meeting of the American Association of Woolen and Worsted Manufacturers, Mr. Vanderlip asserted that we had won the admiration of the world, and that this admiration would create a "new business atmosphere for us." The habit of thrift acquired during the war by Americans, who own approximately $20,000,000,000 worth of Government bonds, would add to this country's international strength and future development, he said.

### To Fix Trolley Opening Damages

Judge Kates, of the Camden County Court, has named William B. Hamilton, Robert D. Clow and former Judge C. V. Joline as a committee to assess the property damages resulting from the construction of the trolley car line between Gloucester and Yorkship village, a new town being built for employes of the New York Shipbuilding Company.

# FRENCH KINDLY TO ESEMY FOLK

## No Glory of Conquest as Army Advances Into Enemy Country

## PEOPLE ARE SUBMISSIVE

## Poilus, Not Finding Hostility, Adopt Role of Benefactors Despite Themselves

By WALTER DURANTY

*Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger*

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With the French Armies in Germany, Dec. 2 (delayed).

The French crossed the frontier of Germany proper today. There was no demonstration anywhere or any sign of excitement on the part of the poilus in traversing the imaginary line drawn across the country that represents the ancient boundary line of France and Germany before the war of 1870. For, although by the terms of the armistice the troops have been halted at the said line for several days, there was nothing, owing to the incorporation of Alsace-Lorraine in the German Empire, in the way of sentry posts or customs boundaries to mark the old frontier and when the order was given this morning for an advance the men simply hoisted their packs on their shoulders and moved forward without more ado.

As far as the French are concerned the armistice has robbed the conquest of its glory—from the soldiers' point of view they might as well be engaged in a maneuver route march, such as they did every year in peace time. The whole affair is utterly staid and prosaic. Only the difference in language reminds the poilus that they are actually realizing their dream of invading Germany. Otherwise it is simply a change of billets. There is no excitement, no resistance, not even evidence of hostile feeling. The people of the country we are traversing are simply apathetic. There is no cheering, no flags, no welcome; but, on the other hand, there are no evidences of submission and concealment of every sign of ill-will—if indeed any of it—which makes it hard to realize that we are actually in enemy territory. One has a feeling that respect for the uniform has been so impressed upon the minds of these Germans that even soldiers of the enemy are regarded as something superior to themselves.

### Subservience to Military

Possibly fear enters somewhat into their attitude. They know what their own troops did in France and Belgium, and dread similar treatment. But withal there is something more—the innate subservience to and admiration for military force which comes from generations of discipline and obedience.

As one moves along the sidewalk of a German town or village, people instinctively make way. It is not for friend or foe, but simply the uniform and rank-marks of authority that they are considering. They have been so drilled to consider the soldier superior to the civilian and the office a person to respect, that they automatically pay the same homage to troops of the enemy. In private life there is a combination of this sentiment with a certain degree of apprehension.

A sergeant billeted with two privates on a German household told me this evening that he was received by a woman in mourning, who immediately produced photographs of her husband in the uniform of a Feldwebel—explaining almost by signs that he had been killed in the war—and of the grave of her son, who perished in 1915 before Vauquois in the Argonne. With characteristic acuteness of perception the sergeant summed up the situation as follows:

"I felt the old lady was rather anxious about the way we were going to behave, and she seemed to want to make us understand right from the beginning that she had 'army folks' and had suffered by the war. It was an appeal at once to our pity and to the military spirit which she seemed to imagine would affect us in her favor as by a sort of freemasonry."

### "Peace Offering" to Frenchman

An officer billeted in the house of a prosperous village shopkeeper was surprised to be met with a "peace offering" in the shape of a pound of butter—evidently from the solemnity with which it was produced a treasured possession of the household—and his explanation that everything he took would be paid for was greeted with almost as much incredulity as relief. One has a definite impression that these people have lived under the yoke of their own militarism hardly less grievously than the inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine. True, for them it was not the yoke of an alien, but it was a yoke, nevertheless, and even now they seem unable to realize that it is lifted from their necks. The Allies have fought to free France and Belgium, but it may well be that the bringing of liberty to Germany herself will not be the least part of her achievement.

In the meantime nothing could be more correct than the attitude of the troops and of the population. The latter, as I have often described it, is wholly submissive and obedient; the former unaggressive—and despite the feeling against "ces sales boches" almost friendly in demeanor.

I saw this afternoon a poilu distributing slices of army bread and jam to a group of small children. As I passed he looked up and said, half apologetically: "Have you seen the nasty stuff they call bread hereabouts? These poor kids have tasted nothing better for ages, and I am giving them a little treat."

There in a nutshell you have the attitude of the French army in Germany. They came as victors over a hated foe, expecting at least the appearance of hostility. They found a submission, which was almost servile of a people that had been beaten down to the ground. Immediately, instead of stalking in the arrogance of the conqueror they adopt, almost despite themselves, the role of benefactors. It is for one more proof of the nobility of the French character as compared with that of the Germans.

# RESCIND STRIKE ORDER

Portland, Ore., Dec. 6.—(By A. P.)—The Central Labor Council of Portland adopted resolutions last night declaring in favor of rescinding the previous action taken by upwards of twenty labor unions in calling a strike for December 9 as a demonstration of sympathy for Thomas J. Mooney, imprisoned in California.

The resolution expressed the faith of the labor council in "ultimate justice" for Mooney.


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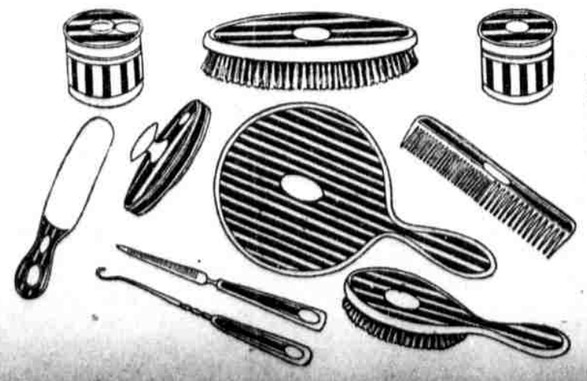
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