"JEERS OF MOB" BRING GERMAN WHINE TO MERCIE

"Very Urgent That Steps Be Taken to Protect Officer Prisoners," Von Bissing Complains, but Fails to Give Details When Requested

Explanatory Comment

"T WAS within my rights." "I waive all claims."

These two statements concerning a single subject in a single brief letter strikingly reveal the embarrassment of

Governor General von Bissing following an epistolary brush with the acute and patriotic Cardinal. The German masters of Belgium had a mania for extracting pledges. In their vanity they doubtless prided

themselves upon their extreme "subtlety."

Their aim, however, was almost childishly transparent. Treason was the broad count upon which the occupying power sought to register its cases against King Albert's people. The very essence of treason was the violation of plighted word, given to a government.

Death, imprisonment, deportation were the outcomes of broken promises. The more oaths compelled by force from helpless victims, the more court sentences on the exultantly awaited days of reckoning.

From the outset the Cardinal was under no delusions about the whole nefarious plan. When all other arguments failed he protested in terms of the most virile patriotism. Where, however, it was not possible to draw upon his armory of logic, erudition and statesmanship he adopted other methods and with conspicuous success.

An early victory and one brilliantly complete was won on the question of the payment by the German Government of the salaries to the clergy. Von Bissing plotted characteristically to render the disbursements of the funds dependent upon a declaration that the priests would not disturb public order.

With prompt and specific reference to historical justification the Cardinal explained that the members of the clergy were not public functionaries of the Belgian state. Their salaries were paid on the ground of indemnity as compensation for the confiscation of ecclesiastical property at the time the modern kingdom of Belgium was formed.

He vigorously denied Von Bissing's right to alter the status of the priests by requiring paths of good behavior with regard to the occupying power. The Governor General was utterly outmaneuvered. If he was, as he said, within his rights "in subordinating the payment of the salaries to the signing of the proposed declaration," his position is almost ludicrously weakened by the waiver of the claim, His unconvincing excuse was that the Cardinal had disclaimed "any intention of disturbing order."

What the Cardinal actually wrote was that "the Belgian bishops have no designs against the public order." Von Bissing was thus forced to regard this general statement as a definite pledge with which his Eminence bound all the members of the clergy.

It was, of course, a simple observation, not an oath. That the discomfited Governor General speciously construed it otherwise was a plain confession of defeat.

Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain University and translated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, England.

> Archbishop of Malines. February 9th, 1915.

PO His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor General, Brussels.

Sir-Since I have the opportunity,* may I remind your Excellency of my letter of January 27th relative to the salaries of the clergy? My colleagues in the episcopate, whose ideas as well as my own I gave expression to, are as anxious as myself to find a solution. When I say my colleagues, I must make a reservation in the case of the Bishop of Tournay, who finds it materially impossible to communicate his

Believe me, your Excellency, I feel sure it is superfluous for me to make this declaration that the Belgian bishops have no designs against public order. the bishop of the diocese to which such a one may happen to belong.

Receive, my dear Governor General, the assurance of my very high esteem.

(Signed) D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER. Archbishop of Mechlin.

*Note—His Eminence at the same time was writing to the Governor General to intercede on behalf of the cure of Forrieres. (See below.)

Waives Claims to Declarations

Governor General of Belgium's Office. Brussele, February 17th, 1915. To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Mechlin.

I have the honor to acknowledge your Emineuce's esteemed letters of January 28th and Febru-

I cannot entertain the views which your Emiuence puts forward in your first letter. It is a question of a measure arising out of the war. This measure in no wise affects the position of the clergy in regard to the State as laid down by the Belgian Constitution and Legislature. Moreover, it in no wise constitutes a precedent. On the conclusion of the war it loses all its force.

To prove that I was within my rights in subordinating the payment of salaries to the signing of the proposed declaration, I might adduce the fact that already a number of the clergy, among them a bishop with all his chapter, have professed themselves in



CARDINAL MERCIER AND CARDINAL GIBBONS

order. The maintenance of public order constitutes my duty. Since, in view of the position of the episco pate in the Catholic Church, I am enabled to look upon the declaration of your Eminence as binding the whole clergy, I have great pleasure in informing you that I waive all claims to a personal declaration from each member of the clergy.

I offer to your Eminence the expression of my highest esteem, and I have the honor to be your Eminence's most devoted servan

FREIHERR VON BISSING. Governor General

Archbishon's House, Malines,

February 19th, 1915. To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor Gen-

cral Brussels. I have received the letter with which your Excellency honored me on February 17th in answer to my

communications of January 28th and February 9th. Yesterday I had the opportunity of meeting my revered colleagues of the Belgian hierarchy at Tour

nay. They have begged me to become their spokesman with your Excellency and to express to your our lively satisfaction and our heartfelt gratitude. Kindly accept the expression of my very high

esteem. (Signed)

D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER. Archbishop of Malines

lency has not received the letter which I had the honor to address to you on February 19th. It was, however, sent to you by registered post as is proved by the inclosed receipt.

The following is the text of what I then wrote. (Here follows text of the preceding letter.)

I present again to your Excellency the expression of my very high esteem D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER. (Signed) Archbishop of Malines

The Governor General of Belgium,

Brussels, March 3rd, 1915. To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of

In reply to the esteemed letter of your Eminence

dated the 1st of this month, I have the honor to in form you that your letter of February 19th reached me in a regular manner through the post.

If I have delayed answering, it is because I desired to add to the thanks which I own your Eminence for your last letter the announcement that the payment of ecclesiastical valuries is secure. I had given orders to the head of the administration to ad vise me of it. It is only today that he has informed me that it is an accomplished fact. I rejoice to be able to make this communication

to your Eminence; at the same time I beg you to ac-

devoted servant.

(Signed) FREIHERR VON BISSING. Generaloberat.

CHAPTER IV

Von Bissing Complains to the Cardinal About the Manner in Which the French Treat

German Officer Prisoners

Office of the Governor General of Belgium. Brussels, December 31st, 1914,

TO His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of

I have the honor in reply to the exteemed letter addressed to my predecessor on November 29th* to make to your Eminence the following communication:

It has often happened that German doctors who have been made prisoners by the French have reported on their return from captivity the ignominious treatment which had been inflicted on German officer prisoners. These reports have been communicated toall the Belgian and French officer prisoners in Germany in order that they may take up the matter with the proper authorities in their respective countries with a view to amelia-ing the conditions of the German officers and thus to avoid eventual veprisals on the part of the German Government. These reports have been read at the same time to the Belgian ecclesiactics who are in the camp at Celle. No measures of reprisals have so far been taken.

I inclose with my letter a copy of one of these veports which have arrived here, with the observation that the bad treatment which is mentioned therein must have been meanwhile mitigated in consequence of diplomatic representations.

letter:

The Governor General. VON BISSING,

Cavalry General.

"Infamous Treatment," Germans Cry The following note accompanied the Governor's

The head doctor, Ter Peck, who was a prisoner for some time in the camp at Faugeres and who, since his release, has been doing duty as head doctor with the regiment of the Landwehr, No. 75, reports as follows about the installations in that camp and the manner in which German officer prisoners are treated

During their removal from the camp they were exposed to the insults of the mab, measures for their protection were altogether inadequate, Their military equipment has been taken from them-their cape, gaiters, etc .- and instead of these they have been given nightcaps and very shabby civilian clothes,

"Again, in the camp they were exposed to the icers of the mob; the commandant at the camp is unable to protect them. The accommodation leaves much to be desired. The rooms cannot be warmed and the officers have to clean them out themselves. For beds they have only eachs of straw to lie on without any bedclothes. There are no sanitary arrangements. Their food is insufficient und of inferior quality and yet the officers only receive eighty centimes of their pay on the plea that the rest is kept for their maintenance."

These reports show that it is very urgent that steps should be taken to put a stop to this infamous

In reply to this letter, the Cardinal asked for details which were never forthcoming.

services—at the Cathedra's his week.
He will conduct special services mornand evening.

The story of Father Paul's work at the monastery and lodging house for the poor at Graymor, near Garrion N. Y., is like a page out to cathes the issue gentle and comes of medical Europe to minister to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and distressed, to feed them and preach to the poor and th

The story of the founding of the inn and the "Union That Nothing Might Be Lost," a branch of the Society of the Atonement, which operates the inn along the Hudson, might have been the material for a legend, had it happened several centuries ago.

Among the many "brothers Christophier" who stopped from time to time at the monastery was an old man of eighty years, friendless and threadbare. During one of his visits, the question of a place to train soung men for the priesthood was brought up. He listened with interest and went his way, as he had many times before.

In a few days there came to the monastery checks for \$5000 and \$200—

Vertical Stationary Cleaner, made in sizes A, B, and 2-B. Size A Cleaners are ideal for the average house of ten to twenty rooms, using \$5 feet of cleaning hore and one sweeper at a time.

Vacuum Cleaners

A Sturtevant Stationary Vacuum Cleaner can be quickly installed in

buildings already completed or in course of construction. It increases the value of your property. Let a Sturtevant representative tell you about this efficient system of cleaning.

B. F. STURTEVANT COMPANY A. L. Bucknam, District Manager

135 North Third Street Market 14-30 Engines

up the payroll. It counts the

money into envelopes and keeps a permanent black-and-

white record of the amount

It checks the payroll and bal-

It is handling the payrolls of

ances the cash automatically.

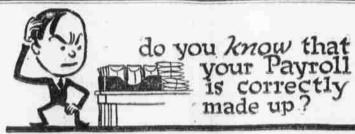
such firms as General Electric,

Standard Oil, John B. Stetson,

United States Steel Corpora-

tion and hundreds of others.

put into each envelope.



/HAT are you going to do W if an employee claims his Even if the cash balanced

how do you know someone else was not overpaid the same amount? You can have proof if you

use the International Payroll

This machine lists, adds and tells the exact amount of each

denomination required to make

Send for a full list of users. International

Reading, Pa. Manufacturers of Payroll and Visible Adding and Listing Machines Philadelphia Office 125 S. 12th Street Phone, Welnut 5782 Offices in all principal cities



With Other Floor Coverings Mineral Flooring to the result of scientific research and development.

The Scientific Flooring

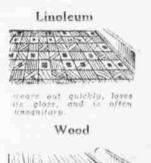
Mineral Flooring is made of minerals selected for their hardness and toughness. These minerals are crushed and mixed with chemicals so that every atom of a Mineral Floor forms a crystal of surpassing strength and resistance.

Laid like plaster, 1/2 inch thick, over old or new floors, wood or concrete, Mineral Flooring hardens in twelve hours and forms a clean, sanitary floor covering for stores, restaurants, factories, kitchens, hotels, theatres, and churches.

Write for booklet to

PHILADELPHIA

5632 Summer St. Phones: Belmont 182, West 649



uccorn, absorbs Tile



racks, and does not Concrete



