

information as to their course, which would be of value to Germany in her submarine campaign. Equally shameful is the refusal of Turkey, under the admitted order of Germany, to refuse two American naval ships loaded with Red Cross supplies for the starving Armenians to proceed to Beirut from Alexandria, where they have been detained under threat for many months.

In the history of Germany's lawlessness and heartlessness in this war its treatment of America's relief to starving civilians will form not the least shameful chapter.

THE ALLIES AND THE NEW GERMAN LINE

The retreat of the German forces in the Somme sector has been followed up with rapidity and dash by both British and French armies. The positions taken and the villages and strategic points occupied have been far in advance of what had been expected by most students of the situation. It was even questioned last week whether the real line chosen by the Germans for permanent defense may not be farther east than had been supposed. The so-called Hindenburg line, which has been accepted as the probable line of defense, runs in a general southerly direction from Arras to St. Quentin, La Fère, and Laon, and this line corresponds approximately with a north-and-south railway system. St. Quentin is the center, both geographically and as regards roads and railways, of this line. Now the Allies have so closely approached St. Quentin and have so occupied commanding positions near La Fère that it is at least possible that we may soon hear that these places have been abandoned. If this takes place, the Germans obviously must move farther east and take up a position along the next north-and-south railway system, which centers at Ribemont, seventeen miles northeast of Laon. Certainly the reports for the week ending March 28 are most encouraging for those who hope that General Haig and General Nivelle are doing something more important and more vital than merely following a German retreat.

Discussion continues as to the general effect of the retreat of German forces on the whole war. One theory is that the Germans believe that the Allies are now so deeply engaged in this movement that any plan for a big offensive drive elsewhere on the western line will become impossible for them. Another theory is that Germany is simply shortening her line on the west and that her most probable move this spring or early summer will be an attack on the Russian line at the north, in the Riga section. The official statement from Petrograd that the Germans have vast quantities of munitions and troops ready for action in this region is significant. Still another theory is that Germany is planning a fierce attack on Italy.

THE SUBMARINE WAR

The arrival last week of the American Line passenger steamship *St. Louis* in an unnamed English port is a source of congratulation, not merely because she successfully braved the dangers of the forbidden zone, but because the world sees in this voyage the first evidence that the United States is protecting American ships in their lawful passage through the high seas. The *St. Louis* carried guns fore and aft, and they were manned by an armed guard furnished by our Navy Department.

The latest information about Germany's ruthless campaign against merchant ships is found in the statement by Lord Charles Beresford, the famous English Admiral, in the British House of Lords on March 27. Up to that date, he said, the losses of merchant vessels in March amounted to about 420,000 tons. He put the losses for February at about 500,000 tons; the number of vessels lost in February was 281, as compared with 255 for March up to the date above given; March thus shows a daily average of about ten per cent less than February.

It is a good illustration of the calmness with which Great Britain is recognizing and facing the seriousness of this campaign that Lord Charles Beresford added to his report his opinion, as recorded in the cable despatches, that "captures of submarines by the British were not at all equivalent to the new submarines the Germans were launching." He even added that, in his judgment, the Foreign Office was exercising too much power over the navy, his inference apparently being that the

naval authorities should be given greater freedom of action in the campaign.

A striking example of the extent to which Germany is carrying its piratical and atrocious methods of submarine warfare is seen in the official report from London as to the loss of the British hospital ship *Asturias*, sunk without warning on the night of March 20, although brightly illuminated with Red Cross signs. Between thirty and forty lives were lost, and some of the survivors, including wounded men, died after they were landed. The English press calls for reprisals in return for this barbarity, in accordance with the declaration issued by the British Foreign Office in January.

PREPARING FOR WAR

Awaiting the action of Congress which shall follow the Message of the President, the Government and the country have continued to take important steps for National defense in the line of the plans reported last week. The President has called out for public service regiments of the National Guard in thirty-two States; it is estimated that the total number of men called out or retained (instead of being sent home from the Mexican service as had been expected) is about fifty-two thousand. The response to this call has been prompt and full, and the experience gained in mobilization in the Mexican campaign has been of great service. Just what disposition will be made of the regiments is not announced, but presumably it will be primarily to guard Government property, bridges, and other points of danger, and, if necessary, to repress acts of violence.

Activity is evident in naval matters. The President has ordered that the enlisted strength of the navy be brought as rapidly as possible to its maximum—not far from nine thousand three hundred men (87,000 plus 6,000 apprentice seamen). This would mean an increase of approximately fifteen thousand. Recruiting is going on vigorously for bluejackets and marines. The emphasis placed on naval preparation is significant. Perhaps the most immediate war need is for naval strength in order to protect our coasts, and in order also, it is to be hoped, to undertake our share of the work of keeping the highroads of the sea open to neutral commerce by putting down the unlawful and dangerous submarine attacks.

Among the new governmental actions in view of possible war has been the creation of two new army departments. Hereafter there will be six instead of four; the transfer of Major-General Leonard Wood from the Department of the East to the Department of the Southeast has occasioned general surprise and has called out serious criticism. He is replaced in the Eastern Department by Major-General Franklin Bell.

Home Defense Leagues are being formed all over the country in small towns as well as in cities, and they will afford an efficient protection to life and property locally if need be. What this has gone on a quite remarkably extensive Red Cross local organization.

MR. TAFT'S ATLANTA SPEECH

On Friday, March 24, Atlanta, Georgia, had an opportunity to express in a very public fashion its attitude toward preparedness, the German menace, and the relation of the United States to the world war.

The occasion was the great mass-meeting of citizens gathered in Atlanta's largest assembly hall to hear ex-President Taft speak upon the subject of the League to Enforce Peace. Atlanta "Constitution" said of this gathering:

"No such audience has been gathered in the Auditorium to hear a public man speak for years."

The chief subject of Mr. Taft's able address was the League to Enforce Peace, but his discussion of the history of the past two years and of the immediate duty of the United States to the Allies afforded Atlanta her best opportunity to put her own record. Any one who sat in the audience at the Auditorium can have no doubt as to how that record reads.

Here is one statement of Mr. Taft's which was greeted with prolonged applause: "If a commercial vessel of the United States, armed in advance by the President, meets a submarine it ought to sink it on the spot without warning. To wait is

waiting for a coroner's inquest when a man points a pistol at you."

Mr. Taft recognized the fact that we were in everything but name already at war with Germany; and so, by its approval of the following statement, did his audience:

"We have declared war against the greatest military nation in the world, and we must be prepared for the greatest strain in doing our part. When we find three or more nations struggling with a common enemy of ours, it is but common sense that we should unite with those nations."

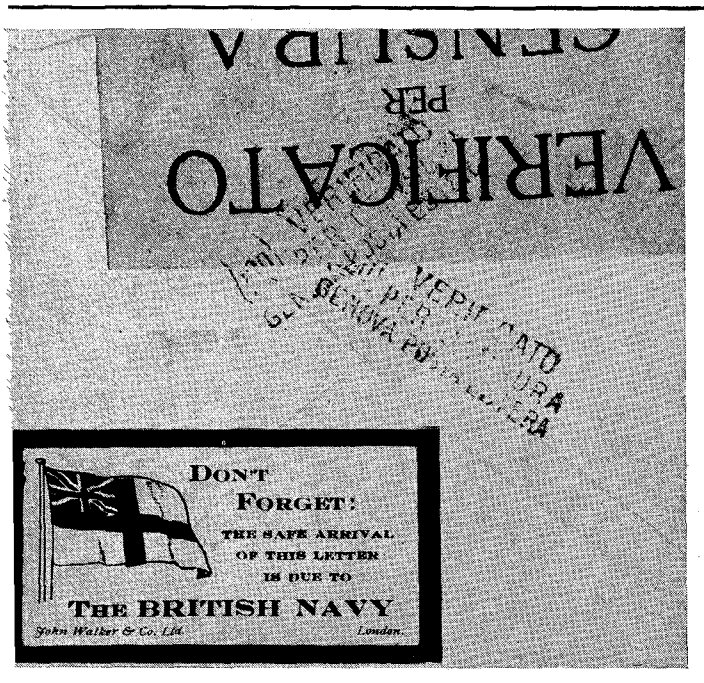
Mr. Taft's declaration in favor of universal compulsory training and service, his statement that we should no longer be bound by Washington's outgrown dictum to avoid entangling alliances, and his outspoken belief that the "obligation of the United States is to protect our citizens at home and on the high seas, . . . and the President's oath of office requires him to do this," supplied Atlanta's citizens with still other opportunities to manifest their belief that war with Germany offers to the United States the only true path to future safety and present honor.

Mr. Taft was introduced to the citizens of Atlanta by Governor Harris, of Georgia, and both houses of the State Legislature attended in a body.

WHAT WE FORGET

In his speech at the Madison Square Garden meeting in New York, reported elsewhere, Elihu Root said: "We are able to hold this peaceful meeting—with a few weak explosions—and why? Because we are protected by the navies and armies of our Allies." This undeniable fact would not be even questioned if those armies and those navies were near our borders. The fact that they are far away and are keeping the Germans far away tends to make us forget.

We here print a novel and striking form of reminder. It is a poster attached to an envelope that has come to our hands. The envelope with its inclosure was mailed in Italy, and the poster, with its paster and its stamps, is herewith reproduced:



The phrase stamped upside down is *Verificato per Censura*—used by the censor. The British flag in the corner of the poster is, in the original, printed in colors.

It might not be stimulating to his pride, but it would be contributory to his knowledge of the truth, if every American would attach, not only to the things that come from abroad, but also to much of what he enjoys here at home, a poster that would remind him that he owes them to the British navy.

HERO'S FELLOWSHIP

"As a slight expression of the intellectual debt which this country owes to France," there has been established at Harvard the Chapman Memorial Fellowship. When the fund reaches a sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (at the time of the ac-

ceptance of the gift it was within a few hundred dollars of that amount), the annual income from it is to be offered "to a French youth (or youths, in the event of the growth of the fund to such an amount that the income thereof would justify such action) for study in one department or another of Harvard University." The contributors suggest that "the incumbents from year to year be nominated by a Committee of French Scholars, formed from those who are or have been French exchange professors at Harvard, and that to them be added *ex officio* the President for the time being of the Autour du Monde Club in Paris, such committee to present annually its recommendation of the candidate to whom, on approval by the Corporation or appropriate committee, the Fellowship shall be awarded."

The man to whom this fellowship is a memorial, Victor Emanuel Chapman, of New York, an alumnus of Harvard of the class of 1913, was a student in the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris when the war broke out. After joining the Foreign Legion he was transferred to the Flying Corps of the French army. He was one of the first Americans to fall in the cause of France. As we reported at the time, he was killed last June in a combat with German aircraft over Verdun. His character and his record have combined to single him out as a type of devoted American who is ready to count all things but loss for the sake of a righteous cause.

The contributors to this fellowship hope that it "may stimulate similar foundations at Harvard and at other American universities and colleges."

AMERICANS WHO HAVE DIED FOR LIBERTY

In an introduction to an article on the "American Ambulance in France" which appeared in this journal's issue of September 15, 1915, Mr. Roosevelt referred to the author, James R. McConnell, as one of those young Americans who had been engaged in the field work of this Association "with a devotion and courage which have commanded glowing tributes of gratitude and admiration from French officers." Later James McConnell joined the Lafayette *escadrille* of the French aviation corps and for his excellent and daring service was made a sergeant. A few days ago came from Paris the news that he had died in an air battle with two German war planes.

Sergeant-Pilot McConnell was an American of the fine Southern type, a graduate of the University of Virginia, a promising business man, and a son of Judge S. P. McConnell, a railway president. A volume from his pen entitled "Flying for France" has just appeared. He entered this war to give relief to the wounded, later to fight for France, not as an adventurer or for lack of other things to do, but because he was a patriot in the large sense and because he wanted to help to give American aid and sympathy to the cause of right and justice. His name belongs with that of Victor Chapman and other young Americans who have fallen abroad in fighting against the wanton spirit of conquest and cruelty.

Two other young Americans have recently died in the cause of liberty. One was Henry Suckley, a graduate of Harvard of the class of 1910, who was cited for gallantry as an ambulance driver on the western front, obtained the Croix de Guerre, was appointed to the command of twenty-five ambulances in recognition of his effective service, and finally was sent to Salonika with other expert drivers. He lost his life in a bomb attack on March 25 while driving wounded soldiers from the front to the base hospital near Salonika.

The other young man whose death is a loss to the Allied cause, but a gain to the roll of American heroes, is Robert Warren, son of President Warren, of Yankton College, who died from tuberculosis induced by exposure. He had been an Oxford Rhodes Scholar. He was with the American Ambulance. He received before his death the Medal of Devotion—the highest honor France bestows upon any one not actually engaged in fighting.

Such are the men who are dying for their faith in democracy and freedom.

WHAT CHILDREN CAN DO IN WAR TIME

No feature of war is so ominous as famine. We see that patently enough to-day in the various warring countries. If