

American papers also throw a somewhat fuller light on the means by which Germany proposed to make good her so-called blockade of British coasts. The information is conveyed in the text of the German Government's reply—published in full in the American press—to the American protest against the terms of the war zone decree issued by the former on February 4. When that proclamation was made, the public mind in this country ran mostly to the thought of submarines. The German Note referred to, however, places most of the stress upon mines as the effective 'blockading' agent. 'Acting from this point of view,' it says, 'the German Admiralty proclaimed a naval war zone, whose limits it exactly defined. Germany, so far as possible, will seek to close this war zone with mines, and will also endeavor to destroy hostile merchant vessels in every other way. While the German Government, in taking action based upon this overpowering point of view, keeps itself far removed from all intentional destruction of neutral lives and property, on the other hand, it does not fail to recognise that, from the action to be taken against Great Britain, dangers arise which threaten all trade within the war zone without distinction. This is a natural result of mine warfare, which even under the strictest observance of the limits of international law, endangers every ship approaching the mine area.' Again and again the Note warns neutral shipping that the only hope of safety is to keep away from the 'war zone.' 'The German Government,' it continues, 'considers itself entitled to hope that all neutrals will acquiesce in these measures, as they have done in the case of the grievous damages inflicted upon them by British measures. . . . In view of the fact that Germany gave the first proof of her good will in fixing a time limit of not less than fourteen days before the execution of said measures, so that neutral shipping might have an opportunity of making arrangements to avoid threatening danger, this can most surely be achieved by remaining away from the naval war zone. Neutral vessels which, despite this ample notice, which greatly affects the achievement of our aims in our war against Great Britain, enter these closed waters, will themselves bear the responsibility for any unfortunate accidents that may occur. Germany disclaims all responsibility for such accidents and their consequences.' And again it says: 'Germany would be particularly grateful if the United States would urgently recommend to its merchant vessels to avoid the British naval war zone.' It may well be that this repeated talk of the wholesale use of mines, and these urgent exhortations to keep away from the war zone, are very largely in the nature of bluff, used for the purpose of frightening neutrals from continuing their trade with Britain. But for whatever such utterances are worth, there they are, in the official document.

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The Note affords striking and unmistakable evidence of the extent to which Germany is now feeling the economic pinch. There are repeated and undisguised references to the fact that her overseas food supply is now almost completely cut off, and to the grave danger of starvation which that entails. It may be that the numerous peace 'feeler' that are a marked feature of several pro-German American papers that lie before us are an outcome of these references. It is a truism to say that every sensible person desires peace; and provided it be the right kind of peace, it cannot come a day too soon. 'The peace which the Holy Father invites us to implore from God,' said Cardinal Amette, in a recent pastoral, 'is the sweet and lasting peace which, according to the words of the Holy Book, is the work of justice: the peace which supposes the triumph and the reign of right.' And for that peace—the only genuine and enduring peace—we may all most heartily and sincerely pray.

We have to thank Messrs. Wilkie and Co., Dunedin, for a copy of an excellent war map, showing the scene of operations in Turkey.

Notes

Getting Even

There is a good story in currency in English papers just now which, if it be not true, certainly ought to be. It is of a French Minister visiting a French military hospital, in which two Parisians occupied two neighboring cots. The Minister asked Parisian No. 1 how he was. 'We are making slight progress,' was the cheerful reply. The Minister, with a smile, turned to the second wounded man, whose recovery was slow. 'And how are you?' he asked. 'Situation unchanged,' was the soldier's reply in a feeble voice. 'Nothing new to report.' This time the Minister laughed outright, and cheerfully admitted that the joke was against him.

Pointed Pars

American papers continue to have their little jokes on the subject of the war, and some of their pen pricks are sufficiently to the point. Here are some of the latest:—

Spades are trumps in the European war game.—*Wall Street Journal.*

Turkey is now in a position to issue the bluest of blue books.—*Houston Chronicle.*

It seems as though those hundred years of peace had been celebrated just in time.—*Boston Transcript.*

'Is civilisation a disease?' asks a highbrow professor. If it is, Europe is fast eradicating it.—*Kansas City Journal.*

The new election laws in China fix the Presidential term at ten years, or indefinitely. There's a one-term plank that even Woodrow Wilson could subscribe to.—*Boston Transcript.*

The pessimistically inclined who have been crying that Christianity is a failure might wait until it has been tried.—*Washington Post.*

The trouble with Colonel Bryan's overtures of peace is that the other nations do not seem to be able to catch the tune.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat.*

There's some consolation in the reflection that after the war some of those medieval European cities can use the trenches for subways and sewer systems.—*Boston Transcript.*

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship Bishop Verdon and the Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., who had been in Christchurch assisting at the obsequies of the late Bishop Grimes, returned to Dunedin on Saturday.

On St. Patrick's Day there took place at St. Dominic's Priory the ceremony of reception, at which Miss Mary Ellen Dillon (Ireland), in religion Sister Mary Peter Claver, received the holy habit of the Order. His Lordship Bishop Verdon officiated, and was assisted by Rev. Father Buckley. Amongst those present were Very Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore), Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., Rev. Father Edge, Rev. Fathers Liston, Morkane, M.A., Collins, and Scanlan (Holy Cross College), Tobin and Falconer (South Dunedin), several students of Holy Cross College, and the friends and relatives of the newly received Sister.

There was a crowded meeting in the Town Hall, South Dunedin, on Tuesday evening, when the congregation of St. Patrick's Basilica assembled to say good-bye to the Rev. Father D. O'Neill, who was recently transferred to Invercargill. During the evening, Mr. J. J. Marlow, on behalf of the congregation, presented Father O'Neill with an illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns. Owing to pressure on our space we have been obliged to hold over a full report of the presentation until our next issue.

An enjoyable entertainment in aid of the St. Clair Stall at the forthcoming St. Patrick's School bazaar, South Dunedin, was given in the Town Hall, South Dunedin, on Friday evening, when there was a very good attendance. The first part of the programme con-