

AMERICA'S POSITION

(By Alexander Lyle-Samuel in "The Daily Chronicle," London, Eng.)

"I have just come from America to New York," said a professor of a western University at a luncheon last December; and in that paradoxical sentence is conveyed a truth which must be made clear if the people of England are to understand anything of the American people.

For, unfortunately, most English people who have never travelled in the North American continent still seem to have a hazy impression of New York as the capital city of the United States, and that beyond it, north, south, east and west, are the provinces, with their many great provincial cities.

An even greater mistake is to think that in the United States there is a united nation as to political thought and international outlook. The fact is that while all who live under the flag proudly insist that each is a real and true American, yet the result of the physical obstacles of distance and variety in race is that there is no common thought radiating from any central point.

America is not a homogeneous nation; it is a hyphen - nation. Large numbers of its citizens are not satisfied to be American; they are Irish-American, German-American, Greek-American, Italian-American, and so forth. If the fires of patriotism built under this melting pot at any point burnt hot enough the mass might be fused to some thing approaching consistency; but it would certainly require an outrage threatening by conquest the very life of the nation to effect this. No attacks upon the honor or dignity of the people of the United States would ever find a united nation to resent them.

And yet it is true to say that an overwhelming majority of the heterogeneous citizens of the United States, placed by some as high as 90 per cent., is sympathetic to the cause of the Allies. But there is a vast difference between wishing success to the Allies and feeling an honorable compulsion to participate actively in an attempt to secure it. It is a very long step from comradeship in thought to comradeship on the battlefield. And if the people here keep clearly in their minds that the distance across the United States, after you have landed in New York, is as far as the distance you have travelled across the ocean, it will be realized that the people in Western America have no pressing sense of neighborhood to us in Europe.

The idea which has been spread that the trouble of the Administration to make itself felt more aggressively is due to the embarrassment of a large German population is not true. The most careful estimate would show that the German-born, and children of German-born parents, in the United States can hardly number three millions; and of those a very considerable proportion are not at all sympathetic to the Prussian idea of a militaristic control of national life. Probably more of them emigrated from Germany to be released from that even than to improve their prospects. But, curiously enough, it is the descendants of German stock of three or four generations back who are the noisy and aggressive pro-Germans in America. Distance has lent enchantment to their view of the dear Fatherland, and the Kaiser is a highly-decorated and handsome-looking god, to whom they are prepared to offer homage, with the Atlantic Ocean between as a safeguard. In short, they see him in a mirror of water, and, thus viewed, he seems to dwarf even the statue of Liberty itself. But adding together the total population of German-born and descendants of German-born in the United States, it does not number eight millions all told; and the paid circulation of daily papers printed in the German language throughout the continent is very little over 100,000 copies per day.

Of the American Press, generally speaking, it would be impossible to exaggerate the service it has done to the cause of the Allies in the accuracy and fulness with which it has put the causes and nature of the present conflict before its readers. There have been few notable exceptions, but on the whole, from our point of view, the American Press has been simply splendid. The leading articles in The New York Times, in particular have stirred and thrilled those who were fortunate enough to read them by the passion and the lucidity with which they have contrasted the prospects of a world to be either given over to Prussian authority or to be dedicated ideals of freedom. And it may be accepted absolutely that thinking American people most clearly understand that the future development of America along the lines of the ideals of the Fathers who dedicated the country to freedom is only possible if the Allies succeed in upholding these ideals with the sword.

A democracy such as exists in that great Republic has naturally no militaristic sympathies or aggressive purpose. It is idle for people to enquire whether President Wilson will make war or keep the peace. As a President, on a short term, of a Republic, it is for the people in unity of thought and feeling to authorize him to demand of Congress the powers necessary both to declare and wage war. A great deal of unmerited and often bitter criticism is poured out on President Wilson, who is in the difficult position of being the titular head of a nation more united in name than in anything else.

America never expected the European war, and certainly never contemplated that if war came it would be any direct concern of hers. When Belgium was violated the people, among the most humanitarian of any in the world, were shocked beyond description and condemned Germany in violent and unlimited and scathing terms; but the President ordered a prompt and cold neutrality as the policy of a sympathetic people. When the Lusitania was sunk, and the other murderings of American citizens took place, it was realized by some that perhaps too great a reliance had been placed upon good faith, and that there should have been more faith put in the strength of a good right arm. And when the people realized how absolutely unprepared they were a movement was started called The National Security League, which has branches in every State, and numbers adherents by tens of thousands.

It is true that at this present moment America is not in the military sense a Power. But she is a power-house. And should her stirrings and impulses lead her to generate and co-ordinate her resources and forces for war, she would not merely be capable of resisting any acts of aggression towards herself, but would be capable of playing a leading part in the settlement of international conflicts arising because there were those in the world who desired that Liberty should perish.

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Chicago's great preparedness parade will be held on Saturday, the 3rd of June.

Nearly \$300,000 worth of liquor was confiscated in a raid by State agents at Girard, Alabama.

W. J. Bryan will not attend the Democratic National Convention, save as a newspaper reporter.

"Small" business must be helped to become efficient, President Wilson told the Federal Trade Commission.

Big tobacco and drug store interests will join with moving picture concerns for a great chain of "nickel makers."

James Whitcomb Riley posed for the movies last week. The pictures were made under the auspices of the Indiana historical commission.

The price of oysters must go up ten per cent., it was decided in Atlantic City, at a conference of the Oyster Dealers' and Growers' Association of America.

Katie Fergash of Wilkesbarre, Pa., was chloroformed and kidnapped by a jealous admirer, who tied her to a tree in a marshy wood. She was otherwise unharmed.

Frightened by his own reflection in a mirror, a burglar who entered Philip Tunison's home at Somerville, N. J., shattered the glass with two revolver shots and fled.

After serving five days in the workhouse for beating a taxi bill, a New York man rode away in a taxicab, refused to pay, and was sent back for five days more.

By a Caesarean operation triplets were born to Mrs. Anna Richer, wife of a farmer living near Omaha, Neb. Omaha surgeons say this is the first case of the kind on record.

Although she smoked a pipe, used snuff, drank gin, ate what she pleased and slept with windows closed, an Evansville, Ind., woman lived to 100 years.

Plans depicting the menace to the Pacific coast from attack by sea and an uprising of the Japanese in the region, have been prepared by the Defence Reports Committee.

PERSONAL

Mr. and Mrs. Tobin of Paris are visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. Saunders.

Pte. Alex Saunders and wife are visiting the former's parents here.

Mr. Wm Browning was home from Stratford over the holiday.

Mr. Robt Laidlaw of Detroit was home over the 24th.

Miss Marion MacKenzie of Buffalo is visiting her aunts, Misses Laura and Edith MacKenzie.

Mrs. Geo MacKay and daughter, Jean, are visiting her son, Mr. and Mrs. Wm MacKay, at St. Marys.

Mr. Geo Williams of Minto was present at the funeral of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Benj Williams.

Mr. Jas Williams of Edmonton arrived in town a couple of weeks ago, and was present at his mother's death and burial.

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. McClocklin, who spent the winter in Toronto, have returned, to spend the summer in their home here.

Mrs. Geo Watt returned from London last week, after spending six months with her daughter, Mrs. Frank Clemas.

Miss Barbara Watt, Toronto, is visiting her mother here, but intends going west next week to Elrose, Sask., to visit her sister, Mrs. Henry Hintze.

Pte. C Wright of the 160th Bruce county Battalion, and his mother, Mrs. Samuel Wright, of Chesley, visited relatives and friends here on Monday and Tuesday.

Mrs. (Rev) Hartley of Delaware, is spending a couple of weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kress, and other friends in town. Mr Hartley intended to be here for Victoria Day, but some one had to get married, and he stayed to tie the knot.

The Reuss Henrys.

For 700 years every prince of the house of Reuss has been christened Henry, with a distinguishing numeral, but the task of identifying them is rendered doubly difficult owing to the existence of two branches, each of which has a different system of numeration. The elder line begins the numbering anew after each batch of 100 Henrys, whereas the younger line goes by the centuries, numbering its princes as they are born from I. upward through each complete hundred years. The territories of the two branches comprise little more than 400 square miles, divided into Reuss-Schleiz-Gera and Reuss-Greiz. For centuries the Montenegro of the Germanic countries, both branches joined the German confederation in 1815, but the elder line (Reuss-Greiz) sided with Austria in 1866, and the principality narrowly escaped being incorporated with Prussia.—Westminster Gazette.

Spain as a Republic.

Isabella II, when thirteen years old was declared of age by the cortes in 1846, and after a stormy reign of twenty-five years was deposed by a revolution which began in the fleet on Sept. 18, 1868, and was joined by the garrison and city of Cadix and by nearly all of Spain during the month. A provisional government was established and Marshal Serrano was made regent. The cortes voted for a monarchy on May 21, 1870, and after several offers of the throne had been refused it was finally accepted by Amadeus, duke of Aosta, who was proclaimed king on Nov. 7, 1870.

After an uncomfortable reign he abdicated in 1873 and was succeeded by another republic, which lasted for two years, when Alfonso XII., son of Queen Isabella and father of the present king, was elevated to the throne.

Artificial Indigo.

Artificial indigo owes much of its commercial success to an accident. Although synthetic indigo was first produced in 1870, it did not become a serious rival to the natural article until a thermometer was accidentally broken and the contents of the bulb ran into the heated mixture of naphthalene that was all too slowly being converted into phthalic acid, the basis of artificial indigo. It was then observed that the conversion became much more rapid, and from that day the use of mercury has played a big part in making artificial indigo a commercial success. The accident occurred after years of patient research, and it is now the boast of chemists that they are able to produce on a commercial basis a compound "exactly the same" as natural indigo.—London Standard.

Frederick the Great's Joke.

Among the embellishments which Berlin owes to Frederick the Great the "new palace" is the most conspicuous. This magnificent building was erected, it is said, to show Frederick's enemies that his many wars had not exhausted his exchequer. And further to show his contempt for the countries which had sought to crush him at the top of the cupola he placed a group of three women dancing together, the figures representing Catherine the Great, Maria Theresa and Mme. de Pompadour. The wrath of the two empresses was unbounded at finding themselves depicted in such an attitude and such company, so Frederick was able to congratulate himself on a thoroughly successful joke.

Recognizing Book Lovers.

You may recognize the book lover as soon as you glance at his shelves, though they may be few. Some people, especially servants, if allowed to interfere, marshal books according to colors, as they would like to buy them by the yard. Not so the book lover (I mean the man who loves books for their contents). He is kind to his books and, knowing they have souls, wishes them to live happily together. He would not, to take an extreme case, sandwich "Bradshaw" between "Stones of Venice" and "Modern Painters."—London Globe.

Tunnels.

A New York newspaper remarks that "ferries come and ferries go, bridges rise and bridges fall, but tunnels last forever." There is a scientific truth in the observation. Of all works of man earthworks, plain earth mounds sodded over, are about the most enduring. A properly constructed tunnel is essentially a work in earth and so almost as permanent as the great globe itself.—Exchange.

Advice.

Married Man—Not married yet? Old Chum—No, I'm not. Married Man—Now, see here, old boy, times are changing mighty fast. You take my advice and marry before women get any more emancipated than they are already.

May It Last!

"Is their married life happy?" "Nothing else. She thinks he is the wisest person on earth and he thinks she is the most beautiful. Perfect, eh?"

Difference of Attachment.

Romantic Ruth—Love wants all or nothing. Practical Pete—Then love's not like our sheriff, for he'll take anything he can get.

A Clutch.

Dubbins—Do you know where I can find a lot facing south? Stubbins—Why not try around the north pole? That's a very likely place.

While shame keeps its watch, virtue is not wholly extinguished in the heart.—Burke.

CAPTAIN IRWIN KILLED AT LANGEMARCK

After the battle of Langemarck in April, 1915, Captain Irwin of Collingwood was reported among the missing and it was not till the sixth of this month the official notice of his death was made to his relatives and friends here. He was a cousin of the editor of this paper though we were not aware of the fact before we saw the announcement in the last issue of the Thornbury Herald. He had almost completed his course in Knox College and was about to enter the ministry, when the call to enlist was felt to be his one great duty. He responded to the call, and lost his life in defense of freedom. In the same issue of The Herald is a lengthy eulogium by C. W. Bishop, general secretary of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, and from the unqualified praise accorded, we are forced to believe he was an exemplary Christian character. Here follows a brief notice in last week's issue of The Thornbury Herald: "Captain Irwin has been missing since April 22, 1915, and was not officially reported dead until May 6, 1916. "Captain Irwin was born at Redding on October 1, 1886, and was the youngest son of John and Mary Irwin and a brother of the proprietor of the Review-Herald. Sixteen years ago he moved to Collingwood with his parents and after completing his public school education, he was engaged with Long Bros. for some time. He then spent three years railroading and became a railroad engineer. While railroading he was converted under the preaching of Crossley and Hunter and this date was the turning point of his life. He left the railroad and attended Collingwood High school for two years, and then took a four years' course in Toronto University in Arts, and a three years' Theological course in Knox College."

MRS. OPERTSCHAUSER'S BODY RECOVERED.

The body of Mrs. Chas Opertschauser was recovered from the Saugen river last Saturday morning. She was drowned on April 25. The body was discovered by Mr. James Crispin at the rear of his farm, not a great distance from the ground covered by Mr. Chas Fleming, diver. The body was floating about a foot from the surface and was caught in the soft soil. The remains were conveyed to her late residence and the funeral service there on Sunday was private. After interment in the Hanover cemetery a memorial service was held in the Baptist church. A large number attended to pay the deceased their last respects.—Hanover Post

Abraham Fair and Square

Abraham's Special Sale of Ladies' Aprons at 50c

See Window

The J. D. Abraham Co.

Owen Sound received news a few days ago that David Ross, piper and organizer of the Owen Sound Highland Pipe Band, had been slain at the front about April 21. While in town he was a moulder at Kennedy's foundry. Shortly before the war broke out, he moved to Hamilton, where he enlisted in the 92nd Highlanders. He was later transferred to a Scottish regiment. His sorrowing wife and family are now living in Glasgow, Scotland.—O. S. Advertiser.

Ready for Easter

Our stock of Spring Millinery is larger and better this season than ever shown in Durham before.

It is easy to choose a Hat this season, as the styles range from the small but tasteful hat to the most elaborate creations.

Call and let us show you through our stock before Easter.

Mrs. T. H. McClocklin

Lambton Street. One door west of Standard Bank.

Large Sales Small Profits

McKECHNIE'S WEEKLY NEWS

SPRING is here again, and with it comes the need of good footwear. We have it, and lots of it, for men, women, boys, girls and children, having bought it nearly a year ago when prices were lower, thereby giving everyone a fair chance to buy good shoes at the old prices.

We will quote prices on a few of our lines:

Men's Heavy Split Blucher, a good serviceable shoe.....	\$2.35	Men's Heavy Reinforced Elk Shoe, a snap while they last.....	\$3.00
Men's Ext. Heavy Split Bluc. guaranteed to be waterproof.....	\$2.75	Men's Heavy Tan Elk, one of the best on the market.....	\$3.50
Women's Pliable Chrome Bals, good and comfortable.....	1.75		
Women's Heavy Grain Bals, guaranteed waterproof.....	2.00		
Women's Heavy Grain Bals, plain and A1 stock.....	2.15		

We have a special Shoe for men for heavy wear, built on the military last. Don't fail to see it when you call. It sells at.....

\$3.10

Boys' Heavy Split Blucher, plain and very soft stock.....

\$2.10

If you have a weak or sore foot try a pair of our double E Dongola Shoes. They will sure give you comfort The old price.....

\$2.35

Boys Heavy Split Blucher, toe cap.....

\$2.15

We have full lines in all Children's Shoes, Buy your Shoes now, it will pay you.

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