

(January 13, 1915.)

German Behavior in Northern France and Belgium

BY DR. L. E. BROWN-LANDONE.*

AT a special luncheon of the Club, on the 13th of January, Dr. Brown-Landone said:

I fear in coming here to-day that I may not be able to do justice to the cordial reception you manifest to the cause for which I wish to speak, nor to this kind welcome you give me. The pleasure I have in coming, I cannot express. During the two months and a half that I have lived on the other side, I have not been able to speak as freely as in Paris or London.

You, perhaps, do not realize the conditions in the United States. I am a citizen of America. We are a composite nation; and although nine people out of ten, and nine editors out of ten are emphatically pro-Ally in sympathy, they cannot express what they feel, because of the idea of our position as a neutral nation. I have seen confidential letters written by men of prominence in the newspaper world to men in England, stating that since in America the press is supported, as in all countries, by advertising and that since the larger portion of the advertising comes from merchants dependent for their credit upon the German-Jewish bankers, freedom of expression is impossible. Moreover, there is in the States a well-organized German-American society organized by Von Bülow when he was Imperial Chancellor. This organization controls the vote of the Germans in America.

Consequently, influenced by the bankers, by the merchants who depend upon the bankers for their credit, and by the politicians whose positions depend upon the vote of the people, freedom of speech on this subject can now be interpreted as a "figure" of speech.

Hence you understand that I am very glad to find myself here, speaking more freely than I have been able to do in America. (Applause.) I do not wish to indicate that we in America are afraid to speak that which we believe in our

* Dr. L. E. Brown-Landone came to this continent as the Special Envoy of an international society known as Les Amities Françaises. He was in France during the first few weeks of the war, and gained some knowledge of the conditions created by the war in that country.

hearts, but we wish to render the greatest service possible to those people who are fighting the battles of the centuries,—the war of democracy against autocracy! (Applause.)

To-day two great issues face each other,—democratic individualism and international fraternity, in opposition to the principle of military autocracy and international competition.

We must view the struggle as the final conflict of two great systems of government. Here in Canada, the war is a struggle between England and Germany; in France it is a war between Germany and France; in Russia, between Russia on the one side and Austria and Germany on the other.

In the States, being a cosmopolitan people and a neutral nation, we are free to obtain a wider view than any partisan engaged in the struggle.

It is necessary that you as vital partisans in this struggle understand that this is a world war and not a war between England and Germany alone, if you would justly interpret the sympathies and activities of neutral nations, especially the smaller ones.

In Norway and Sweden, for instance, the war is recognized as a war between Germany and Russia. For centuries Russia has been the enemy of Sweden. Hence these countries in supplying Germany with fish and cheese and other food products, are as they believe, aiding an ally who is fighting their century-old enemy.

In France some of the people questioned the sincerity of Italy. Some felt that Italy was waiting to discover which side was going to win before throwing her lot with either of them. Italy could not enter the war in August because she was starving. In May and June before the outbreak of the war, bread riots were frequent all over Italy. All outgoing telegrams were censored. Twenty-seven different republics were established in opposition to the government, and during the early days of June visitors in Florence and Venice were compelled to stay indoors, because of the shooting up and down the streets. Italy was impoverished because of her war with Turkey. It was necessary that she first obtain ammunition and coal and food. As soon as provisioned, Italy will enter the war, and she will enter on the side of the right.

I wish to bring you the viewpoint of France. But before doing so, I wish to explain some of the activities of the war—some of those conditions which outsiders have used in attempting to create friction among the Allies. In other words, an understanding of just how the Allies are working, means sympathy and harmonious support, and with it, confidence that

each of the nations fighting the battles of civilization will do her part.

Do not criticize Russia because she did not reach Berlin the first week in September. It is true that Russia has millions upon millions of men that can ultimately be drawn into the army, but there are only four railroads running from central Russia to the German border. These railroads are of wider gauge than the German railroads. If Russia should advance a million men into Germany there would be no means of bringing supplies to them. Even millions of men cannot fight efficiently without ammunition, without food and without water. The great movements of this war depend upon means of transportation more than upon anything else. Consider for a moment the city of Boston or the City of Toronto. How many years of constructive work have been carried on, and how many million dollars have been spent in creating a water system so that water may be supplied to every man, woman and child in the city? Yet the entire population of Boston or the entire population of Toronto is but little more than half a million people. Consider a moment then the work that would be required if to-night every man, woman and child in your city should move ten miles north, how difficult it would be to get water to them. Then think of an army six times as large as the population of either of these cities, and consider a moment what it means, not only to furnish water, but to furnish food, all kinds of other supplies, and tons upon tons, thousands of tons of ammunition for the great guns.

The Russians are doing the only thing that can be done; they are leading the Germans as far into Russia as possible, and keeping them there. Since they cannot carry their trains over German railroad lines, and since they cannot obtain the German rolling stock, the next best thing to do is to keep the Germans as far from their own base of supplies as possible.

Each time the Germans advance thirty or forty kilometres into Russia (and the Russians are drawing them a little farther each time—a little farther from their base)—the Russians gain a victory. This has happened twice and is now happening the third time. With their millions of men the Russians cannot advance without a transportation system. They can only advance through Hungary; and that they will do!

The question has been asked, why did not France support the English army at Mons more promptly? It was again a matter of transportation. The only ports at which the English could land their men were Ostend and Calais. You, per-

haps, do not realize the difficulties of the Channel; the entrances to channel ports are shallow; during all modern transportation only people and trunks have been carried across this neck of water. There are only a few shallow boats that can enter the Channel harbors of France, and there was no time to construct others.

The German army advanced rapidly and there was only a small army of English to oppose the larger army of the Germans. General Joffre was handling a million men. The English army could not move rapidly enough to join the great French army, and the enormous French army could not move up rapidly enough to join the English before the Germans were upon them. General Joffre then, I believe, performed the greatest marvel in retreat the world has ever witnessed. (Applause.)

You remember one of your greatest generals when commended as being one of the world's great warriors, replied, "No, I have never conducted a successful retreat." General Joffre during mobilization had arranged his men in successive lines from the Belgium border to Paris about thirty-two kilometres apart. When the Germans rushed over Belgium and into France they met the first French line. This first French line gradually retreated, drawing the Germans toward the second line. When the second line was reached the first line of French were put on trains and sent back toward Paris to rest and a fresh line of French soldiers met the already fatigued Germans, who were compelled to make their second run of twenty-five or thirty kilometres and fight against the fresh troops that had been placed in the French second line.

At the end of the second day the French soldiers of the second line were put on trains and sent back toward Paris, while the fresh French troops of the third line faced the still more fatigued Germans. This process of retreat was kept up until the Germans rushing at the rate of twenty-five to thirty kilometres a day were within thirty miles of Paris, far from the base of supplies, and almost exhausted by two weeks' hurried march and fighting through Belgium and France. In front of the forts of Paris, the German army found its offensive campaign blocked. From that moment the rapid offensive war that Germany had planned for years was doomed to failure.

With Gallieni northwest of their advancing line, with the French forts in front, with the French aeroplanes overhead, and with every crossroad, every railroad bridge, every hillside under them mined, there was but one thing for the German army to do, if it was to escape annihilation. I firmly believe

that history will justify me in saying that General Joffre's retreat was the defeat of the German offensive campaign.

Of that other little nation forced into the war by violation of its territory and devastation of its fields, one need say nothing. It stands glorified by its own actions! Belgium stands by herself, alone.

A small country, surrounded by three of the greatest powers of Europe, Belgium need not have suffered as she has suffered. She could have diplomatically protested to Germany against the invasion of her territory and the breaking of the treaty which guaranteed her neutrality. She could have diplomatically excused herself to other powers, sincerely declaring that her small army could never hope to successfully withstand the mighty German military machine—that to attempt to do so would be national suicide.

If Belgium had thus diplomatically protested, but not resisted: her crops would have been left intact; her industries would still be busy, busier than ever before; her people could have sold to the Germans all the products of their fields and their factories; there would have been no fighting in Belgium; not one-fourth of her territory would even have been *traversed* by German troops; Belgium would have had no war expense; her people would still be housed in their own homes, working their own fields, running their own factories; there would have been no want, no desolation, no devastation; no Belgian soldier would have been killed; no Belgian child would be crying for father; no Belgian woman would be weeping for husband or lover.

But Belgium would have lost her individual self-respect and her consciousness of international honor. (Applause.)

Belgium had nothing else to gain, she had everything else to lose; yet she preferred the possibility and the probability of material devastation, rather than place herself before the court of the world as unwilling to make material sacrifices to defend her individual honor and the right and inviolability of international treaties.

Here was a little country of eight millions of people; her estimated wealth more than a thousand dollars to each man, woman and child; no one was extremely wealthy, no one was poor.

Of Belgium's seven and a half million acres, five million were actually under cultivation, more than one acre to each individual of the rural population; and this acreage on July 23rd, 1914, had a value of two thousand million dollars.

The educational authorities were eager for every improvement in the educational system; Belgium had given to the

world Flemish art and oil paintings; almost every village was a museum of the arts of the middle ages.

Her government was one of the most representative in the world; her House of Representatives, as we would call it, apportioned its members according to the number of votes actually cast by the members of each party. There was no intermediate machinery nor any other means of mis-apportioning as in the United States, France and Germany. If, in a Belgium election, five hundred thousand men voted for the Liberal party, five hundred thousand for the Conservative party, and two hundred thousand for the Labor party; the representatives of the Belgium Lower House would have been apportioned thus: fifty votes to the Liberal party, fifty votes to the Conservative party, twenty votes to the Labor party. In no other country were the people so directly represented.

This was the Belgium I saw and this was the Belgium that you might have seen had you traversed her fields and visited her cities the last week of July, 1914. Sixteen cities and twenty villages busy with their work, some with factories running night and day; five million acres of edible vegetables and waving grains; schools and universities crowded; eight million people, neither wealthy nor poor, but all with plenty and with no fear of the future; all busy, contented and happy!

And then, War!

First, the request for permission to transport Germany's troops across Belgium soil into France and the promise of a remarkable market for all her produce, the price to be paid in gold; second, the offer of increased colonial possessions at the close of the war.

Next, Belgium's refusal; and after that the invasion and the devastation.

And now her sixteen cities are either partially destroyed or burned; at best they are not fit for habitation. Antwerp though under fire for ten days is the most fortunate of all the cities, except Bruges, Brussels and Ghent. Reliable men writing personally of the terrific strain upon the people in Antwerp during those ten days of incessant rain of shells, bombs and fire, state that the actual condition will never be known. Thousands of people went insane and hundreds perhaps thousands committed suicide! Yet Antwerp was the most fortunate of all the cities stormed.

Bruges, Brussels and Ghent are vacated by the population and occupied by the enemy; Ostend has been shelled; many of the buildings of Malines, Seraing, Tournai, Alost, Mons, Charleroi, Courtrai, Liège and Louvain are in ashes; they

have not homes even for a quarter of their previous population. In Termonde which on July 23rd, 1914, had a population of forty thousand, there are now *only twenty buildings standing*.

And in the country there are no homes. Practically every acre which was under cultivation from the east of Belgium to the west, and from the north to the south, has been devastated; only the tiniest strip near Holland and the tiniest strip near Ostend have escaped destruction. For miles and miles there are no farm houses intact; the fields are black; crops have been consumed or burned to the ground; three million or more people are without homes and the cold rains falling; four million people are without sufficient clothing and the winter setting in; seven million people are hungry, and little or no food to be had. Fields of wheat, barley and rye have been consumed or burned; crops of beet roots, sprouts and other edibles have been eaten or destroyed; no bread, no flour, no meat, no milk; only dried peas and beans and often no means of cooking them.

This is the Belgium I saw the 23rd of August, not the Belgium I had seen on the 23rd of July.

And France!

The area overrun by the present war in France almost equals that devastated in Belgium. Fields in northeastern France have not been completely burned and devastated as have the farms and fields of Belgium; but at least five millions of her people have been driven from their homes; for twelve weeks battles have been fought over her lands; cities have been battered and burnt and rendered uninhabitable. Lille, Amiens, Beauvais, Leon, Rheims, Châlons, Mazières, each centres of industry, have had their factories shelled and their shops destroyed; their buildings have been torn down or burned; their cathedrals stormed, their population forced from their homes, compelled to flee to other departments of France.

Lille, a city of two hundred thousand, one of the great industrial and manufacturing cities of France, has been stormed, and shelled, and burned.

Châlons, the centre of the great champagne industry which has given support to millions of people in northern France, had its buildings burned, its industries stopped, and its people deprived of work and deprived of home.

Rheims, the great centre of the woolen manufacture of France and another great centre of the champagne industry, has been shelled first by one army and then by another for months.

Maubeuge, Mezières, Longwy, Saint Die, Valenciennes, Douai, Arras, Amiens are all in a semi-ruined condition, their industries destroyed and their people homeless.

Five millions of her people must be cared for by the already burdened French nation. Do not imagine that these women and children are properly housed and properly clothed. Often they left their homes with but a moment's notice. I have seen women and children who were forced from their burning homes at all hours of the night and early morning. *Often the houses were fired before they were awakened*. There was no time in which to grab clothing, no time for anything except to save themselves. Thus they often journeyed, hundreds in groups travelling along the country highways without food and without sufficient clothing. I have seen hundreds wandering thus clad only in the clothes in which they had been sleeping. I have seen an entire hospital with its wounded ordered on thirty minutes' notice, to take a train for the south.

Not only is southern and western France trying to house these five million French women and children driven from their homes in the northeast, but she is also finding homes for the million Belgian refugees who fled into France!

There are no vacant homes in which these French and Belgian refugees can be housed. It is not an easy problem to furnish homes on a moment's notice for a population greater than that of the entire city of New York and Toronto and Boston combined. There are no workmen to build new dwellings. The women are occupied. From Brittany to Marseilles they are carrying on the work of a nation of forty millions of people, looking after the affairs of their families, attending to their little ones, and caring for the greatest number of wounded the world had ever known to be congregated on the soil of any one nation.

France is the Hospital of Europe. Public buildings, hotels, private homes, even cottages are converted into hospitals. France has not only her own wounded, she has also the Belgian wounded, the English wounded, and one hundred thousand wounded Germans.

Excepting the preliminary battles at Liège, Namur, Mons and Charleroi, the fighting along the Franco-German battle line has been in France. It has taken place not with the advance of the German army into France, but with the gradual forcing back of the Germans toward the Belgium frontier. As the German army has been forced back trench by trench, the large number of German wounded have been left upon the fields in France within the advancing French line of battle. The Germans in retreating have been compelled to give their

attention to their big guns, to their ammunition, to their supplies and the German wounded have for this reason been left behind on the battlefield,—thousands upon thousands of them.

As the extensive fighting has taken place during the forced retreat of the Germans, the wounded French have been left on their own battlefields and not *behind* the German lines; the Germans thus have few French wounded to care for, while the French have almost all their own wounded, and most of the English and most of the Belgian, as well as thousands of the German wounded.

The most conservative estimate which I am able to obtain to-day is that there are at least five hundred thousand French wounded alone in France, not counting the Belgians, the English and the Germans.

England would willingly take care of her own wounded if she could get them to England, she would willingly take the Belgian wounded there; but they cannot be transferred across the channel. Not only are many too seriously wounded to be transferred, but more important still is the fact that transports cannot be had. They are needed to carry food and ammunition for those in the trenches.

All France south and west of the battle-line is one great hospital. Limoges! It is a city in central France of eighty-six thousand inhabitants. Two months ago I was informed by the French Ambassador that there were then in the hospitals and about the city *twenty-eight thousand* wounded. And Limoges is not so crowded as some other cities and districts to the north.

However, it has been impossible to transport the larger number of French wounded to the south, because of lack of means of transportation. Remember that all the railroad lines of France are made to centre at Paris. They were built to carry the products of industry under normal conditions from all the departments of France to its great capital. Consequently the great amount of food, the great amount of other supplies and the great amount of ammunition which must be sent to three million and a half men in northeastern and eastern France deranges the entire transportation system. Thousands upon thousands of French, Belgian, German and English wounded are left in the northern regions because there are no means of transportation, no possibility of getting them even as far south as Paris.

Do you now understand why there are women and children in France who are still without homes? Five million French women and children from northeastern France to be housed; one million Belgian refugees seeking some place in which to

sleep; and thousands upon thousands of wounded soldiers—perhaps hundreds of thousands who must be given beds and cared for.

And the number of the wounded is infinitely greater than we have been allowed to know; Germany is secretly hiding her losses; so is France. One waits long in France to learn even vaguely of the killed and wounded who have fallen in engagements weeks previously. England is the only country at war that promptly publishes her losses. It was generally understood during the last two weeks in August that one hundred and fifty thousand English were then fighting. In fact, the number was only eighty thousand! *England lost twenty-two thousand out of the eighty thousand, one man out of every four*; and this loss was certainly not greater than the German losses and not twice as great as the average French loss. How great the present losses are, how many thousands upon thousands are killed and wounded we shall never know till long after the war is over.

But at this moment France must bear the burden; France must house the sick and the wounded even though women and children are without bed and without shelter; and these wounded, long before they are able to walk, must be hurried out of their hospital quarters whether in hotel, cottage or out-building, to make room for the newly wounded arriving train load after train load!

Ah! France! do not forget France!

For fourteen weeks she has been the battle ground for the armies of four nations; five millions of her women and children are homeless. She is the haven of a million and a half Belgian refugees; she is *the* great hospital for the wounded of all nations at war save Russia, Servia and Turkey.

And the women of France! Though their husbands and fathers are away to the war, those in charge of the shops have decreed that every merchant of meat shall send to the starving, one cow, one pig, and two muttons; and that every farmer of France, not in the devastated region, shall send one pig or two muttons.

And this is the spirit of France!

Although France is paying a franc a day to every woman dependent upon anyone of her three million soldiers; although she is paying fifty centimes a day to every child so dependent; although she is caring for a million Belgians; although she is attempting to house, clothe and feed her five million women and children driven from their homes; although she is caring for the wounded of four nations; yet she makes no appeal for aid.

Though France makes no appeal, I make an appeal to you for France; I make an appeal for her women and children, I make an appeal for her wounded soldiers.

We need millions of suits of clothes for old men and young boys; we need millions of suits of underwear; we need millions of warm dresses for women and children, we need all types of clothing; and we need shoes, shoes, shoes!

There is not only need now, but there will be need for many months, perhaps for a year or two years to come. I do not say this lightly or without due caution. I have talked with people in authority of three of the different nations at war.

I know that Germany is well supplied with food, that she has so changed her crops during the last thirteen years that women can till her fields, that she can yield practically enough wheat and practically enough meat to supply her people year after year without depending upon imported food products.

Those who know her great coal and iron resources and her wondrous factories realize that she can continue her manufacture of arms and ammunition at her own convenience. There are those who believe that she has not sufficient supplies of cotton, oil and copper. I cannot conceive that a nation that has been so wise in providing all other materials of war and in rotating her crops to provide sustenance for her army and her people, would be so unwise and so negligent as not to provide these necessities also. I am convinced that the present effort to buy increased quantities of cotton, oil and copper is only another evidence of her wisdom in preparing for the future a greater reserve even than she has at the present time.

Hence we must realize that any demand for help now is not a demand for a contribution to be finished with the donation, it is a demand for organized work which must continue week after week, month after month as long as the need exists.

When I make an appeal for France, I make it in the name of humanity!

Do not say that the Governments are meeting their own needs; no Government, no matter how rich, is able at this time to provide the means of relief necessary to meet the exceptional conditions that exist.

The slaughter in this war is so much greater than was expected, that France as well as all other nations, is unprepared to care for the thousands upon thousands of wounded. The number is beyond imagination.

The battle-line at Gravelotte was five miles long; at Austerlitz eight miles long, at Wagram ten miles; the battle-line along the Austrian-Servian-Montenegro border, fifty miles long, along the Franco-German border is more than three hundred and twenty miles long, along the combined German-Austrian-Russian-Turkish borders, five hundred and fifty miles long; these armies united would form a line of men, millions on each side, stretching from New York to Chicago.

The combined armies of the north and south in the battle of Gettysburg did not aggregate two hundred thousand men; the combined armies in the great battle of Waterloo aggregated two hundred and seventeen thousand men; Russia, Austria, Servia, Montenegro, Germany, England and France have now in the field nineteen million seven hundred thousand men; and without doubt more than one-third of these are under the rain of fire and shell and bomb and shrapnel.

And so I plead with you to help France. Especially to help the threescore little hospitals in the north and the west which are shut off from easy communication, from Paris, and other centres where supplies could be obtained if they were plentiful. I know of the hospital bases at Calais, at Boulogne, at Paris, at Havre, at Dinard; these are all well-supplied, very well supplied compared to the condition of the sixty or seventy little villages through northern France to which hundreds and thousands upon thousands of wounded men have been taken, when it was impossible to transport them to Paris or farther south.

Remember that France has three and a half million men in the field, that the entire train service, all the automobiles, all the omnibuses must be employed to furnish them with ammunition and coal and food and water. And remember that England has now a large army in France, and that although England sends the food to France, after it reaches her shores, the French transportation system must handle it. I know of large private homes, and hotels in Paris splendidly fitted up as hospitals but with no wounded soldiers in them. There are nurses and surgeons waiting at hospital bases with no means of getting to the villages where they are most needed.

I have late letters from nurses and physicians describing hospitals that are not provided for by any society or by any Government, where there are only seventy flannel jackets, thirty-six shirts and no socks, for more than seven hundred men.

I know of other hospitals where there are four hundred beds all filled and not a single trained nurse. I know of other hospitals where doctors and workers have so often vainly tried

to get help that they have given up in despair, not knowing what to do or where to appeal for help. I know of thousands of men dying merely because they have not sufficient cotton, sufficient surgical dressings, sufficient bandages, sufficient iodine or chloroform or ether, and none of the antitoxine necessary.

One nurse writes me of washing out cottons that had been used upon infected wounds so that they may be used a second time to cover the wounds of soldiers just brought in; and these cottons were washed only in water, because they had no more spirits with which to sterilize them.

One of the doctors writes, "Never, it seems can there have been in our planet's history a greater human need than now."

When I ask you for aid I do not ask for money. Money is of no value in France. We have used up everything that can be used. One of the last appeals that came was an appeal for women's gingham aprons or old skirts, out of which pieces of cloth a yard square could be torn. These were wanted for slings. I only mention this to show you how great is the need in France.

We in the United States and you here to-day stand in a new position: we must prove ourselves not only willing to give, but we must sacrifice to give. One trouble here in Canada as on the other side is that we are too rich; we are a new people, and have lived in so great abundance that we have always given out of our abundance, never out of what we actually needed for ourselves. We have done wonderfully well I know, but we must do well; we must do better; we must preach the spirit of giving, by additional giving ourselves.

I know that I am keeping you. (Cries of "Go on!" and applause.) I never mind the time when I am speaking myself; but I am always bored when anyone else is talking! Only a few times in my life have I ever sat throughout a long address. A few months ago, after listening to one speaker for an hour and a half (I was forced to do so out of social courtesy), I expressed myself as believing that any speaker who talked more than an hour was a burden to humanity. One week later on finishing an address I discovered that I had spoken for an hour and three quarters! (Laughter.) You realize then that I understand why you are compelled to go. But one more thing I wish to say, then I will finish. (A voice: "Go ahead!")

I want to speak to you of a new France; France to-day is not the France of a century ago. I speak of a France which

has within the last ten or fifteen years become an Anglo-Saxon France. If France had not been renewed, no one can imagine what might have happened in Paris during the strain of the week before that terrible tension was ended. We knew in France that something was going to happen; perhaps you don't know, but our telephonic and telegraph communications were cut off by Germany on the 22nd of July, the day before the note was sent to Servia. Many of us could not get word through to our friends in Germany, and newspapers could not get word to their correspondents.

This new France, within the last thirty years, has in a sense adopted the educational system of England. More than that, the French people, still so far in advance of most other nations in art, literature, and science, have begun during the last fifteen years to emulate the English race in the development of sports and in the physical training of the body. One result has been the development of stability and stick-to-it-iveness.

It has always been considered that the French are an impulsive race easily fired by enthusiasm, but quickly discouraged if victory does not immediately crown their efforts. Yet during that whole month of tension, there was not one single outburst of enthusiastic passion; they were neither lifted to a great height, nor dropped to a great depth; there was manifested the same stability, the same calm determination, as in England itself.

Stability always accompanies physical superiority. The great development of football in France has had much to do with this. I can mention a dozen or two dozen other causes which have increased the stability of the French people, but this one is so notable, and football is so English, that it serves as an ideal illustration. Fifteen years ago there was no football in France, last year there were over ten thousand teams!

Outdoor physical training for both boys and girls has been introduced into many of the public schools of France through the remarkable work of the Marquis de Polignac and Monsieur Hebert. And the result is not merely physical. It is even changing the French language! The *old avocats* are regretting the change. The new French of the law courts is direct as well as beautiful.

I feel convinced that every Englishman can count upon every Frenchman standing to the bitter end, no matter how long it may take to accomplish it. (Applause.)

If you could have witnessed the calmness, the determination, the quiet grim resolution that permeated all classes in France

during that first week of mobilization; if you could have seen the quiet resigned smile that each mother and wife and sweetheart and daughter gave to the men who were going away; if you had witnessed the crowds gathered in front of the cafés, and had heard the quiet, calm, dispassionate talk replacing the ordinary excited, animated conversation of the Frenchman; if you could have seen the orderly mobilization of 1,400,000 Frenchmen during the first six days of mobilization; if you could have seen them departing from the stations enthused, yet calm, determined, resigned; if you could have seen the kind, gentle treatment of the thousands of Germans and Austrians caught in the City of Paris when war broke out; and if you had witnessed the departure of the German ambassador with thousands of Frenchmen about, but no hissing, no derision, no shouting; you would have realized as I realized that France had given birth to a new race, just as calm, just as stolid, just as persistent, just as determined to fight to the very end as the English race itself. If you had seen these things then you would understand the spirit that thrilled the heart of every peasant, every bourgeois, every aristocrat, every Frenchman; you would understand the phrase that was whispered throughout Paris when the Germans marched into Brussels: "We will never end this struggle until the Czar, King George, King Albert, and Monsieur Poincaré march down Unter den Linden with the Kaiser behind them!" (Long applause.)