Pastor Russell's Syndicated Sermons appear weekly in approximately fifteen hundred newspapers in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia and Scandinavia, in four languages. Metropolitan cities are not controlled by the Syndicate, hence we are permitted to publish these instructive sermons in the leading newspapers, paying therefor at advertising rates.
INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

A World of Slaves! Freedom Is at Hand!

Hypocritical Slaves of Mammon and Custom—Ignorant Slaves of Fear and Superstition—Helpless Slaves of Sin and Weakness—"The Liberty of the Sons of God"—Slaves in the Pulpits—Slaves in the Pews—Slaves to Wealth—Slaves to Poverty—Slaves to Sinful Passions and Appetites—The Way to Liberty.

PASTOR RUSSELL

Pastor Russell, last Sunday night at the New York City Temple, West Sixty-third street, near Broadway, took for his text, "The creature shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the sons of God." (Romans 8:21.) He said:

While mankind is celebrating today the birth of this great nation which stands for liberty, freedom, emancipation from the thralldom of church and State, let us personally make fresh resolutions that we will stand in the liberty wherewith Christ makes free, and be His servants, loyal, faithful unto death, hoping to receive "the Crown of Life, which fadeth not away."

Although we should understand what God has promised as Restitution to human perfection for the groaning creation in general, it is still more important that Christians recognize the share of liberty which has already come to them. (Galatians 5:1.) Do not misunderstand me to refer to the great mass, Catholic and Protestant, noted in the statistics as 400,000,000 Christians. Alas, no! That great mass is deceived. According to Bible standards and their own confessions, they have neither lot nor part in the Church which is the Body of Christ.

This great mass is well represented in the nations of Europe warring for commercialism, the one to obtain, and the other to hold, the key of power and access to the world's wealth. Saints there undoubtedly are in all the warring nations; but they are so few that they have virtually no influence, but are forced by the others into the struggle. The mass of these nominal Christians neither know Christ personally nor give evidence of having come into God's family through the begetting of the Holy Spirit. As truly as the heathen of other lands, they are "without God and having no hope." There is a hope for them; but they know it not.

Responsibility of Clergy and Laity.

Where lies the responsibility for present conditions—that the millions of Europe are fighting like devils, each army deceived into thinking that it is the Lord's army, fighting for God and righteousness? We believe that the responsibility lies close to the door of the churches of all denominations, and especially close to the door of the religious teachers, who assume great responsibility in calling themselves the clergy and setting themselves above their fellows, called the laity.

These ministers of the civilized world, more than a quarter of a million in number, represent a highly favored class of humanity. The majority of them have much above the average of education and far above the average of time for study and thought. How are they using these wonderful opportunities and privileges and the influence which is accentuated by the superstition of the masses?

I freely acknowledge that they are not responsible to me; as it is written, "To his own master each servant stands or falls." It is quite proper, however, that we remember the Master's words, "Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked and slothful servant." (Luke 19:22.) What a fearful retribution apparently awaits these professed ministers of God and of Christ who, instead of using their great opportunities for emancipating the people from the slavery of ignorance, superstition and error, are using them to promote mental bondage!

Moral Cowards Everywhere.

The clergy neglect their opportunities for educating the people to a proper conception of the rights of man. They have fostered the fallacy that the kingdoms of the world are kingdoms of God, and that serving the king is serving the Lord. They have not taught the people the broad patriotism "that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," which He hath given to the children of men; and that national barriers of selfishness and national aggressiveness are contrary to the rights of man. The clergy of each country, supported by the governments, have in turn upheld these governments; and if they have not told the people that the voice of the emperor or the king is the voice of God, they have certainly not disabused them of that idea, which the clergy of past generations inculcated.

Now that the war has come, and the misdirected people are blindly fighting for their errors and misconceptions, what is the attitude of the clergy? Under the pay or the protection of the governments, are they not supporting the governments from which they receive their pay? Are they not intent upon encouraging the ambitions of these governments and stirring up the people to war? Do they not approve the legend on the belts of the German soldiers, "God with us"? Do they not follow the lead of the Archbishop of Canterbury, in England, in encouraging the thought that all who enlist are engaging in a holy war for God? The Archbishop is credited in the press with urging the boys and girls of Great Britain to marry early and bring up large families, that there may be more such Christian soldiers to battle for church and state.

Policy and hypocrisy are written all over the affairs of the world falsely called Christendom—Christ's Kingdom. These are not Christ's Kingdom, nor are these Christ's ministers, if we shall judge by the Savior's statement, "His servants ye are to whom ye render service"—whether God or Mammon.

The clergy of lands not directly involved in the war are praying, and urging the people to pray, to God to stop the war; but we hear no suggestion, from any quarter, of proper preaching and teaching to show the people the brotherhood of the human family and the sin of murder, whether committed by commands of kings, emperors, or otherwise. Where is the courage? Where is the moral stamina? It is lacking. Why? Because true Christianity is lacking.

Christ's true followers are courageous. Jesus refers to them all as overcomers, not sycophants; as lovers of peace, who contend not with carnal weapons. His followers must necessarily, nevertheless, be true heroes, copies of their Master, not afraid to speak the truth and not afraid to die for their courage. What a power a quarter of a million professed ministers of Christ might be if they truly took their stand on his side, lifted up their voices, and even now confessed how seriously they have misled the people in respect to earthly things, as well as regards the things of the hereafter!

Hypocrisy the Greatest of Sins.

Judged by their utterances, the great mass of those professing to be ministers of Christ are hypocrites. In private conversation, if cross-examined, they confess that they do not believe the Bible, and declare that no educated person could believe it to be a Divine revelation. Asked whether they believe in a future life, they answer that they have some hopes of a future life, but that these are not built upon the Bible declaration of a resurrection of the dead, but upon the Platonic philosophy that nobody is dead. Asked whether they believe in eternal torture, they reply, "Certainly not!" Indirectly, however, they have given the inference that they believe it; and surely they have not done anything to take from the people that nightmare invented during the Dark Ages, when for twelve hundred years the few Bibles there were were relegated to the cloister and the closet, and the world was taught by self-styled apostolic bishops who claimed the same authority of inspiration as the Twelve Apostles whom Jesus named as His only mouthpieces.

There were murderers, thieves and drunkards in Jesus' day, as there are today; yet the Master denounced as still greater sinners the religious hypocrites of His time who made void God's Word, substituting for it human tradition—deceiving and misleading the people—"blind leaders of the blind." Were he to speak forth today, His strongest condemnation would be expressed against the clergy, who seem intent upon keeping the people in darkness respecting the true teachings of the Bible—teaching them evolution and unbelief if they are educated, or delusions of the Dark Ages if they are uneducated. Policy seems to take the place of honesty. The Apostle speaks of such as having their consciences seared—toughened, hardened. Lying usage in deception, in trifling with the Word of God, in toying with human tradition, and in pleasing kings and princes, has apparently seared many clerical consciences.

As a result, nearly all ministers will say, "We do not believe in the doctrine of eternal torture. We would not think of torturing anybody ourselves; we do not know any human being so depraved that he would wish to torture his fellow-creature everlastingly. We do not believe that any God would do so. We doubt whether any devil would long take pleasure in such sufferings." Asked why they support creeds which so teach and why they give such inference to the public, some reply, "It is required of us by our denominations. We would much prefer to tell the truth about the Love of God and His arrangement for the blessing of the non-elect during the Times of Restitution. (Acts 3:19-21.) But we are bound hand and foot. Our support and our honor amongst men depend on our adherence to this doctrine. If we could see a way out of the difficulty, we would be glad to be liberated."

Others answer that they give their consciences no concern, that their denomination takes the responsibility for its creed and for its teachers. Others answer that they are Higher Critics and Evolutionists, who believe that they must not tell the people their heart sentiments; but that they hope that soon public sentiment will outgrow the influence of the Bible, and that then they will be called upo to teach a Christless God, if necessary, a Godless morality.

After the Example of Judas.

Such bartering of the honor of the Almighty for honor of men and an easy living is as difficult to understand as that of Judas, who sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. So seared are the consciences of these educated men that they seem not to realize that blasphemy is the most serious of sins; and that directly or indirectly giving the inference that the God of all grace, the Father of mercies, is roasting 999 out of every 1,000 of humanity is the worst blasphemy that could be concocted. How much allowance God makes for these blasphemers we know not, but we feel that theirs is a terrible position. Would that some were of mine might assist in awakening their consciences; and that even yet loblitz and manhood, not to say saintship, might gain the victory!

And does not the few share this responsibility? Has it no meaning to intelligent men and women that they have subscribed to a creed that blasphemes God's holy name, totally misrepresents His character, and throws an utterly false light on the Bible? Is it sufficient that these should say, "We no longer believe these creeds"? Do not their names on the rolls, their presence at church services, and their contribution to the upkeep of these creeds and their clerical defenders constitute a responsibility in the sight of God and in the esteem of all honest men and women? How long shall intelligent people halt between creeds of hypocrisy and one of honesty? How long will they bow down before creed idols more horrible than any worshiped by the heathen?

Deliverance From Bondage.

The Pastor then declared that his text, one of the grandest promises for humanity, does not relate to true Christians, but to mankind in general. True Christians are already set free, so far as their hearts, their minds, are concerned. Saintly Christians, he averred, are a rarity today, as they have always been since the Master declared, "Fear not, little flock; it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."—Luke 12:32.

Not until these shall be perfected by the glorious change of the Chief Resurrection will the time come for delivering the groaning creation from its bondage. In other words, the world's blessing tarries until the completion of the saintly company gathered out of every nation and denomination during the past nineteen centuries, and called in the Bible "The Church of the Firstborns," "The Very Elect," "The Lamb's Wife," "The Body of Christ," etc.

Jehovah is a God of order. All His good purposes will be fulfilled in a most orderly manner. Six great days of a thousand years each have already passed over us, according to the Scriptures, and have been periods of darkness under a reign of Sin and Death. During this time God has allowed our race to experiment with sin and to note its bitter results—to experiment also in endeavors to recover from sin and its penalty, death, with its concomitants of sickness and sorrow. The long schooling of six thousand years is not to be in vain. The lesson that "the wages of sin is death" is not to be lost. Mankind is not to be left to destruction, but is to be recovered. Earth's billions, lying as unconscious in death as the brute, are nevertheless subjects of Divine interest, sympathy and provision. In the Seventh Thousand-Year Day, earth's great Sabbath, assistance will come to our race.

During Messiah's thousand-year Reign the groaning creation will be delivered from bondage into full liberty, proper to sons of God. Behold what terrible bondages are upon mankind! Look at their ignorance, their superstition, their fears, their weaknesses, mental, moral, physical, and the sum of these disabilities—death. Consider the hundreds of millions alive today that need assistance, and the thousands of millions unconscious in the tomb. Their awakening from death will not be the fulfilment of this prophecy of resurrection. It will mean much more—the uplifting of mind and body to all that was lost in Adam and redeemed at Calvary.

This does not signify universal salvation, except in that the Bible promises that "as all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive, every man in his own order"—class. (I Corinthians 15:22, 23.) The giving to all mankind the full opportunities of the Millennial Kingdom will fulfil God's promise. Those who shall intelligently refuse God's gift of everlasting life, by refusing His reasonable requirements, will die the Second Death. But those who at the conclusion of the Millennial Age shall have profited by The Messiah's Kingdom will be received into God's family and will be granted all the liberties and privileges proper to the sons of God.—Revelation 21:6; 22:3.

Again I offer free on post-card request my pamphlet on Hell. It discusses every text containing the word Hell, and certain misunderstood parables. Address me at Brooklyn, N. Y.

WAS FRANK HOLT, MORGAN'S ASSAILANT, MAN WHO MURDERED WIFE WITH ARSENIC?

PHOTO BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

These photographs show remarkable likeness of Morgan assassin and man for seven years a fugitive. Note the similarity of features, particularly the ears.

Erich Muenter (1906)—This portrait is taken from a circular issued by the Cambridge police in 1906 in a search for Muenter, "wanted for the murder of his wife," who died, the circular goes on to say, "from arsenical poisoning."

Frank Holt (1915)—This photograph, taken when Holt was arraigned at Glen Cove, has been positively identified by Muenter's sisters, his mother-in-law and sister-in-law, and by two University of Chicago professors as that of Erich Muenter.

British Breast Lead Hurricane And Drive Turks From Trenches

"No Finer Feat of Arms Ever Achieved Than Storming Defenses South of Tekki-Burnu," Reports Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton—Attacking Lines Mowed Down as Though by Scythe—English Loss, 14,279.

London, July 6.—The official gazette publishes a report from Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton regarding operations in the Dardanelles up to May 5. The report deals with the landing of troops on April 23 at Tekke-Burnu, Helles-Burnu, Sedd-el-Bahr, Krithia Beach, Eski Hissarlik, and Auzac Cove. It follows:

"The King's Own Scottish Borderers, the Plymouth Marine battalion, and the royal naval division succeeded in establishing themselves on the heights west of Krithia. Later in the day (April 23) a large force of Turks was seen advancing upon the cliffs from the direction of Krithia.

"The British were obliged to intrench. From this time onward the small force was subjected to strong and repeated attacks, supported by field artillery. Owing to the configuration of the ground the guns of the supporting ships could render little assistance.

"Throughout the afternoon and all through the night the Turks made assaults upon the British line. The British repeatedly counter-charged with the bayonet and always drove off the enemy for the moment, but the Turks were vastly superior numerically. Fresh troops took the place of those who from time to time fell back temporarily, and by 7 a. m. of the 26th only half of the Scottish Borderers remained.

Ship Aids Landing Party.

"The landing at Tekke-Burnu was made by the First Royal Fusileers, who were towed ashore from H. M. S. Implacable together with a beach working party, about 6 a. m. H. M. S. Implacable with great boldness stood close to the beach, firing rapidly every gun she could bring to bear. Thus seconded the Fusileers made a good landing with little loss.

"The battalion advanced to the attack of the Turkish trenches on Hill No. 114, but were heavily counter-attacked and were forced to give ground. Two more battalions followed them, and by evening the troops had established themselves in an intrenched position.

"The collier River Clyde was run ashore, landing on the beach west of Sedd-el-Bahr. Up to the last moment it appeared that this landing was unopposed, but the moment the first boat touched bottom the storm broke and a tornado of fire swept over the beach, the incoming boats and the collier. The Dublin Fusileers and the naval boats' crews suffered extremely heavy losses while in the boats. Those who succeeded in landing crossed a strip of sand and managed to gain some cover. None of the boats was able to get off again. They and their crews were destroyed upon the beach.

"A company of the Munster Fusileers led the way but few reached the further side of the beach through the hail of bullets which poured from both flanks and the front. As the second company followed on an extemporalized pier the lighters gave way in the current and the end nearest the shore drifted into deep water. Many of those who escaped from the lighters were drowned by the weight of their equipment.

"The lighters were again brought into position and a third company of Munster Fusileers was rushed ashore suffering extremely heavy loss from shrapnel, rifle, pompom and machine gun fire. The situation probably was saved by the machine guns on the River Clyde keeping down the enemy's fire.

"No Finer Feat of Arms."

"It is my firm conviction that no finer feat of arms was ever achieved by British soldiers than the storming of the Turkish trenches from open boats on the beach immediately south of Tekki-Burnu. As soon as the first boat touched ground a hurricane of lead swept over the battalion of fusilleers who literally hurled themselves ashore.

"Fired at from right and left the center commenced hacking its way through the wire entanglements. The long line of men was once mowed donw as by a scythe, but the remainder were not to be denied.

"Covered by the fire of the warships, they broke through the entanglements and collected under the cliffs on either side of the beach. Here the companies were rapidly re-formed and sent forth to storm the enemy's intrenchments.

"Several land mines were exploded by the Turks during the advance, but the determination of our troops was in no way affected.

"By 10 a. m. three lines of hostile trenches were in our hands, and our hold on the beach was assured. About 9:30 a. m. more infantry began to disembark, and two hours later a junction was effected with the troops who landed on the beach and with those from the Implacable.

"The Australians landed to the north of Kaba-Tepe, approaching the land in silence in the darkness. They were close to shore before the enemy stirred. Then about a battalion of Turks were seen running along the beach to intercept the lines of boats. At so critical a moment the conduct of those of all ranks was most praiseworthy. Not a word was spoken. Everyone was quiet, awaiting the enemy's fire, which opened, causing many casualties.

Australians Pursue Turks.

"The moment the boats touched land the Australians' turn came. Like lightning they leaped ashore and each man went straight as a bayonet at the enemy. So vigorous was the onslaught that the Turks made no attempt to stand but fled from the ridge pursued by the Australian infantry.

"From 11 a. m. to 3 p. m. the enemy, re-enforced to 20,000, attacked our whole line. This counter-attack was handsomely repulsed with the help of the guns of his majesty's ships, between 5 and 6:30 p. m. A third most determined counter-attack was made against the third brigade who held their ground. During the night the Turks again made constant attacks, but in spite of all the line held nrm.

"Concurrently with the British landing a regiment of the French corps successfully disembarked at Kumkale under the guns of the French fleet and remained ashore until the morning of the 26th when they re-embarked. Five hundred prisoners were captured by the French on this day.

"Our losses during the period covered by this dispatch numbered 177 officers and 1,990 of the ranks killed, 412 officers and 7,807 of the ranks wounded, and thirteen officers and 3,880 of the ranks missing.

"Throughout these events the navy has been father and mother to the army. There is not one of us but realizes how much he owes to Admiral De Robeck, the warships, the French and British destroyers, mine sweepers, picket boats, and all the dauntless sailors who took no thought of themselves, but risked everything to give their soldier comrades a fair run at the enemy.

Maj. Gen. Braithwaite is the best chief of the general staff it has ever been my fortune to encounter in war. I will not pile epithets upon him. I can say no more and certainly no less."

GRANDFATHER AT 16.

Marriage of Texas Youngster Gives Him Unusual Distinction.

Austin, Tex., July 6.—For a youth of 16 to play the role of grandfather is rather unusual, but this is the part being played by an Austin lad of that age, according to the story of the mother of the boy in question, detailed to Mrs. Nellie Holden, secretary of United Charities.

It develops, so the story goes, that the boy was married about two weeks ago to a woman who has three children already married and is herself a grandmother.

SOUTHERN POSTMASTERS SAY WAR ELEVATED PAY

Increases in Salaries to Those in Warmer Climate Caused by Tourists Staying in This Country—Virginia and Maryland Have Many Changes.

Many of the postmasters in the warm climates of the country, who yesterday received increases in salary based on the increase in the revenues of their respective offices, attributing their good fortune to the European war, which compelled Americans to spend the winter in the southern part of their own country.

The table of increases for the Southern States shows an unusual increase in the postal revenues of places regarded as winter resorts. The postmasters' salaries are increased or decreased at the beginning of each fiscal year, according to the revenues from their offices.

Figures for Nearby States.

The figures for Maryland and Virginia follow:

Virginia—Amherst and Appomattox, $1,300 to $1,400; Ashland, $1,700 to $1,800; Bristol, $2,900 to $3,100; Brooknaal, $1,300 to $1,400; Charlotte, C. H., $1,300 to $1,300; Chatham, $1,900 to $2,000; Chincoteague, $1,500 to $1,600; Clifton Forge, $2,300 to $2,400; College Park, $1,500 to $1,600; Crewe, $1,700 to $1,800; Crozet, $1,200 to $1,300; Emporia, $1,600 to $1,700; Emore, $1,000 to $1,200; Fairfax, $1,400 to $1,500; Floyd, $1,300 to $1,400; Gate City, $1,400 to $1,500; Keysville, $1,400 to $1,500; Lawrenceville, $1,800 to $1,900; Lebanon, $1,100 to $1,200; Louisa, $1,600 to $1,700; Luray, $1,900 to $2,000; Marion, $2,000 to $2,100; Marshall, $1,100 to $1,200; Middleburg, $1,300 to $1,300; Norfolk, $3,300 to $3,400; North Tazewell, $1,200 to $1,300; Onley, $1,300 to $1,400; Pamplin, $1,300 to $1,400; Parksley, $1,200 to $1,300; Pearisburg, $1,000 to $1,100; Pocahontas, $1,800 to $2,100; Pulaski, $2,300 to $2,400; Rosslyn, $1,100 to $1,200; Scottsville, $1,400 to $1,500; Shenandoah, $1,400 to $1,500; South Hill, $1,400 to $1,500; Suffolk, $2,700 to $2,800; Urbanna, $1,000 to $1,100; Vienna, $1,000 to $1,100; Wakefield, $1,300 to $1,500; Warrenton, $2,300 to $2,400; Waverly, $1,600 to $1,700; Westpoint, $1,600 to $1,700; Wise, $1,200 to $1,400, and Wytheville, $2,200 to $2,300. Decreases are as follows: Buena Vista, $1,900 to $1,800; Clarksville, $1,600 to $1,500; Dante, $1,700 to $1,600; Dayton, $1,600 to $1,500; Disputanta, $1,300 to $1,200; Fort Monroe, $2,800 to $2,700; Glenallen, $1,300 to $1,200; Hot Springs, $2,300 to $2,200; Leesburg, $2,300 to $2,200; Stonega, $1,100 to $1,000, and Toms Creek, $1,200 to $1,100.

Maryland—Cambridge, 2,500 to $2,600; Centerville, $2,000 to $2,100; Chestertown, $2,300 to $2,400; Easton, $2,600 to $2,600; Elkton, $2,000 to $2,100; Federalsburg, $1,800 to $1,900; Forest Glen, $1,400 to $1,500; Greensboro, $1,200 to $1,600; Hampstead, Middletown and La Plata, each, $1,100 to $1,200; Hancock, $1,600 to $1,700; Millington, $1,300 to $1,400; Oakland, $2,100 to $2,200; Preston, $1,300 to $1,400; Ridgely, $1,400 to $1,500; Smithsburg, $1,100 to $1,200; Sykesville, $1,300 to $1,400; Taneytown, $1,400 to $1,500; Thurmont, $1,400 to $1,500; Trappe, $1,400 to $1,500, and Union Bridge, $1,600 to $1,700. Decreases are as follows: Annapolis, $2,600 to $2,300; Berlin, $2,300 to $2,200; Kensington, $1,600 to fourth class, and Lutherville, $1,300 to

Momentous Future In Woman's Mind

The expectant mother revolves in her mind all we understand by destiny. And it is of the utmost importance that her physical comfort be our first thought. There is a most splendid remedy for this purpose, known as "Mother's Friend." It is applied over the muscles of the stomach, gently rubbed in, and at once penetrates to relieve all strain on nerves, cords, ligaments and all parts involved. It makes the muscles so pliant that they expand naturally. And at the same time they are invigorated by the absence of harassing pains so apt to distress the mind. Whatever will add to the comfort of the expectant mother is a great and helpful influence since a calm and peaceful period must have a wonderfully beneficial impress upon the coming child. Get a bottle of "Mother's Friend" of any druggist and you will realize why so many women declare it to be the greatest blessing they know of. Write today to Bradfield Regulator Co., 404 Lamar Blg., Atlanta, Ga., for a valuable book of great interest and value to every expectant mother.

GERMANY WOULD CONTINUE PARLEY

Seeks Informal Exchanges Prior to Answering Wilson's Note.

WOULD CAUSE A DELAY

President Will Instruct Ambassador Gerard Regarding Reply to Be Made to Foreign Office.

A new turn was given the situation with Germany regarding the submarine issue yesterday with the receipt at the State Department of a message from Ambassador Gerard equivalent to an invitation from the German foreign office to engage in informal exchanges prior to the sending of a reply to President Wilson's note of June 9.

That this move by Germany will result in a great deal more talk and more delay is the expectation here. Germany has been understood since the submarine issue was first raised to desire first to gain time, so that her submarine operations might be continued without restriction, and, second, to engage the United States in a lengthy discussion. On the other hand, it has been indicated here recently that the administration will not be averse to further delay and discussion as long as it gives any promise of a more satisfactory result in the end.

Sent to President.

Ambassador Gerard's message, outlining the German position as explained to him at the foreign office, has been transmitted to President Wilson. The President himself will dictate the terms of what the Ambassador will be authorized to say in reply to the officials of the German foreign office. Whether the President would do this at Cornish, or whether he would delay the sending of instructions to Mr. Gerard until he returns to Washington, so that he may discuss the matter with Secretary of State Lansing and other advisers, was not known to officials here yesterday.

Though it is admitted that Germany has not responded to the President's request for "prompt action," it was apparent yesterday that Germany's action in seeking preliminary exchanges in advance of the sending of her note, is not at all displeasing to officials here. It is not understood that the German statement of position promises the granting of President Wilson's demands, but it is felt that informal discussion will make it less likely than ever that there will be a rupture between the two governments.

Consequently, even though the exchanges may not result in an actual settlement, they are expected to minimize the danger of the situation as regards the friendly relations of the two governments. It is believed, too, that such a discussion may open up all sorts of possibilities, and can do no harm, while it may do much good. There is reason to believe that the administration will not be sorry if it results, too, in greatly protracting the negotiations.

Not Anxious for War.

It was learned officially yesterday that the statement transmitted by Ambassador Gerard containing the proposals on which Germany would like to sound the United States, does not differ radically from other expressions of Germany's views which have been coming out of Berlin for more than two weeks. The conclusion drawn here from a study of these reports is that Germany does not desire war with the United States, but is determined not to modify or restrict her submarine operations, and is endeavoring to strike an attitude which will satisfy this government and at the same time preserve the submarine program intact. As it has been stated here, Germany is trying to eat her cake and have it, too.

According to reports received from Berlin, the German authorities at Berlin never have gotten beyond the idea that if they could safeguard the lives of Americans on passenger ships crossing the Atlantic the United States government would be quite satisfied. This has been the idea of the German Ambassador also. So far, however, as this idea has been translated into a concrete suggestion, it is not considered here to meet the issue at all in the viewpoint of this government.

It is understood that the Germans have little more to suggest than that an arrangement be made for the examination, certification and identification of passenger-carrying vessels leaving American ports for the war zone. Germany is willing, it is said, to pledge herself not to attack passenger ships on which she is convinced there is no contraband of war.

To this suggestion it is replied here that the United States can enter into no such arrangement; that acceptance of the German suggestion would be the equivalent of yielding the principle, set up in the President's notes, that Americans have a right to travel in security on any unarmed merchant ship. Berlin reports say that officials there admit that they are finding difficulty in working out the details of this suggestion in a way likely to make it acceptable to the United States.

May Leave Door Open.

It is not expected, however, that, when the time comes for making known to Germany the attitude of the United States toward such suggestions, they will be rejected in a way which will render it impossible for Germany to reply with further suggestions, or modifications of the original plan. There is every reason to believe that the President will deliberately leave the door always open for Germany to make further proposals, in the hope that eventually Germany may be brought to offer something which the United States can accept.

It is not now expected that the case of the Armenian will have any definite effect on the discussions with Germany, as the opinion in official quarters inclines strongly to the belief that the vessel, by running away, exposed herself to destruction at the hands of the German submarine. The case of the British steamer Anglo-Californian, reported yesterday, is placed in the same category. The State Department has not been advised whether any of the Americans in the crew of this steamer were among those injured in her encounter with a submarine. Neither has the department any report on the case of the Norwegian steamship Fiery Cross, the crew of which, including six Americans, was reported to have been compelled to take to small boats upon the vessel meeting a German submarine.

FIGHTING FOR BIGGER FARES.

Western Railroads Open Hearings in Legal Battle.

Chicago, July 6.—The great railroad systems of the West today began in Chicago their real battle for increased passenger fares. Hearings in what is known as the "Western passenger fares case" were started before Interstate Commerce Examiner Thurtell.

If the railroads are granted the right to make the proposed advances in passenger rates, it is estimated that their revenue would be increased from $20,000,000 to $25,000,000 annually.

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