

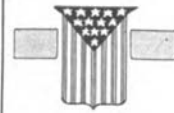


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# The Fatherland

FAIR PLAY for GERMANY  
and AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

Edited by  
George Sylvester Viereck



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## LEAVES FROM A LOST PORTFOLIO

(The following papers purport to be the report of an English Secret Service Agent, designated by the cipher L. P. 33, Y. to Sir Edward Grey. The document suggests an uncanny familiarity with the aims and methods of the British Intelligence Service in the United States.)

To the Right Hon. Sir Edward Grey, K.G., Bart.

Sir:—I have the honour to report that I have now brought to a conclusion the investigation which your Excellency instructed me to make. Follows a brief summary of the results obtained: the details are duly listed in the accompanying schedules. (These schedules have not reached us.—Ed.)

### A. The General Sentiment of the American People

WASHINGTON may still be classed as completely on our side. The Administration has been packed so carefully with British sympathizers that the strongest social pressure can be, and is being, brought to bear upon neutrals. Members of Congress who are recalcitrant are being brought to a proper sense of their duty by feminine and social influence. This policy is full of hope, and should be crowned with complete success in a short period. These facts are, of course, already well known to your Excellency, and are only inserted here to complete the document.

Boston, Providence and New England generally may be described as favorable. Here cultural and racial considerations reinforce the social. Our consul in Providence is in constant touch with Mr. John Revelstoke Rathom. It seems that the other side has investigated his past to a considerable extent. The facts unearthed by them in connection with a poison candy scandal in San Francisco have considerably impaired Mr. Rathom's usefulness in Washington.

NEW YORK is in reality anti-British in sentiment. This does not appear at the present moment, as financial reasons compel the vast majority of persons of position to profess the loudest sympathy for the cause of the Allies. They are, however, in no way to be trusted. These remarks apply with even greater force to all those manufacturing centres which depend upon New York as their financial capital. If their interests were to swing over to the other side, the old hatred of England would break out with renewed virulence. This is particularly evidenced by the remarks in Schedule A8, to which document I would call the most particular attention of your Excellency.

In this connection I cannot urge too strongly upon your Excellency to take some action that would check the injudicious partisanship for our cause shown by the New York *Tribune*. By being more British than His Majesty's Government itself the *Tribune* has practically destroyed its usefulness. I suggest a policy far more subtle in quality such as is revealed by a study of the editorial columns of the New York *Times*. While backing the interests of Great Britain in every vital matter, the New York *Times* has not hesitated at times to attack us vigorously. This establishes for that excellent paper a reputation for fearlessness and independence that is invaluable to us. On the other hand I suggest that means be found to suppress such articles as the editorial in the *Journal of Commerce* in which the statement is made that we cannot starve Germany into submission. Admissions of this nature are fatal to our credit. I also regard it as an unfortunate oversight that Mr. Gus Roeder, of the New York *World*, was permitted to convey

on his own person or in any manner whatsoever the articles on Germany which appeared in that newspaper. They are very damaging to our cause, and I urge that the strongest social pressure be used upon the publishers to prevent similar outbreaks. I do not understand why the censor permits dispatches as to the unpatriotic attitude of our Welsh miners to reach the United States, and in view of the strong prohibition element the stress laid on the part which the drink question plays in England is highly injurious.

In fact, it must be conceded that our publicity work in the last few months has not been very happy. If it were not for the total lack of organization on the part of the Central Powers, we would be in a distinctly disadvantageous position. The Cavell campaign was excellently managed. The Germans attempted to counteract it by publishing a poorly gotten-up circular with a fac-simile of the death sentence imposed by a Belgian court on a woman spy. The attempt was a total failure. Not one newspaper, outside of the German language press, paid the slightest attention to the story. It is evident that their available funds are running low. It seems that with the departure of Dr. Dernburg their credits have been considerably restricted. While they have large amounts on deposit in the Chase National Bank, they seem to have no agent here who is willing to take the responsibility for any expenditure beyond a few hundred dollars upon himself. It is also evident that we have them badly frightened. I suggest that we keep up by all means the prosecutions of their consular officers wherever possible under any pretense whatsoever. The *Baralong* matter acted strongly against us, in spite of your Excellency's straightforward and convincing rejoinder. Fortunately the Germans were not in the position to push this advantage against us.

THE great section of the country which is centralized in Chicago, St. Louis, St. Paul and Minneapolis, Topeka and Denver, may be called actively hostile to our propaganda. In all these cities the intelligent and prosperous classes make no secret of their sympathy with the enemy. In these districts the Chicago *Tribune* and THE FATHERLAND are potent organs of opinion. The Hearst press has also much more power than in New York.

In the extreme West sentiment is not so strong. Local problems occupy the thought of the people to the exclusion of others more important. The Northwest, Portland and even Seattle, are strongly pro-German; but San Francisco may be considered lukewarm. During my sojourn in that city, the Exposition was the sole topic of interest. Los Angeles is in the same class. However, it is unfortunately the case that the bitterest antagonism, contempt and distrust is manifested toward Washington itself, and the East in general. There is neither unity nor comprehension. In the event of a crisis, this would undoubtedly flame out, and decide them to cast in their lot with Chicago.

The agricultural States in general are truly neutral. The only feeling is detestation of war in general, and a determination not to be dragged into one at any cost. This disposition is to be regarded as unfriendly to your Excellency's hopes.