

DR. HALE DENIES EDITING SPEECH FOR DERNBERG

Says Relationship to Germany is Like That of Lawyer to Accused Criminal.

ASHLAND, N. H., Aug. 2.—"The statement that the speech which Dr. Bernard Dernburg, former Imperial German Colonial Minister, delivered at Cleveland on May 8, 1915, was 'edited' by me is true, said Dr. William Bayard Hale today. It was likewise 'edited' by at least a thousand other American newspaper editors and copy-readers. I know precisely as much about that speech and deals with it precisely as did the head of every copy desk the length and breadth of the land that day. And I rely upon the intelligence, common sense, and fair play instinct of the editors of the United States to see to it that an ignorant and silly attack upon the character of an innocent man is brought to an instant halt."

Seen at his summer home, "Wood-lawn," Holderness, today, Dr. Hale, with vitriolic indignation, denounced the attempt to make him responsible for Dernburg's speech regarding the Lusitania sinking.

"It was a shock, a horror, a grief that can never be forgotten," said Mr. Hale. "The suggestion that I ever wrote a word justifying it is preposterous. The fiction seems to have originated with a certain visitor at the office of Deputy Attorney General Becker of New York.

"According to press stories purporting to emanate from Becker's office, a mysterious visitor testified that I had 'carefully edited and subtended' the Dernburg speech, 'the subheads being written with Dr. Hale's own hand.' The witness further averred that I had done this at 10 a. m., that the copy had been sent 'in takes' to the American Press Association, concluding at 1 p. m., and that Dernburg had delivered the speech at Cleveland that night. *Calls the Story a Myth.*

"From this alleged statement by this alleged witness has been built the myth that Dernburg did not write the speech that I wrote it and telegraphed it to him at Cleveland for delivery. What actually happened was simply this: On or before leaving for his engagement at Cleveland, Dernburg sent to the editorial offices of the German Information Service, a 'flimsy' of the speech he expected to deliver. He undoubtedly and unquestionably sent copies of the same 'flimsy' to the Associated Press, The United Press, The International News and other press agencies, as well as to all the New York papers.

"I have no special recollection of the matter, but, as the speech was an important piece of news, I probably did personally 'edit' it, instead of entrusting it to subordinates, that is to say, I punctuated and paragraphed it, according to American newspaper usage, probably sketched the headlines and wrote the appropriate cross-head of the news sheet sent out by the German Information Service daily to a thousand newspapers. In other words, I did exactly and precisely what some editor or copy reader in every press agency and newspaper office in the United States did that day when he received the report of the speech.

"The idea that I had any prior knowledge as to what Dernburg would say at Cleveland is as absurd as the suggestion that I was aware of the place and the time of the next earthquake. I never saw Dernburg and never communicated with him after the sinking of the Lusitania. The historical legend that I telegraphed him his speech is easily susceptible of proof or disproof. The date was May 8, 1915. Let the files of the two telegraph companies be examined back if anybody has money to waste on an enterprise so silly."

In answer to questions regarding the German Information Service, Mr. Hale responded readily.

The German Information Service. "Why, certainly," he said, "it is perfectly well known by everybody, except apparently Assistant Attorney General Becker of New York, that during one year, 1914-1915, I was adviser, practically director, of the German Information Service. This was a bureau organization to present openly and avowedly the German side of the question, upon which the country had not then made up its mind. The chief medium was a daily sheet appearance like the first page of a metropolitan newspaper, sent to practically every newspaper in the United States.

"During that time of waiting for the people's decision clippings from the daily news sheet of the German Information Service were welcomed, clipped and used by the press from Maine to Southern California, from Oregon to Florida. And every article was candidly presented as an argument on the German side of the case.

"I am not, as one paper the other day described me, the self-confessed head of the German Information Service. I am proud of having been its head. I glory in the patriotic work I then performed. It is assuredly a cause of national rejoicing that all that was possible to do to present the German argument, before it was rejected, was done. It would have been most unfortunate if the German case, such as it was, had been allowed to go by default."

"Every criminal, as well as every honest man, is entitled to an attorney, and the work of an attorney is not only legitimate; it is more, it is a necessary requirement of justice. If an accused man has no counsel the law assigns him a counsel, whose business it is to do the best he can for his unfortunate client. What would be thought among a group of decent lawyers of an attempt to shoot or strangle a practitioner who had done the best he could for an unfortunate client—who had done what in common humanity he found it was possible to do for the under dog in a scrap?"

"This, however," continued Dr. Hale, "is the first case in which, in any international dispute, I have found myself on the side which was unable to present the convincing argument. What I did for Germany three years ago I had already done for other gov-



Dr. William Bayard Hale.

ernments temporarily alienated, but now firm friends of the United States."

Dr. Hale declined to name the governments to which he had previously been adviser, but reference to "Who's Who," shows that he possesses decorations from Japan, Belgium, and Venezuela. It is also known that several years ago Dr. Hale received a sword of honor and an autograph letter of thanks from the Mikado in recognition of work for the maintenance of peace between America and Japan.

Conditions of His Service.

"Yes," said Dr. Hale, "I have always tried to help keep peace and avoid war, and that is all there is to it. I am only sorry—as sorry, perhaps, as President Wilson must be—that peace with Germany was not possible."

"My known fondness for Japan makes most remarkable the innumerable respecting the anti-Japanese tendencies of the German information service while under my direction. The fact is that when I was asked to advise for the German Press Bureau I made a half dozen conditions and made them imperative. The first was that no use should ever be attempted to be made of my acquaintance with the President. As a matter of fact, I have enjoyed no private, personal access to Mr. Wilson for several years, but I feared it might be imagined I did. I also required that no attacks should be made upon the Wilson administration. There were days when Colonel Roosevelt's friends were extremely active and—but why hark back to this now?"

"And most emphatically did I stipulate that no advantage should ever be taken of the Japanese problem. I announced that I would not only consider myself free from my contract, but would instantly take the other side, if German influence attempted to interfere in the relations of the United States and Japan, of the honesty of whose intentions I had convincing reason to be assured. An inspection of the daily sheet will show that under my direction no single unkind word was ever said of Japan.

"As for the fascinating suggestion that there was any secrecy about the thing, well, let a reasoning human being ask himself what chance of secrecy could surround a bureau occupying five or six rooms on Madison Square, Broadway, Fifth Avenue and Twenty-fifth street, open all day long, sending out hundreds of dollars worth of mail weekly, and doing its best to wish its stuff on a thousand newspapers."

"Why was not your name arched on the daily sheet, Mr. Hale?"

"Simply because Mr. Claussen, who had long been the valued publicity director of the Hamburg-American Line, had inaugurated the bureau, and when I was called in as an expert, if I may say so, on international affairs, it was felt that there was no need to bother me with the practical administration of the service—which continued in the hands of Claussen, who did the execu-



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live work far better than I could possibly have done it. I supervised the preparation of the stuff; Mr. Claussen got it out.

Ridicules Idea of Secrecy. "I may add," said Mr. Hale, "that I edited, wrote and signed at least half a dozen books and brochures. Very sensibly did Mr. Becker inquire of his mysterious witness: 'You say Dr. Hale signed his name to this? Don't you think the fact that Dr. Hale allowed his name to be used was inconsistent with the theory that he was making a secret of his work?'

"I feel, as an American citizen of old English lineage," Dr. Hale continued, "that I have cause to resent the action of A. L. Becker, Assistant Attorney General of New York, who has given out to the press in sensational form the unsupported declaration of an anonymous witness, without allowing me an opportunity to confront him, if he exists, or to refute his allegations. I made the long trip from New Hampshire to New York voluntarily last week in order to place at Becker's disposal any information in my possession. I really knew nothing material. In a two-hour conversation not a word was said, not a question asked about this Dernburg speech, but a couple of days after I left he or his assistants filled the papers with this yarn.

"The question arises whether the office of the Assistant District Attorney General of the people of the State of New York is an establishment for the prosecution of crimes against the law or a bureau for defaming American citizens in the interest of Mr. Becker's political ambitions. This is the third experience I have had with this overzealous gentleman—who has tried in vain to implicate me with Bolo Pasha, the purchase of The Mall, and now with this Dernburg thing.

"I have asked counsel to advise me whether the statement that I 'wrote' or 'edited' the Dernburg speech, taken in connection with the accompanying headlines and text printed in various papers and purporting to issue from the office of A. L. Becker, is as actionable as it is false. If counsel advises that these allegations, conspicuously displayed, being untrue, are defamatory and libelous, appropriate redress will be immediately sought in the courts. I do not propose to be anybody's goat."

"Mr. Hale, there is another subject on which you might enlighten us," the interviewer said. "How about the Kaiser and your famous surprised interview with him?"

Dr. Hale smiled.

"The Kaiser is not a subject," he said. "But this much I am willing to say: President Wilson is fully informed of all that was said at that interview, and, furthermore, the suppressed article has been placed at the president's disposition for any use he might like to make of it. Its publication now, however, would not help to win the war."

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Sugar Card System Adopted at Eaton

EATON, O., Aug. 2.—Sale of sugar Preble county will be conducted under a card system, owing to the growing acute condition of the local sugar stores. Adoption of the card system followed a meeting of the county food administration and grocermen of the county held here Wednesday night. The cards are being printed and will be issued at the earliest moment possible, through the county food administration. Plan of distributing the cards calls for a representative of the food administration in each town and village in the county, who will act as distributor. The cards will bear a coupon, which will be detached from the card when issued and the stub sent here to the food administration, which will adopt an index system of record calculated to detect any violations, as the cards will be frequently checked.

Budget Commission Will Meet Monday

EATON, O., Aug. 2.—Preble county's budget commission will meet next Monday, when rounds of the various taxing divisions will be made by the commission for the purpose of learning from the boards their requirements, upon which will be based the county

tax rates. The visiting schedule is: August 5, Jackson township, at high school, Campbellstown, 8 a. m.; Jefferson township high school, New Paris, 10:30 a. m.; Monroe township, high school, West Manchester, 1:30 p. m.; Harrison township, high school, Lewisburg, 3:30 p. m.; August 6, Twin and Lanier townships, high school, West Alexandria, 9:00 a. m.; Gratz township, high school, Gratz village, 1:00 p. m.; August 7, Somers township, high school, Camden, 9 a. m.; Israel township, high school, Fairhaven, 1:00 p. m.; Dixon township, township house, 3:00 p. m.; August 8, Gasper township, township house, 9:00 a. m.; Washington township, auditor's office, Eaton, 1:30 p. m.

Professorship of law in the Stanford University of the above state. Clinton Bond and family left today by way of Richmond for Bay View, Mich., where they will spend a month.

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