

Ed. (1918) Department.

mis SERIES.

G.O. No. 931

DATED 21-8-15

[Despatch Abstract.]

Books and Publications

communicating to the D.P.I.
letter from Govt. of India forwarding 424
copies of a facsimile of the "a scrap of paper"
guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium
and requesting him to report whether
copies of a more elaborate reproduction of
the same sold by Pioneer Press Allahabad
may be purchased for presentation to
schools.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 1289-1300.

CN^o 2825 Es
16/8/15

FROM

THE HON'BLE MR. H. SHARP, C.I.E.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

TO



Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Educational Department.

Simla, the 26th July 1915.

Defdoug-8-15

Department of Education.
(Education)

SIR,

I am directed to forward 424 copies of a facsimile of the "Scrap of Paper," being a reproduction of Article VII of the treaty of 1839 guaranteeing the neutrality of Belgium. It is thought that copies of the document, which have been received from the India Office, might suitably be presented to colleges and high schools in India. It is regretted that there are not sufficient copies to allow of a wider distribution among educational institutions in this country.

2. I am to add that the Pioneer Press, Allahabad, are selling a more elaborate copy of the document (in colours) at a special reduced rate for schools of 10 annas each. The Government of India desire to suggest for the consideration of the Governor in Council,

that a copy of this edition would be a suitable and interesting memento for presentation to selected schools.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

H. Sharp.

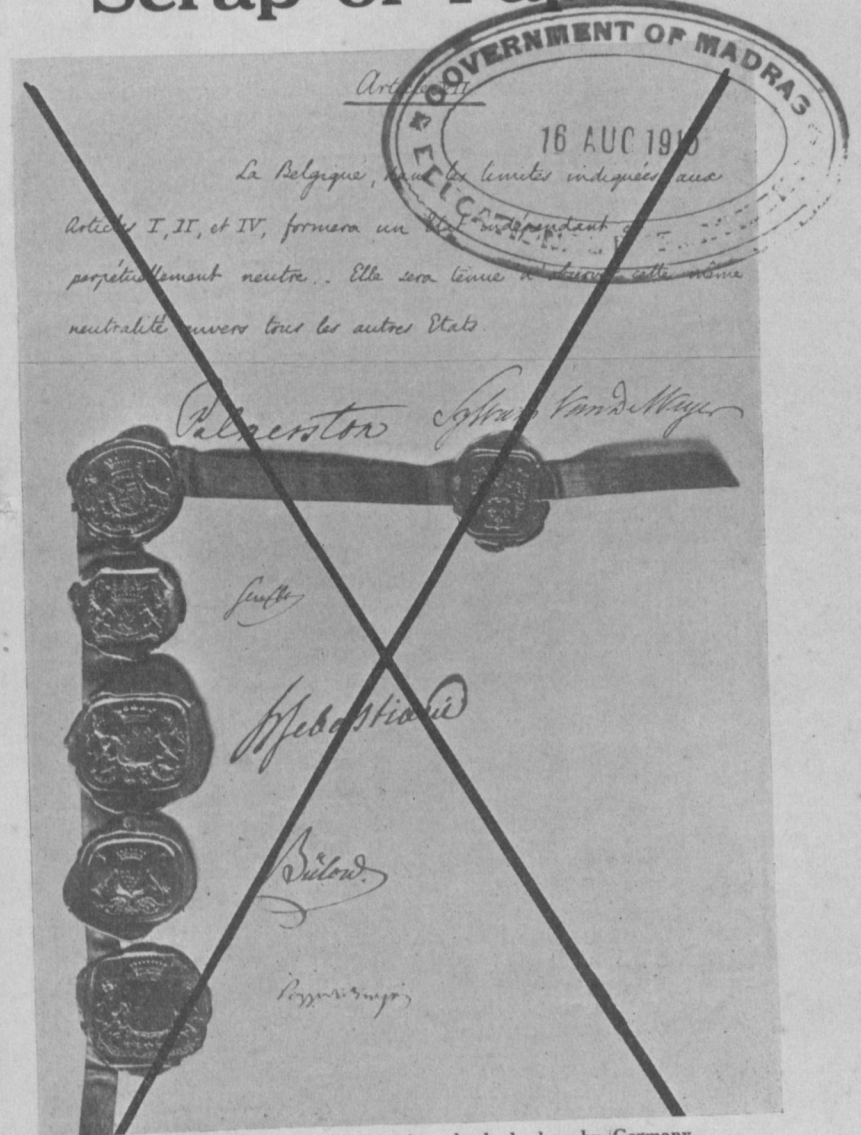
Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

Copies have been
recd at Co. G.

AS
10/8/15

The VIOLATION of BELGIAN NEUTRALITY

Every agreement signed by Germany is only a
"Scrap of Paper."



Facsimile of Treaty of 1839, shamelessly broken by Germany.

TRANSLATION.]

ARTICLE VII.

Belgium, within the limits indicated in Articles I, II, and IV, will form an independent and perpetually neutral State. She will be required to observe this same neutrality towards all the other States.

(B 1159 Wt. —g4464 4M 4/15 H&S Gp 5.

150

**Convention No. 5 of the Hague Peace Conference
signed on the 18th October, 1907, by 44 States,
of which Germany was one.**

ARTICLE 1.—The territory of neutral Powers is inviolable.

ARTICLE 2.—Belligerents are forbidden to move troops or convoys, whether of munitions of war or of supplies, across the territory of a neutral Power.

ARTICLE 10.—The fact of a neutral Power resisting, even by force, attempts to violate its neutrality cannot be regarded as a hostile act.

A YEAR BEFORE.

Declaration by Herr von Jagow in the Reichstag.

A member of the Social Democrat Party said: "The approach of a war between Germany and France is viewed with apprehension in Belgium, for it is feared that Germany will not respect the neutrality of Belgium."

Herr von Jagow, Secretary of State, replied: "Belgian neutrality is provided for by International Conventions and Germany is determined to respect those Conventions."

This declaration did not satisfy another member of the Social Democrat Party. Herr von Jagow said that he had nothing to add to the clear statement he had made respecting the relations between Germany and Belgium.

In answer to fresh enquiries by a member of the Social Democrat Party, Herr von Heeringen, the Minister of War, replied: "Belgium plays no part in the causes which justify the proposed reorganisation of the German military system. That proposal is based on the situation in the East. Germany will not lose sight of the fact that the neutrality of Belgium is guaranteed by international treaty."

A member of the Progressive Party having once again spoken of Belgium, Herr von Jagow repeated that this declaration in regard to Belgium was sufficiently clear.

(Report of the meeting of the Budget Committee of the Reichstag on the 29th April, 1913, published in the semi-official journal "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung"—see Enclosure to Despatch No. 12 in Belgian Grey Book.)

THREE DAYS BEFORE.

**Letter addressed by M. Davignon, Belgian Minister
for Foreign Affairs, to the Belgian Ministers at
Berlin, London and Paris.**

Brussels, July 31st, 1914.

Sir,

In the course of the conversation which the Secretary-General of my Department had with Herr von Below this morning, he explained to the German Minister the scope of the military measures which we had taken, and said to him that they were a consequence of our desire to fulfil our international obligations, and that they in no wise implied an attitude of distrust towards our neighbours.

4
9

The Secretary-General then asked the German Minister if he knew of the conversation which he had had with his predecessor, Herr von Flotow, and of the reply which the Imperial Chancellor had instructed the latter to give.

In the course of the controversy which arose in 1911 as a consequence of the Dutch scheme for the fortification of Flushing, certain newspapers had maintained that in the case of a Franco-German war Belgian neutrality would be violated by Germany.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had suggested that a declaration in the German Parliament during a debate on foreign affairs would serve to calm public opinion, and to dispel the mistrust which was so regrettable from the point of view of the relations between the two countries.

Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg replied that he had fully appreciated the feelings which had inspired our representations. He declared that Germany had no intention of violating Belgian neutrality, but he considered that in making a public declaration Germany would weaken her military position in regard to France, who, secured on the northern side, would concentrate all her energies on the east.

Baron van der Elst, continuing, said that he perfectly understood the objections raised by Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg to the proposed public declaration, and he recalled the fact that since then, in 1913, Herr von Jagow had made reassuring declarations to the Budget Commission of the Reichstag respecting the maintenance of Belgian neutrality.

Herr von Below replied that he knew of the conversation with Herr von Flotow, and that he was certain that the sentiments expressed at that time had not changed.

(Signed) DAVIGNON.

(Belgian Grey Book : Despatch No. 12.)

THE "SCRAP OF PAPER."

**The British Ambassador, Sir E. Goschen, gives an
account to Sir Edward Grey of his visit to the
German Chancellor, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg.**

I found the Chancellor very agitated. His Excellency at once began a harangue, which lasted for about twenty minutes. He said that the step taken by His Majesty's Government was terrible to a degree; just for a word—"neutrality," a word which in war time had so often been disregarded—just for a scrap of paper Great Britain was going to make war on a kindred nation who desired nothing better than to be friends with her. I protested strongly against that statement, and said that, in the same way as he and Herr von Jagow wished me to understand that for strategical reasons it was a matter of life and death to Germany to advance through Belgium and violate the latter's neutrality, so I would wish him to understand that it was, so to speak, a matter of "life and death" for the honour of Great Britain that she should keep her solemn engagement to do her utmost to defend Belgium's neutrality if attacked. That solemn compact simply had to be kept, or what confidence could anyone have in engagements given by Great Britain in the future?

(British Blue Book : Despatch No. 160.)

G. K. CHESTERTON in *The Barbarism of Berlin*.

No. 931, dated 2/1/81 1918

2. The Director will also be requested to report whether ^{he means to} any, and if so, how many copies of a ^{more} more elaborate ^{edition} of the document (in ~~color~~) sold by the Pioneer Press, Allahabad, ^{should} may be purchased for presentation ~~to be~~ as suitable and interesting mementos to selected schools.

(facsimile)
Sent in a separate
packet.

23/8

Q.S.
19/8/15

21.8.15

When given for copying—
 When copied—
 When examined—
 When signed—

191 .

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
 191 .

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 P = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy heading only.