**The slaughter of neutrals and non- combatants**

From the Herald.

The civilized world stands appalled at the torpedoing of the Lusitania, with the terrible loss of life—non- combatants, many of them citizens of neutral countries

 If ever wholesale murder was premeditated this slaughter on the high seas was. By official proclamation of an intention to disregard all rules of blockade and all international law, Germany declared that her submarines would sink every ship that sought to enter or leave the ports of the United Kingdom and of France. By official advertisement signed by the Imperial German Embassy at Washington all passengers were warned not to take passage on British ships from the United States for England. By letter and telegram passengers were warned not to go by the Lusitania. The ship had been marked for slaughter. The warnings were disregarded, but she was doomed from the minute she passed out of the three-mile limit. There may be a thousand dead, there may be fifteen hundred. The extent of the disaster matters little in an international sense. One American life lost makes another case against Germany similar to that of the Gulflight. But undoubtedly hundreds of Americans have been sent swirling to eternity by the German pirates.

 Henceforth is international anarchy to be the controlling factor in marine warfare henceforth is piracy on the high seas to be recognized and go unprotested and unpunished? Henceforth is the wanton murder of neutrals and non-combatant passengers to be treated as regrettable incidents and go at that?

 It is for the neutral countries, and above all for the United States, to answer these questions. It is a time of gravity in American history unmatched since the Civil War.

 This cold- blooded, premeditated outrace on colossal scale will cause such a blinding white light of indignation throughout the neutral-portion of the world, unhappily growling smaller and smaller, that there can not conceivably be in Washington any thought of turning back from the note to Germany, sent Feb 10th.

 In the note the United States informed Germany that it viewed the possibilities with great concern and requested Germany to consider the critical situation which might arise were the German naval forces in carrying out the policy foreshadowed to destroy any merchant vessels of the nation or cause he death of American citizens.

 “Or cause the death of American citizens!”

 Again in this communication the State Department informs the German Government that if the German commanders should destroy on the high seas an American vessel or the lives of American citizens. It would be difficult to view the act in any other light than as an indefensible violation of neutral rights.

 “Or the lives of American citizens!”

 The Lusitanian was a British ship, but this fact does not mitigate the crime of the Kaiser’s navy against this republic in killing peaceful American passengers. Nor does the fact that warnings were given mitigate the crime: it rather increases its enormity. Americans has the right to go by any steamship they chose. They had the right to protections by this government. No government can long last that does not protect its own citizens.

**As Americans**

From the Tribune.

 For every American citizen one fact will stand out clear and beyond all else this morning. In defiance, not alone of every principle of international law, but of every dictate of common humanity, American men, women, and children, citizens of this neutral nation, have been exposed to death have perhaps been actually murdered by German war craft.

 For this murder there is no justification outside of that law of necessity paraded by the German Chancellor in the opening hours, when the first German regiments rushed through Belgium to consecrate to Louvain the work of German kuitur. The passengers, the American citizens, who embarked upon the Lusitania were protected by every rule and procendent of international law. They journeyed to an unblockaded port, and thus journeying, were entitled to the protection supplied by the rules of civilized warfare.

 The vessel on which they sailed was a fair prize for German warships. German sea power was entitled to capture the Lusitania if it could, to sink her if necessity compelled, but not from her decks, not until every non-combatant was taken from her decks, not until the safety of every life had been assured.

 From this tragedy we shall now turn to Washington. More than a century ago, when this nation was weak and its people lacking in all the resources of a great power, it made answer to the pirates of the Barbary Coast, who asserted a prerogative less intolerable than that which is now asserted in Berlin and executed upon the high seas.

 No voice will be raised no effort will be made to force the hand, to hasten the action of the President of the United States. But neither he nor any other official in our government can mistake the temper in which their fellow-citizens will wait. They will wait with the casualty list in their hands. They will wait fortified each day and each hour by new evidence and fresh details of the manner in which Americans, American women and children, have been exposed to death by German submarines. The nation which remembered the sailors of the Maine will not forget the civilians of Lusitania!