

in this direction, and has made a definite attempt to abolish the system of tipping as far as possible. At the suggestion of the Stewards' Union representative, the Court, in the new award which is to come into force on August 2, has made it a breach of the award to accept a tip from a passenger. To meet the situation thus created, the Court has increased the wages of first class stewards by nearly 50 per cent., and those of second class stewards to a still greater proportionate extent. This increase will, of course, be duly passed on to the passengers; but the travelling public, as we have already indicated, will not be likely to object to the new arrangement, even if it does mean a slight increase in the fares. Even with the new enactment in force, it will no doubt be a matter of some difficulty entirely to kill the objectionable system; but in view of the fact that the steward will now receive an adequate wage, the passenger who has already contributed his share in the shape of an increased passenger rate need have no qualms in resisting the silent and subtle pressure which may still be brought to bear upon him. The only circumstance in which some slight hardship may arise is the case in which a passenger, through sickness, may require some special service and attendance; but doubtless ways and means will be found of overcoming this difficulty. The new award is certainly a commendable experiment; and its operation will be watched with no little interest.

A New Louvain

The Pope has shown, in a very graceful and unequivocal way, his deep sympathy with the unspeakable wrongs of which gallant little Belgium has been the victim. According to a message from Rome, which is published in the Home papers, his Holiness has announced his desire to start a movement for the formation of a new University Library to replace the famous collection, the destruction of which, next even remain an indelible stain on Germany's conduct of its early campaign in Belgium. In order to open the way for the new library his Holiness has ordered that papers and books printed for the Vatican, together with whatever literature can be spared from the Papal Palace libraries, shall be forwarded to Cardinal Mercier for his purposes. The movement has also received valuable assistance from the Governors of the John Rylands Library, Manchester, who have decided to give practical expression to their deep feelings of sympathy with the Louvain University authorities in the immense loss of their library, by a gift of books from their duplicate stock, which has reaching Germany first through purchases *en bloc* of large and special collections. A first instalment of 20 volumes has already been offered and gratefully acknowledged for the use of the University on behalf of the Louvain authorities, who regard it as 'one of the very first acts which tend to the perpetuation of our revival.' As the University at present is a mere heap of ruins, these volumes, together with any others that may be forthcoming, will be housed, classified, and catalogued at the John Rylands Library till the day comes for them to be transferred to their new home. In addition to this, the Library authorities have invited other libraries and private individuals to join with them in presenting suitable books to Louvain, and undertake to receive and house such gifts, and to keep a register of the names and addresses of the donors. There is every reason to hope that the movement will be widely taken up, and that the civilized world will unite to show its reprobation of the stupid vandalism by which Belgium has been robbed of its intellectual and artistic heritage.

In the review *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* some German intellectuals have attempted to explain and excuse the deplorable act which has inflicted such an irreparable loss upon Belgium, and upon the whole world of letters and of art. The substance of this defence is an attempt to blame the officials of the Library of Louvain for not having been present to point out to the soldiers the value of the collections which otherwise would certainly have been spared! Like the other

excuses which have been put forward, this attempt quite fails to carry conviction; and Monsieur Burger, director of the Amsterdam Library, has replied to it in very conclusive fashion in the Dutch review *Het Boek*. 'Can it be possible,' he asks, 'that after all these months the directors of this German Review are unaware of the horrible scenes of massacre and pillage that go to make up the crime of Louvain? No one will credit that. Rather shall we say that their ignorance is merely a sham—and a monstrous and clumsy sham! I will not waste time in refuting this vile insinuation, which the official and well-authenticated accounts of the outrage on Louvain suffice definitely to dispel. It is now acknowledged by all right-minded men who are not prejudiced and do not refuse to seek and admit the truth—(1) That the fire in the Library of the University broke out suddenly after eight days' peaceful occupation of the town by the German troops; (2) that the fire broke out during the night of the 25th of August, when all the Library premises were closed and the residents were forbidden to leave their houses after 7 o'clock in the evening; (3) that that night of the 25th of August was unquestionably the first night of fire, pillage, and massacre. We know the unhappy fate of the unfortunate people who fell into the hands of the drunken soldiers that night—also during the days and nights that followed. I saw the ruins of the Library again eight days after the fire, and even then I was only able to look at them from a distance and at considerable risk. Broken pillars, an impassable heap of bricks, stones, and beams smouldered in the fire which slowly consumed thousands of volumes between huge portions of dangerous and threatening walls: that was all that remained of the majestic building known as the *Halls Universitaires*, and of the rich treasure it contained. In the streets of the ruined and deserted city, where the soldiers were completing their work of pillage, and further on even into the country, leaves of manuscripts and books fluttered about, half burned, at the mercy of the wind.' As we have said, the movement for restoration is being keenly and eagerly taken up, both in Belgium and out of it; and scholarly Belgians cherish the fond hope that 'The Halls of Louvain will rise again from their ashes,' and that 'they will become, as in former days, the centre of a school of learning of which the glorious past is a guarantee for the future.'

Some Lusitania Echoes

English and American files just to hand contain the definite statement that both the British Admiralty and the United States officials have certified that the *Lusitania* was not armed, so that the one ground which might have afforded a technical pretext for the submarine attack on the great liner has been shown to be non-existent. The fact that the *Lusitania* carried contraband of war in the shape of some five or six thousand cases of rifle cartridges would have justified the seizure and if necessary the sinking of the ship—but only after passengers and crew had been given an opportunity of escape. The points at issue between Germany and the United States, and the American replies hereto, are admirably set forth in a summary given in the *New York Sun*. The German contentions are given as they were disclosed in Germany's reply to the American Note on the sinking of the *Lusitania*. Here is the *Sun's* summary:

'Germany asserts the *Falaba's* action in summoning aid caused the submarine commander to torpedo her before all passengers had escaped.

'United States holds that no potential menace to the submarine justified causing the death of the American passenger Leon C. Thrasher.

'Germany says unjustified attacks on neutral ships are due to carelessness or suspicious acts of the vessels concerned.

'United States holds that on Germany rests the responsibility for not making mistakes.

'Germany charges that the *Lusitania* was armed.

'United States has officially declared the *Lusitania* left New York unarmed.