

FRENCH ACCUSE FOE OF INHUMAN ACTS

Commission Offers Evidence That Wounded and Prisoners Were Killed.

PARIS, Aug. 2.—The commission presided over by Georges Payelle, President of the French Court of Accounts, has presented to Premier Viviani the final report of its investigations into acts on the part of German soldiers in violation of the rights of man.

This report contains 12,000 words, and gives in detail the evidence gathered concerning the use by German troops of military and civilian prisoners as shields against the fire of French troops, as well as of the employment by the troops of Emperor William of cartridges in which the bullets were reversed in order to cause more serious wounds; split bullets, and other bullets cut to make them more rending.

Continuing the report cites orders given by General Stenger, commander of the Fifty-eighth German Brigade, ordering his soldiers to kill the wounded enemy and to take no more prisoners. Evidence confirming the issuing and the circulation of this order was obtained from German prisoners belonging to the 112th and 142d Regiments. The report contains also evidence of the massacre of French soldiers as a result of this order, as well as the massacre of wounded men after the battle of Fethe in Belgium. It presents the allegations of many individual soldiers who declare they saw their wounded comrades put to death by a rifle shot, a revolver shot, the thrust of a bayonet, or a blow from the butt of a musket by German soldiers, subaltern officers, and officers. Some of the French witnesses testified that they themselves had been objects of such aggressive attacks after having been wounded, and that they had survived.

The report devotes considerable space to allegations of the inhumanity of the Germans to their prisoners of war, which it says is proven by the evidence of the victims. Many prisoners of war have been shot, while others have had their skulls crushed by blows from the butt of a musket. At St. Dié thirty French prisoners were assassinated in this manner by Bavarian troops. The truth of this is vouched for by five men who actually witnessed the executions. Other men who appeared before the commission declared that they had found the dead bodies of a French patrol numbering seven men, an infantry corporal and six privates, with their hands tied behind their backs and dead from rifle shots. This incident was further supported by evidence taken before a Justice of the Peace.

The report concludes with three columns of evidence to prove the bombardment of ambulances by the Germans; the firing upon stretcher bearers, and the taking prisoner of surgeons. In some cases, it is set forth, French surgeons were arrested by German surgeons and by them sent to the rear to be interned.

Several cases are cited in which German wounded, succored by Frenchmen, are alleged to have taken the opportunity to kill those going to their relief.