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## THE HEALING HAND OF PEACE

### PEACE TASKS ABROAD

The armistice drawn by Generalissimo Foch was signed by the German authorities at 2:45 this morning and all guns were silenced at 6 a. m., Paris time, on this the 11th day of November. The Kaiser and the crown prince have abdicated and are seeking safety in flight. The kaiserlings in the little German states are following suit in swift order. Peace is not yet concluded in set terms, but the world war is over—the war that cost the struggling nations 221 billion dollars, that slew 8 million men killed in battle, and orphaned 20 million children.

With peace in sight, it becomes possible to look straight at the largest task the Good Samaritans of the world have ever had to contemplate in all history—the healing of the wounds of Armenia, Poland, Roumania, Serbia, Italy, France and Belgium. These countries have fallen among thieves, they are stricken beyond words, and human hearts in happy lands will not pass them by on the other side.

Our prediction is that we are now about to witness the greatest outpouring of Christian charity this old world has ever seen. Strange, but the fiendish purposes of Germany in four years of war have brought humanity further along the road toward the common brotherhood of man and the common fatherhood of God than all the civilizing agencies of twenty centuries have been able to do. So it is that He maketh the wrath of man to praise Him.

Mighty agencies of rehabilitation and merciful healing are girding up their loins for gigantic tasks in the blasted regions of war. Five billion dollars will scarcely cover the value of properties destroyed and stolen in France and Belgium alone, say the War Damage Commissions whose business it has been the last three years to keep books against the day of righteous reparation by the central powers.

### A Distress Signal

Andre Tardieu, the French Minister of War Affairs, has just laid bare to the world the wounds of France. Two and a half million of her heroes are dead, or down and out with wounds or disease—a full fifteenth of her effective population. Her maimed soldiers are to be re-made by the magic arts of modern surgery, and trained to self-sustaining industries in endless variety. Widowed mothers and five million fatherless children are to be cared for tenderly. Three hundred and fifty thousand homes are to be re-erected. Hundreds upon hundreds of hamlets, towns and cities are to be rebuilt, industries are to be re-established, mines put into working order, highways and bridges reconstructed, railway trackage overhauled and equipped with rolling stock, a merchant marine created anew, and so on and on. Ten thousand square miles of farm land are to be leveled, plowed and harrowed for the spring seeding, orchard spaces must be re-set with vines and fruit trees, and shade trees are to be re-planted along the streams and highways after the stately fashion of France.

The plans of reconstruction are based on the five billion dollars of indemnity that France may righteously demand of Germany.

But they call for five billions more, and the land of LaFayette and Rochambeau flies a distress signal to America for assistance. And also they call for a fifty percent credit on all purchases made in America for restoration in France. They call, too, for all the volunteers that can be found in our armies—technical engineers of every description, industrial organizers and superintendents, business men, doctors, teachers, and ministers.

While our soldier boys are waiting ship during the next twelve months for the return home, what nobler thing can they do than to lend a hand to stricken France and Belgium, now bowed down and struggling to stand erect again?

### Peace-Time Jobs in France

General Pershing knows, as Mazzini knew, that the morrow of peace is more perilous than the eve; that idle minds are the devil's workshop; that temptations like the flies of Beelzebub for multitude will now be swarming about our boys abroad

while waiting their return home; and that, if they are to come back to us stronger not weaker men, their brains and bodies must be nobly employed every minute of the time in peace projects overseas—in rebuilding the civilization of the stricken war zone, and in learning all the lessons that France and Belgium have to teach America.

Hence General Pershing's call for volunteer workers in restoration activities, and for 2,000 volunteer soldier-teachers to turn the Army Y Huts in France into class rooms busy with lessons about the agriculture and commerce, the industries and finance, the history and civic life of a glorious people whose bodies oft retreated during four heroic years but not their souls ever.

The educational end of demobilization has been turned over to the Army Overseas Education Commission headed by Dr. John Erskine of Columbia, who is now swiftly organizing the work he has been drafted to undertake.

The technical and vocational end of instruction is headed by Dr. K. L. Butterfield, President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. His work covers the agriculture, industries and commerce of an unbeatable people. Professor E. C. Branson, of the University of North Carolina, has gone with Dr. Butterfield as Commission Specialist in Rural Social Science during the coming year. His address till next September will be 10 Rue de l'Elysee, Paris.

### FRENCH LESSONS IN BRIEF

Professor Branson left on his desk before sailing a sketchy memorandum of some of the lessons that the 750 thousand farmer-soldiers in our overseas armies can profitably learn from the farm systems, the farm activities, and the country civilization of France. We give it to our readers in the paragraphs that follow.

### A Safely Balanced Life

Town and country life are in safe balance in France.

A little more than half the population of France is rural, in contrast with a third in Germany and a tenth in England. More than half the wealth produced in France from year to year is derived from the soil. In normal years France is a self-feeding country—at least so far as the standard staple foods are concerned. For all the wonderful industrial development of France since 1870, her civilization still is rural, and wholesome at the core. Here are fundamental facts directly related to the physical hardihood of the French armies and the power of the nation to endure the stress and strain of war.

### A Land of Home Owners

France is a land of home-owning, home-loving, home-defending farmers.

They are nearly four millions in number. Only 13 French farmers in the hundred are leaseholders, and only 7 in the hundred are croppers or metayers. In the United States, farm tenants are 36 in the hundred, in North Carolina 42, while in South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi they are more than 60 in the hundred.

Even before the French Revolution, two-thirds of the soil of France belonged to small peasant proprietors, and today almost all of it is so owned.

England and America stand face to face with the deadliest social peril of modern times: landless, homeless multitudes that steadily increase in numbers, intelligence, and restless discontent. In Great Britain more than four-fifths of the people are landless, and in the United States more than half, and in the South more than two-thirds—a fundamental fact that these lands will have to reckon with in the new era. Mexico and Russia are ghastly reminders of their significance. Land without people is a wilderness, people without land are a mob, as James J. Hill once said.

But the wide diffusion of home and farm ownership in France means social contentedness, civic stability and national security. The soul of France craves these things even more than it craves liberty and equality.

Here is a large part of the explanation

### OUR BOYS

Mary Elizabeth Rodhouse

God make us worthy of our boys,  
Fearless and true as they must be,  
Clear-eyed to face reality,  
And blithe withal and glad of heart.

Help us each one to do his part,  
With faith serene and spirit high  
As they who teach us how to die.  
God make us worthy of our boys.

—Of the Vigilantes.

why France has safely weathered the oft repeated storms of domestic upheaval. Widespread peasant ownership of land has kept France on even keel for 100 years or so, and is like to do it till the last chapter of her history. Private property in land is never likely to be abolished by any brand of French socialism. The well nigh universal ownership of homes and farms in France is a mighty breakwater against the rising tide of anarchy that menaces the world today.

And here, too, is why France has been an "edge of steel, a line of fire" against the armies of invading autocracy. Her poilus have been fighting to the last gasp for the things that were their very own—their homes and farms and farm animals, their little shops and small industries, and for the land and country that has given them the right to enjoy these in freedom and abounding prosperity.

### Balanced Farm Systems

The prevailing farm system in France is a safely balanced system.

It is a food-crop, livestock, farm-industry system, with emphasis on self-support on the one hand and on farm products in finished form for final consumption on the other—butter, cheeses, poultry and eggs, bacon, hams, and shoulders, dried fruits, jams, jellies, preserves and the like, for direct market sale. Crop-farming alone is nearly unknown in France; rarely is anything else known in the Southern states of America. No French farmer markets anything on four wheels that he can market on four legs, and nothing on four legs that can be sold on two.

Here is a type of farming that all-wheat or all-cotton and all-tobacco farmers can study with direct profit.

### A Land of Small Farms

France is a region of small farms and intensive farming.

Three million or three-fourths of all the farms of France are less than 15 acres each; 600,000 are between 15 and 240 acres each, and only 150,000 are more than 240 acres in size. It is a kind of farming that is possible to farm-owners in a densely populated region with numerous nearby market centers. Forty million people dwell in France, a little country barely four times the size of North Carolina. There are 200 people to the square mile in France or five times the average for our home state.

Small-scale farming can be profitable if it is done by farmers (1) who own the land they till, (2) whose farm practices are re-enforced by agricultural science and intelligent skill, (3) who own and use labor-saving machinery in common, and (4) who buy farm supplies, market farm products, and finance farm activities co-operatively.

In the main we are small-scale farmers in North Carolina (the average of cultivated acres per farm is only 35) but we have too many tenant farmers, too little skill in farm systems and practices, too few market centers, and too little co-operative enterprise for success.

But these conditions of prosperity our farmer-soldiers will find everywhere in France, if they look about with keen eyes. Barring only Denmark, France is far and away the best developed farm civilization in Europe.

They have at hand for study the National Agronomic Institute in Paris, five great secondary agricultural schools, 100 or more local agricultural schools, and just as many farm-life vocational schools; the National Agricultural Society composed of some 6,000 associations with nearly a million members; the Central Union of Agricultural Syndicates composed of 2,500 local societies for co-operative enterprise; and the National Associa-

tion for Co-operative Credit, with 2,400 member societies.

Without intelligent skill in production, and group-loyalty in salesmanship and farm credit, net profits per farmer can nowhere keep pace with increasing gross yields per acre in small-farm areas. Here are vital lessons in farm prosperity for the farm populations of America, and our farmer lads in France are now to have a chance to learn them on the spot face to face with the facts.

### Life in Farm Villages

The country populations of France live together in small villages.

Their little pocket-handkerchief farms cluster around little farm centers. French farmers live in little social groups. In America our farm people dwell apart in widely scattered homes in sparsely settled country regions. The social contrasts and consequences are arresting.

It is easy for the country school in France to be a good school. The teacher is usually housed in a cosy school home along side the schoolhouse—sometimes under the school roof itself. As a rule he is permanently resident in the school community, and contentedly settled down in his profession. The vicar and the school master are together the pillars of the village group. Social life is abundant and has a chance to be effective. Chorus societies, glee clubs, village bands, culture groups, holiday observances, social recreation and co-operation will be found more or less in evidence in these farm villages. At home here, our country life is crippled by farm isolation, raw individualism, and social aloofness. The manifold differences between country life in France and America ought to challenge the interest and attention of the soldiers from American farms.

### Fitting Schools to Life

Another thing arrests attention in France: the social values of the public school, town and country.

It is common to find French schools that take on the color of surrounding life as faithfully as chameleons do, and just as unconsciously. We've long theorized in America about relating schools to life, town schools to town life and country schools to country life. Not so in France, because the French have in very fact the thing we only dream of in our philosophies. They have it and don't know it—have never stopped even to think about it.

It is largely for this reason that France is bare of originality in formulated pedagogic doctrine. Rousseau is the solitary peak in the dreary waste of educational platitudes. But the elementary schools of France are worth looking into or commonly so, and our soldiers will do well to miss no chance to study them at close range. The secondary schools and the colleges of France—both secular and cleric—are hardly worth while; but, next to the folkschools of Denmark, the elementary schools of France are perhaps the best in Europe.

### Thrift and Prosperity

The ingrained thrift of the French farmers, their well nigh universal ownership of interest-bearing state-securities or consols, in small denominations from ten francs up, and their evident prosperity ought to set our farmer-soldiers to thinking.

If they can puzzle out the secrets of farm prosperity in France and transplant them in America they will be worth billions to the farm civilizations of the home country. Among other things our Southern farm boys will do well to note in France is this: the French farmer lets no money go for anything that he can easily produce on his farm. If in the same way the farmers of the South could hold down their cotton and tobacco money year by year they would be the richest country population on the globe in a single generation.

In an average year the farm wealth produced in France is only \$136 or so per farm worker. The figures look picayune to a tobacco farmer in Carolina, but the bankers of France have long counted with absolute certainty on the farmer's saving around \$16 out of this small sum. And \$16 multiplied by 20 million farm workers represents the investable wealth created by the farmers of France and added year by year to the total capital of the nation.

### Prosperity and Patriotism

There is no doubt about the prosperity

of the petty peasant proprietors of France.

It was the small French farmers who for the most part promptly produced the billion dollars in gold that Bismarck demanded as an indemnity in 1871. And just as they freely surrendered their gold and their lives to save their beloved home-land in the Franco-Prussian war, so have they freely surrendered their lives and their all to save la belle France in 1914-18.

The farmers of France are thrifty and prosperous, but they are thrifty and prosperous on the high levels of patriotism. French thrift, town and country, is not—as we thought—a sordid trait of character, but a consecrated quality of soul.

It is the spiritual treasures of unbeatable, unbreakable, glorious France that have thrilled the heart of the world during the four dark years of this war, and that will live on in the minds of men till the end of time.

But like every other spiritual treasure of enduring sort, it is no disembodied something; it is distinctly related to the ownership of homes and farms, and the craving of a home-owning people for social security, civic stability, and national integrity.

### The Real France

France has been the surprise of the world in this war. So, because the superficial popular notion has been that Paris is France—Paris gay, effervescent, irresponsible, hysterical—Paris fantastic, bizarre, spectacular!

Somewhat we expected the French armies to have the qualities and characteristics of Paris, and we were ill-prepared to look upon the grim, grizzled multitudes that silently swarmed out of the provinces of France—the petty peasant proprietors of the country regions, the owners of midget shops and industries in the little towns and cities, "the little people" as they are called in France—the sober, undemonstrative, sturdy, self-respecting, red-blooded poilus who are France.

Napoleon made no such mistake. He knew that neither the populace of Paris nor the idealogues of Paris clubs were France—but that France was these same poilus, and that they craved undisturbed security for their little homes and farms, shops and trades far more passionately than they cherished the ideals of the Jacobins.

These home-owning, home-loving, home-defending poilus are still France—the real France of today. What they have been fighting for with exhaustless hope and courage has been France, their France—theirs because they own it, almost to the last inch of its soil and the last sous of its capital.

If our soldiers in France miss this fundamental fact in French life, they will have missed the heart of the civilization they've been steeped in these last fifteen months.

### NEW UNIVERSITY CHIEFS

On October 31, Professor M. H. Stacy, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, was appointed Chairman of the Faculty with power to perform the duties of the office of president of the University, made vacant by the death of President Graham.

Dean Stacy is a graduate of the University in the class of 1902, and spent a year in graduate study at Cornell University in 1905-06. He has been a member of the faculty since his graduation, having filled in succession the positions of instructor in Mathematics, associate professor of Civil Engineering, and professor of Civil Engineering. In 1913-14, during the absence of President Venable in Europe, he was appointed acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts under Acting President Graham, and upon the election of President Graham in 1914, was appointed dean, which position he was holding at the time of President Graham's death.

By his appointment as Chairman of the Faculty at this time, the University is assured of the services of a leader who is thoroughly familiar with the work of the institution and who enjoys to the full the confidence and hearty co-operation of his colleagues, the student body, the alumni, and the people of the State in general.

At the same meeting of the Executive Committee of the Trustees in Raleigh, Dr. H. W. Chase, Professor of Psychology and member the School of Education, was appointed acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts in the place of Dean Stacy, who was promoted to the Chairmanship of the University faculty.—The Alumni Review.