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PLOWSHARES AND PRUNINGHOOKS

IF IT WERE YOUR CHILD?

Speaking of World Relief Work, why not vary John Knox's phrase of fervent gratitude and say to yourself, That, but for the grace of God might have been my child?

The country women of European lands rarely carry their babies in their arms. Baby rides in a wicker basket strapped to mother's back, knapsack-wise, while mother goes her way crocheting lace, or knitting, and singing—or so it was before the war.

How is it now?

A returning Red Cross worker tells how he was taken through stricken Poland. Along the roads, throughout the land, wherever he went he saw long lines of baskets rotting on the ground.

Asking the meaning of them he was told of this custom of the European country women, and then he was told how the harried, driven folk, retreating before the invader, lagged in weariness, stumbled from weakness, fell fainting, starving, dying by the way.

The wan babies, hanging from their mother's withered breasts, in Henry Grady's phrase, fainted and perished. As they died, the exhausted mothers laid down the little bodies, so light, so worn away to skin and bone, laid them down in the now useless baskets, and left them so. The tale runs into millions for Poland alone.

Poland is bereft of children. Not one is left under five years of age. But in other European lands other European children cry to us for food, and food we must send them, regularly, steadily, and for years to come lest they perish.—E. N.

WORLD RELIEF WORK

The first week in December is the week set apart by the Federal Food Administration for World Relief Work. So we learn as we go to the printers with this issue of the News Letter.

The people of the United States must be brought to realize that the need to conserve food is many times more important now than ever it was during the four years of war.

On Sunday, December 1, the ministers are asked to read Hoover's message and warning in all the churches of the land. On Tuesday the 3d, Community Mass Meetings everywhere are called to consider the menace of famine in Europe, and on Friday the 7th the alarm is to be sounded in every school in special programs of instruction and exhortation.

The call to instant, active service is to the women of America—the housewives and the women's organizations of every sort. The programs of War Relief Week are their job. If they fail to rise to the occasion, they fail in a critical emergency in the history of mankind.

It is theirs to see that the World Relief Week accomplishes its full purpose in America.

Hunger Breeds Anarchy

The war against autocracy has been won. The war against famine and anarchy is just beginning.

Advices to the State Department seem clearly to indicate, says William Hard, that all Europe from the Urals to the Alps may soon have to be surrendered to socialism of some sort.

Russia and central Europe are gaunt with hunger. The facts are only just now coming to light. In Poland there are no children under five years of age. They are all dead from starvation.

Ghastly famine stalks abroad in the war-cursed areas of Europe, and hunger now threatens to slay many millions more than the instruments of war have done.

Revolutions have always begun in bread riots, and they have always been headed by 'Rachel crying for her children.' Famine means anarchy. Anarchy in central and eastern Europe means anarchy in western Europe. And anarchy in Europe means anarchy in America. Nothing else on earth has ever been as contagious as anarchy.

The French Revolution began in starvation. In one province, said Arthur Young, 30,000 peasants lay dead or dying in the fields with grass in their mouths. The spark that set the fires of revolt ablaze was struck by mobs of hun-

gry women. The spirit of revolt swept every country in Europe like a forest conflagration.

And the job of social fire control in Europe, thereafter, was a half-century job. The fires of social revolution were never wholly extinguished. Ever since they have been smoldering fires in every country of Europe, ready to blaze out afresh and never more certainly than now.

Is the world of our day to be enveloped in turn by universal conflagration?

Anarchy—Bolshevism, I. W. Wism, whatever you call it—threatens to sweep the earth with revolution. Fools do not fear it. Fools are always fearless. But wise men fear it—fear it exceedingly. The leading article in the Literary Digest of Nov. 23 tells in detail how greatly they fear it in every land and country.

The ships of state are all afloat on troubled seas. Keeping this old world on even keel the next half century is a job for giants.

Fundamentally it's a famine job. We must fight famine with food, and slay anarchy with bread.

A Self-Defensive Fight

North and South America, New Zealand and Australia must feed Europe, or Europe faces famine and Bolshevism.

Stabilizing the food conditions of the world is a six-year task, at the very least, under the best conditions, says Mr. Hoover.

More than ever before we must waste nothing. Everything must be saved—especially dairy feeds, dairy products, and fats. These are the crying needs of Europe today and for many days to come.

If Germany must be fed, then we must feed Germany—if not for Germany's sake then for America's sake; and we must do it in sheer self-defense. This is no time for sentiment. It's a time for sense, and the time to be sensible is now.

Save dairy feeds, dairy products and fats of every sort. That's the word that must be sounded in every home in the land!

That's the slogan of the World Relief Week.—E. C. B.

THE NEW DAY IN ENGLAND

"It is not only the new women electors," continues the London Daily Mail, "whom the old wirepullers have to fear. There is a new world with a new atmosphere, a new outlook, new issues, new problems, new conditions. New men are needed to interpret the new meanings of politics. The old players of the old game have passed or are passing one by one into obscurity. The lights that seemed to burn so brightly when the present parliament was elected are extinguished or have dwindled into guttering candle-ends. The old shibboleths and definitions are empty, meaningless sounds. The party wirepuller's old stock-in-trade is obsolete and he has nothing ready or in sight with which to replace it.—Exchange."

AS LLOYD GEORGE SEES IT

We must pay more attention to our schools. The most formidable institution we had to fight in Germany was not the arsenals of Krupp or the yards in which they turned out submarines, but the schools in Germany. They are our most formidable competitors in business and our most terrible opponents in war. An educated man is a better worker, a more formidable warrior and a better citizen. That was only half comprehended here before the war.

It is idle to contend that this vast convulsion has taught us nothing. Men who learn nothing are fitted for nothing, and they certainly ought not to be employed in the settlement of after-war problems, because they are dangerous men. Do not turn your backs on the future nor dote on the present. You will forgive me when I say I see that kind of doting in and around the sheds where the party machines have been rusting during the war. I can hear sounds of elaborate preparation for setting up the old merry-go-round. That would give men the illusion that they are prancing at a terrific speed when they are really circling around the same old clanking machine

THE RIGHTS OF MAN

Edmund Burke

Civil society is made for the advantage of man. All the advantages for which it is made become his right.

Civil society is an institution of beneficence. Law is only beneficence acting by rule.

Each man has a right to do separately for himself whatever he can without trespassing upon others.

And he has a right to a fair portion of all that society can do for him, with all its combinations of skill and force,

to the same old tune.

There are disturbing symptoms all over Europe which we at home would be wise to take note of and provide against. I have been scanning the horizon and I can see flashes on the sky which indicate to me that there are grave atmospheric disturbances in the social and economic world. In the natural world you cannot avert the storm by thinking. In the more artificial world of human society you can, if you take things in time, avert the hurricane.

I have one word of advice to my countrymen, and I say it solemnly to them: Take heed in time, and if you do we shall enjoy settled weather for the great harvest which is coming when the fierce heat of summer which is beating upon us in this great war shall be over and past.—Recent speech in London.

DEMOCRACY AND DOLLARS

3. As the war now seems to be on the last lap, our democracy and dollars shine with intense brilliancy upon the sky of the world—a rainbow of hope almost realized to our allies, a flaming sword of destruction to our enemies.

When the war has finally come to an end, will American democracy and American dollars be able to make such a profound impression upon the thought of the world—upon the leaders of the nations as they assemble to fix the boundaries of nations now on the map and of those to be put upon the map?

When the war is no longer, will American democracy and American dollars work with such tremendous earnestness for the maintenance of justice among the peoples of other nations and among ourselves as they have worked for many months in the strength of battle? When peace has been re-established, will American democracy and American dollars be able to play such a big vital part in the building of the political security and the economic prosperity of the peoples of the world as they have played in the destruction of a military might which has been guided by the brains of selfish and brutal men?

When the war is over, when the soldier has returned to the ordinary tasks of making a living, will American democracy and American dollars work so enthusiastically for the promotion of justice between our own people as they have struggled to bring the opportunity of fair dealings between the peoples of other nations?—Charles L. Raper.

AS DANIELS SEES IT

The world, after peace shall have been won, will not go back to conditions such as existed prior to our entrance into the mighty struggle, says Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy. What labor earns will find its way into the pockets of labor. New conditions will impose new duties. Statesmanship of vision will create new opportunities for American commerce and guarantee labor the sweat of its brow. Political shibboleths that men heeded in 1916 are as dead as the mummies of Egypt, and public men who try to galvanize them will be interred in the catacombs that overlook Salt River.

This war is fundamental. Its effect will be to change everything. Trade and commerce and finance will seek new and broader fields, bigger men and nobler standards. The large returns from farm and factory will not go to the few, but will be apportioned to men of brain and brawn in proportion to the value of their contribution. There will be a more

equitable division between capital and labor.

But no Bolshevism, no failure to protect alike property and labor, no class domination that lends itself to injustice or wrong can flourish on this continent. Justice presides over both the rights of man and his rights of property.

There will be no place in this new world for the leadership either of timid men or those who grasp at the shadows of issues which the war has relegated to the scrap heap. The man who prates of doctrines good in an isolated country will have empty benches for an audience.

During the war we have not hesitated at any action, however radical it was regarded by conservatives in other times, that would help to win the war. We have employed weapons both ancient and modern. Some of our men are wearing coats of mail, others are mounting the heavens. The javelin of the cave dweller has its place with the latest concoction of poisonous gas.

Even so, in the new time now shortly at hand, our real leaders will be those who will not reject a method or a principle because it is old or embrace it because it is new. We will prove all things in order that we may hold fast only that which is good for a heritage to be handed down by the generation that stood in its lot in these days and saved the civilized world.

We have had but one principle since the President in the halls of Congress gave expression to the national conviction that the course of the German Empire demanded that America must make the world safe for democracy. We are enlisted with all that we have and are until the objects stated by the President shall have been achieved.

America After the War

And then—and then, what? Will we return to the methods and thoughts and policies of pre-war days? The man who supposes he will ever again live in a world like that which existed prior to the war has read history to little purpose. We will not be afraid in peace to do revolutionary things, seeing we have become accustomed to doing them during the war. What shape will our after the war radicalism take? No man is wise enough to prophesy; but it is safe to say our first and imperative duty here in America is to make democracy safe for the world.

It would be the tragedy of tragedies if after our sacrifices to make the world safe for democracy our democracy would not be of a brand to bless the world. It must be purged of all class distinction, of every vestige of privilege, of every hoary-bearded tradition that fetters justice. It must be a democracy such as Jefferson formulated and Lincoln enforced. Its standard must be equal rights to all, special privileges to none.

This generation must live in the spirit of Jefferson and Lincoln but it must not be bound by policies that suited their day. We will not be called upon to fight primogeniture and the union of Church and State and foreign control which Jefferson successfully opposed. Human slavery, which Lincoln ended for the good of both races and the glory of his country, no longer needs to be opposed. But let us not doubt that there will be lions in our path if we tread the hard road of duty. Profiteers in war, worse than slackers and cowards, will not be easily routed in peace.

Invoking the spirit of patriotism, giant evils will follow this as all other wars. Eternal vigilance will still be the price of liberty. Men more careful to preserve the status quo of 1914 than to secure equal and exact justice will not be wanting. There will be as much need for courage to fight for real democracy when peace smiles as there is need now to oppose German aggression. But the spirit of hostility to absolutism will burn strong in the breasts of the millions of the young men returning victorious from the Rhine. They will have cut their war through shell and barb wire to Berlin, and they will come back home with the high resolve that America shall give them and their fellows the kind of country that is worthy of their heroism. This is our faith: The heroes of today in the trenches must be heroic in civil life, at the ballot box and in the halls of legislation tomorrow.

The Rulers of America

Who will control America for the next generation? It will be the men who fought

on land and sea, delved in the mine, plowed the furrows, built ships, forged war weapons, and in other ways were fully enlisted in the war, forgetting ease, comfort, profit, remembering only that they were enlisted in the war and for the war. Only they will be worthy to control America. Understand me: I would not be so unjust as to give exclusive credit to those who wear the uniform of the army or navy, or those who are doing the herculean labors back of our soldiers and sailors.

We have another class to which we must do honor. I refer to the good men and women, the boys and girls, who would readily take up arms if their country would call them, or who would take their places by forge and furnace, or in mine or on deck, were they so assigned, but whose places are less conspicuous. Many of these, I know, are longing for more emphatic connection with the war; but let them be comforted—if in their daily labors they are doing what our country desires them to do and doing it with all their might, they too deserve the name of patriot. The housekeeper at her canning and knitting, the father on the downward slope of the years, the daughter, the son, each has a duty, each a place in this great struggle, and the test is, after all, not what station did one occupy, but did you occupy the station where your service was greatest, and did you do therein your full duty?

That world in which we shall live will apply the acid test to every man who asks trust or confidence. "What did you do from April 6, 1917, to win the great victory?" and woe to the man of strength who cannot say, "I gave myself, my life, my all in the service where the selective draft placed me." If he cannot truly say this, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the midst of the sea.

How They Will Rule

What will these men who have wrought well in furnace or trenches or on the sea do when they come into their own? They will stand for justice, for law and order. Anarchy, Bolshevism, privilege, predatory business cannot escape their wrath. They will have a world-vision and will demand a treaty with all self-governing nations to preserve the peace of the world, and will maintain a powerful navy to help enforce the decrees of the tribunal they will set up. They will continue to enlarge the merchant marine so that American bottoms will carry American goods and exchange products with every nation and with all the isles of the sea. They will be less concerned as to whether this is by public or private ownership than with securing and enlarging world-wide commerce.

The odds are that they will see in Government ownership and direction the best agency, but they will discard that if private ownership insures the best results. They will never return to duplication of railroad transportation and competition in terminals and facilities. All the benefits which Government operation of railroads have given will be continued, whether the railroads are in public or private ownership.

The telephone and telegraph will probably be a permanent part of the Postal Service, though the men who will then rule America will be open-minded enough to discuss the best method of communication. The lessons of sanitation and war on drink and immoral disease will insure to the civilian population as great care and as strenuous effort in the methods of prevention and cure as war has taught are needed for men under arms.—N. Y. Times.

Those men will have little patience with the how-not-to-do-its and the better-stick-to-the-old-way apostles and apologists. Men who have dug trenches under the fire of the enemy, stood on destroyers unafraid when struck by torpedoes, endured privation in the armies, and toiled to weariness on the farm and in the factory to win the war—these men will base their creed upon the Declaration of Independence and the Treaty of Peace, and the men who wish to build high walls to make an isolated America or turn national wealth into selfish channels will be little heeded in the forward march as these men make America truly democratic, where all men have equal opportunity, and where no man can take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned, or challenge the worth of one who in such a time as this did his duty in the cause of mankind.—Indianapolis Address.