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Who's to Blame.

The Kaiser has said that while he does not consider himself to blame for the war he does not doubt that some blame attaches to him, as, he thinks, a due portion attaches to every civilized man of Europe, and he does not understand why neutral peoples regard him as the chief offender. We do not know whether he made these remarks or not, but it doesn't matter. For the purpose of this argument, it may be admitted that he is no more to blame than others in responsible positions. The great masses of men are to blame only in so far as they ignorantly permit themselves to be deceived by the arguments of their rulers. At present the element of war exists in every country that has the power to make war. The fuel is all assembled, the kindling in place, and most any accidental occurrence may strike the flame. Every country preaches the doctrine that it must have force to defend its rights and everyone holds that it is the sole judge of its own rights. When two stubborn neighbors fall out over a boundary line, neither can enforce his rights except by appealing to a third party—a disinterested jury. Neither is the absolute judge of what his rights are, and if one disregards the law and undertakes to enforce his ideas by shot gun methods, the law then steps in and takes hold of him on its own accord.

But when two rulers fall out each is the judge of his own rights and each demands that the other must surrender in toto what he regards as his rights. When the argument gets pretty heated the stronger one issues an ultimatum, and the other one backs down unless he feels strong enough to resist himself or by the aid of his friends. Austria issued an ultimatum to Serbia, Germany issued an ultimatum to Russia. This country is supposed to be a peaceful one, yet a candidate for the chief office is waltzing all over the land preaching the identical doctrine which brought on the European war. He wants the country to assert its rights, that is, he wants it to be in a position to make the others abandon what they conceive to be their rights whenever he chooses to tell them that they must. In so far as he is able he is deceiving the American people just as the European leaders deceived their people into adopting the doctrine that makes war inevitable. Mr. Wilson has prevented war with Germany by persuading Germany to give up the contentions for the things that she regarded as her rights. He has prevented war with Mexico by refusing to adopt a policy of murder upon a helpless people struggling in their own fight for rejuvenation. Mr. Hughes is thundering against him for having done this. "If I am President," says Mr. Hughes, "I will make them respect our right!" That is, he would issue an ultimatum against a weaker nation, and provoke a stronger one to issue an ultimatum against us. And millions of Americans who ought to have more sense are falling for this rotten and worn out doctrine. Mr. Hughes is reviving in America the idea that was old in the time of Greece and other ancient nations, namely, that every people not under our flag is an enemy if not a barbarian. Our word barbarian is taken bodily from the Greek work which meant a foreigner. It is past understanding to us that a man of Mr. Hughes' character and standing can permit himself to make the kind of arguments he does. His old gags on the outworn tariff question and his incitement of the ignorant hostility to other nations, seem to us like intellectual stultification in a man of intelligence in this day and time.

When We Set Up a Myth

The world has often bowed before a myth, and it keeps on bowing. The public is prone to make myths to suit its fancy. The latest example of myth worship is very striking. The reality of Mr. Hughes as a candidate is a sharp and painful contrast to the Myth which the public, and especially the Republican party, had erected and fancied it was the real Mr. Hughes. It is another case of finding that the feet of the idol are made of clay.

Confronted by the astonishing career of Mr. Wilson as President, and knowing that the country would not well take to a smaller man of any party, the Republicans spent months in looking for "some good man" who might be pitted against Mr. Wilson without suffering too much by con-

trast. And they unconsciously assumed that such a man must be a counterpart of Wilson, only a little bigger if possible, and possessing the Wilson qualities more conspicuously. This was a most pronounced, if unconscious tribute to Mr. Wilson, for their subconscious minds never for a moment contemplated the mistake of putting up a contrast.

Now, their trouble was that among all the active leaders of that party there was no man who came within a mile of the standard as there was not another one in the Democratic party. But there was Mr. Hughes. He did not talk, and nobody knew what he believed or really what kind of a man he was. Having already created the Wilson prototype for their candidate, they assumed that Mr. Hughes was it, and this myth grew and grew. The less Mr. Hughes said, and he said nothing, the more did the fancy grow that he was the man cast large in the mold of statesmanship made popular and understandable by Mr. Wilson. It followed the well-known principle that the man who says nothing and looks wise gradually attains the reputation of wisdom. It was not the fault of Mr. Hughes that the boosters made him a super-Wilson, but that very thing gave him the nomination. A super-Wilson was what was needed and popular imagination created the myth that Mr. Hughes was such. Now we are finding out that he is not. He is an ordinary political campaigner who makes mountains out of mole hills and skips all the mountains while searching for mole hills. He is paramouring the old tariff skeleton and shaking gory fingers at the foreigners. And the Hughes myth has exploded.

A Straw.

When President Wilson volunteered to see both sides to the controversy which threatened to plunge this country into a great disaster by tying up all railroad traffic, it was not through any mere sentiment which deplores controversy between the corporations and the men who work for them, but it was as of right for the chief executive to so intercede in behalf of neither side, but in behalf of the American people. Mr. Wilson said so much. The disaster that would ensue from such a strike

able. The public, whose servants both the roads and the men are, could not contemplate so great an injustice with any degree of equanimity. It has a right to protest. The question is, how far does this right go and what is the natural tendency of its assertion. If there is an agreement whereby both sides may do the face saving stunt by reason of the President's interference, and no strike results, well and good. But suppose the moral question that he is able to exert fails and the determination to strike is not abandoned, what then?

It may not happen this time, for public sentiment travels slowly, but it certainly will happen ere long, that the public will assume the right to prevent a strike even to the extent of operating the roads itself in case their managers or men will not. And then how far will this be from government ownership? One strike on the scale of that contemplated would do more to force public ownership than all the discussion and argument of a century.

As all railroad employees become better and better organized, the organizations will dictate the policy of the roads. In case of controversy, if the government by force protects the companies in the operations of trains by other men than those of the organizations, it will be tantamount to taking sides with the roads against the men, for without the power to strike the men are helpless. The power to strike effectively rests upon the power to prevent other workers from taking the place of the strikers. In industrial strikes all the bloodshed is caused by the introduction of armies or militia to protect the new men that come in. That works, however unjustly, when the less skilled and less intelligent bodies of men are the strikes, but obviously, it will not work where the whole field of intelligent labor of the country is involved. Then what? Are the railroads to be forced to give way to the demands of the men? This again would be a one-sided affair. These situations point in one direction and one only—to government ownership of public utilities, including the railroads, the greatest and most important of all. We are not arguing for or against, because there is no need to. Events will themselves be the argument, and that is the way we interpret events.

That Silent Suffragette

A SILENT suffragette was once walking along a quiet road when she was met by a committee. Said the committee: "We wish you to speak tonight in the town hall." She shook her head silently and passed on. Soon she was met by a friend. "I want you to spend the afternoon in my house and talk to some people who are doubtful about the place that woman should occupy in the world's affairs." Again she shook her head and passed on. P. S.—This story is not continued, because, according to the most advanced school of fiction writing, every story at the very start should impress the reader as something that might possibly happen. Maybe we shall succeed better next time. Thank you—New York Sun.

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