

Coolidge Has Opportunity To Bring Peace To World

America Alone of All Nations on Earth Is Powerful Enough to End Race for Supremacy in Europe Which Slowly but Surely Leads to War

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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(David Lawrence, who arrived from Europe Monday, says the situation calls for an explicit statement from President Coolidge as to whether it is to be isolation or active cooperation as it was being developed by the late President Harding under the guidance of Secretary Hughes. Something needs to be said to Europe if only to clear the air.)

New York, August 13.—The situation in Europe is almost as incredible as it was in August, 1914.

With genuine misgivings, might one ask; have the nations of Europe gone crazy again? Are they determined to begin anew years of organized murder and challenge again the capacity of the white man to develop a christian civilization?

For the fact of Europe are sorrowful and pitiable. Seeing first hand the plight of Europe is the only way really to grasp what a dangerous situation for all the world is being bred there. Americans returning from the continent utter prayers of thanks that the United States is three thousand miles away, and some of them come back confirmed in their beliefs that America ought not get itself mixed up in the quarrels or troubles of Europe. Scores of Senators and members of the House, business men and casual observers feel that way about it. Never has Europe been so thoroughly "studied" as this summer by the thousands of tourists and political pilgrims.

But it is one thing to turn a cold shoulder to distracted Europe because the situation is distasteful—nothing could have been more distasteful than the events that prompted America to enter the war in 1917—and it is another thing to look with eyes of sympathy and speak words of plain, straight forward, logic to the European peoples. For Europe is more to be pitied than scorned. In such a situation American silence, American aloofness, American caution, can easily be mistaken for the timidity of selfishness. Despite all that has been said since the peace conference, the fact is Europe does not understand America. Bewildered first by the miraculous transport of two million men to rescue the allied cause, the same peoples cannot grasp the reason for a sudden crawling into the shell without so much as a kind look.

There is, however, more sane thought about Europe in America than there is in Europe itself. America can help to lead Europe out of the wilderness when the right time comes. When the foundations have been built by the Europeans themselves. First there must be a will to get together and to agree upon facts. Never was there such a mixture of motives, prejudices, hatreds and suspicion with what one would like to call "facts" except that there are no such things in Europe today.

No two nations agree, for instance, upon what Germany's capacity to pay reparations can possibly be. No two factions in Germany can agree on it either, and as for Great Britain, one needs only to read half the British press and see how terribly militaristic and grasping France has gotten all of a sudden and turn to the other section of the British press and discover how surprisingly pro-German the British government is behaving. Nor is France without dissension, though it must be said in candor the French people are more of a unit in their policy of keeping Germany from getting on her feet than is any other country in Europe.

You cannot find agreement between the many countries as to what Germany has already paid or what she can pay. And there is unfortunately good reason to believe certain interests in Europe do not want any such agreement. They do not want to be bothered by facts. They want to achieve certain aims.

Behind the scenes of diplomacy is big business. Stretching eager hands for booty these, captains of industry manipulate the parliaments and legislative bodies of Europe as surely as the ventriloquist does the puppet on his knee. Newspapers right and left are subsidized or controlled. With one or two exceptions the words "public opinion" mean the tyranny of certain groups who play upon popular emotion the tunes that stimulate the dance of commercial or financial ambitions.

That's why governments are so inconsistent and seemingly powerless and that's why so many Americans, after peering behind the scenes, shake their heads dubiously, pack their luggage and thank God for the Atlantic ocean. At best this is a superficial conclusion because Europe cannot attempt suicide again as she did in 1914 without injuring the economic prosperity of the American people. The preacher who abandons his pulpit just because most of the people before him are sinners would

not be adjudged a disciple of Christian endeavor. The undying spirit of the crusader moves him to preach morality whether he gets results at once—or perhaps ever. It's something at least to have tried.

Europe needs more than anything else a voice of reason and not a threat of American power or an extension of American rule. Europe must, of course, be ultimately reinvigorated by American private capital; in other words by American investors; but what Europe does not realize is that the day of that achievement will be subject to indefinite postponements so long as Americans do not have confidence in Europe.

And what is Europe doing to win American confidence? Little indeed. For one thing there is no clear conception of what Europe must do before American confidence can be gained. Europe needs a cleansing of heart. The camouflage of diplomatic notes still hides the battle of motives, the clash of financial and industrial interests. The commercial game which helped so much to plunge Europe in battle nine years ago still goes on through manipulated governments while mothers look anxiously at their babes in arms and wonder whether they are raising more cannon fodder for the great catastrophe that's coming within another five or ten years if Europe continues its suicidal pace of today.

But can Europe fight so soon again? Isn't everybody exhausted? There is no exhaustion of hate or greed. Hungry people grow desperate and fight hardest when their backs are against the wall. Central Europe has not yet reached that point but, boded on, it will soon begin to disregard all government and mistakenly seek to accomplish through anarchy what democracy has failed to do.

France today stands in Napoleonic domination of all Europe. The present French army is better than that which the Kaiser had in 1914. Three thousand airplanes—the greatest air fleet made by the hand of man—controls the air for the French. It's a language of coercion which has brought Britain to humiliating if not perplexed state of mind. Back of Poincaré, is Foch and the French general staff, the most powerful military institution the world has ever known. All the little countries of Europe, Rumania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Jugo Slavia have been armed by France. The cry of the French is "security." They have indeed achieved it. Will they stop there?

It is futile to talk about reparations or what Germany can pay till that question of French motive is satisfactorily answered. Certain sections of the French populace would like to see peace made. Others are dreaming of commercial conquest. France and Britain are drifting fur-

ther apart. The opportunity of America is to bring them together. President Coolidge has an unprecedented chance to go down in history as the man who made peace in the world five years after the armistice that ended the most terrible of all wars.

(Tomorrow's despatch will sketch the essentials of American policy which if expressed now would have a salutary effect on Europe.)

STATE'S OAT CROP IS UNUSUALLY GOOD

Raleigh, August 14.—"The oat crop was unusually good this year with the best conditions extending from Scotland through Forsyth county," according to a statement issued

yesterday by the State-Federal Departments of Agriculture. Most of the inner coastal counties where oats are cut and not threshed had very good conditions with the exception of Wayne county. The extreme Northern counties from Wayne to Surry averaged less than 85 per cent in condition excepting Stokes and Person. The main belt averaged from 85 per cent to 90 per cent, which is good in itself. Davidson and Burke were two of the large producing counties, and averaged 100 per cent.

"The part of the oat crop planted in the fall is 70 per cent, while 30 per cent is reported on being planted in the spring. The yield of the fall or winter planted oats is reported to have been 22 bushels as compared with 17 bushels for spring

during the spring months. The coastal counties produce much the better yields, the Central and Northern Piedmont area coming next."

planted crops this year. It is of interest to note that the coastal belt practices are quite opposite to the Piedmont or Eastern counties, putting about two thirds of its crop in

THRIFT

What Is It?

THRIFT has been defined as straight thinking on five things—on earning, spending, saving, giving and investing. It is more than merely accumulating all the money you can. If you are going to be thrifty, you must start saving when you start earning.

Then think straight so that you can give your employer full value for every cent he pays you. Keep on thinking straight when it comes to spending what you earn. You must always spend something for the necessities of life, but learn to distinguish between these and the wasteful trifles, the useless indulgences.

And when it comes to matters of saving, giving and investing, the straightest of straight thinking is required. Looking at one way, you must invest. The money you lay aside to use in completing your education is for investment; you are investing in your personal preparedness for a man's useful life.

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