

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

Shall Chaos or Reconstruction in Europe Follow the Great World War?

HOPE FOR PERMANENT PEACE

Those Who Fought, and Those Who Suffered at Home, Alike Favor Some Form of a League of Nations.

Article X.

By FRANK COMERFORD.

Europe was succumbing to exhaustion when the war came to an end. The terrible waste was telling. Endurance had reached the breaking point.

"I'm glad I had a chance to do my part—I wouldn't have missed the 'show' for a million dollars, and I wouldn't take a million dollars to go through it again."

The first thought of reconstruction was a plan to make peace permanent.

The laboratory and the machine shop gave to this war a terrible meaning. New agencies had been introduced to kill and maim men, liquid fire, mustard gas, high explosives, bombs from the clouds, torpedoes from the sea depths.

So the people, particularly the working people, took heart when a League of Nations was suggested as a means of enforcing peace. They placed their hopes in it. They had suffered most from the war.

All men know that controversies between nations are inevitable. In the absence of some scheme of arbitration there is but one way that these controversies can be settled. It is force—war.

It is not uncommon for individuals to have serious differences of opinion. Every lawsuit, and there are thousands of them in every city of every country, represents a difference of opinion.

Peace Conference Fell Short.

The peace conference met in Paris. Labor watched it. At an early stage in its proceedings intrigue was discovered at work. Wrangling, bickering, bargaining and trading for commercial advantage occupied the time.

Working men watched, listened and thought. They construed these bickerings and wranglings as evidence of the fact that there is an interest in the world which does not believe in giving up force.

If the League of Nations fails this suspicion will be confirmed. The movement toward an internationalism of the workers will be given great impetus.

one class in the world a power so great that political governments would be puppets in their hands, and yet in the light of the happenings of the last five years labor could not be blamed.

World Now Closely Knit.

Internationalism is coming—in fact it is already here. Inventions have brought the people of the world close together.

We already have a successful internationalism in finance and credits. Big business long ago obliterated national lines.

The important question at this time is what form will the new internationalism take? Will it be an internationalism of organized dollars? If so, the world is in serious danger of a financial autocracy.

A League of Nations is the solution. It is a union of the nations of the world, and as the nations of the world represent all the people of the various states such a combination is democratic.

Peace Table Proves Worth.

A League of Nations is a continuation of the peace table, and notwithstanding the wranglings of the present peace table there would have been war in Europe before this if it was not sitting in Paris.

No League of Nations will have much effect upon the future peace of Europe which does not include the United States. The nations of Europe do not trust each other.

The propaganda of revolution coming out of bolshevik Russia, urging the workers to organize an international dictatorship of the proletariat and seize the world, is not nearly as dangerous to the peace of the world as the political heckling against the League of Nations.

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TAXES IN GERMANY HEAVY

Individuals Are Beginning to Feel That Country Really Suffered Defeat in the War.

The individual German has not begun to feel the peace terms, financially.

During the war the Germans have been loaning their money to the government. This year they have begun to give it.

There is an estate tax graduated as to size and as to relationship. It imposes the heaviest tax on the largest inheritance from the most distant relative.

A peculiar feature of this law, illustrating its severity, is a provision that in no case may the tax exceed the amount of the inheritance taxed. No mean cousin can leave "spite money" which would compel the recipient to pay more than he got, anyhow.

An income tax ranges to about 70 per cent as the income grows. There is a profits tax and a heavy tax on wealth increases during the war—to get the profiteers—the usual taxes for revenue, heavier than ever, and a capital levy is being considered.

With food, coal and clothing short, they are bound to add to the discontent. Agitators will make the most of the crisis.

NORTH CAROLINA PRODUCTS.

Decorations of North Carolina Regiments, A. E. F., in Hall of History.

The question was asked of the writer by a business man: "How varied is the list of things manufactured or produced in North Carolina?"

It was a hard question to answer but it may be stated that on the list will go some rather odd ones, in addition to such staple things as flour, meal, rice, tobacco, cotton cloth, hosiery, underwear, furniture and all sorts of articles commonly spoken of as in the manufacturing line.

The silver bands for the flagstaffs of the North Carolina regiments in the A. E. F. which were decorated for specially gallant service have been received from the War Department by Adjutant General Royster and turned over to the writer as director of the State Hall of History.

The 119th Infantry bands and decorations carry the same dates as those above, and so do those of the 120th Infantry, these also having taken part in the greatest adventure, that of breaking of the famous "Hindenburg Line," which is set down as the "Canal Sector."

The 113th Field Artillery: Toul Sector, France, August 25, September 11; St. Michel Sector, France, September 12-16; Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France, September 26, October 8; Woevre Sector, France, October 11, November 8.

The 321st Infantry: St. Die Sector, France, September 20, October 19; Meuse-Argonne Offensive, France, November 7, November 11.

The 322nd Infantry has the same bands and decoration as the 321st.

The 115th Machine Gun Battalion composed largely of the old First Regiment of North Carolina National Guard, has the same bands and decorations as the 105th Engineers, 119th Infantry and 120th Infantry.

OLD TARGET RANGE TO TFACH FARMING.

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS, COBLENTZ, GERMANY, Feb. 9. — An old target range where German army recruits were taught to shoot and where young Germans were drilled in the use of the bayonet is soon to be turned over to the American forces in Germany to teach farming to soldiers desiring to take up such a course.

A new educational program being worked out at army headquarters embraces opening of unit schools of instruction for every distinct organization of the American Forces in Germany. Thus the Motor Transport Corps is to have a school for automobile mechanics in Metternich, near Coblenz, the signal corps will have a school for the study of telegraphy and wireless, the quartermasters corps will have a school for cooks and bakers, and the engineers will have a school of their own at some point near Coblenz.

The Educational board in charge of this work is composed of Colonel F. S. Young, Lieutenant Colonel R. W. Holderness and Major C. S. Haight.

CONCERNING GERMAN SHIPS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. — President Wilson is working on his answer to the senate resolution asking as to an alleged secret agreement between shipping board and Great Britain for the final disposition of former German passenger lines.

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POINCARÉ SAYS GOODBYE.

PARIS, Feb. 17. — President Poincaré who relinquishes his office tomorrow to President-elect Deschanel, said good-bye to the cabinet today.

ITALIAN TRAIN DERAILED.

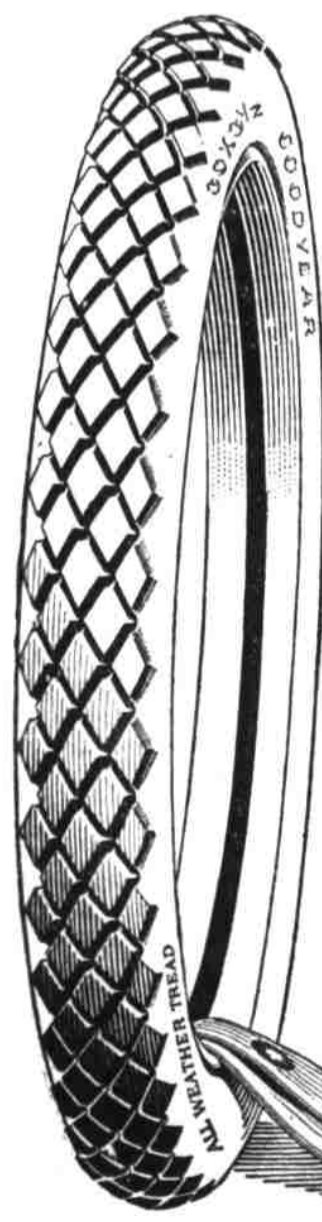
FLORENCE, ITALY, Feb. 17. — A freight train going from San Lorenzo to Bergamo was derailed last night while crossing a bridge and plunged into a deep chasm. Newspaper reports state many persons were killed and injured.

WALLACE F. ROBINSON DEAD.

BOSTON, Feb. 17. — Wallace F. Robinson, financier and philanthropist, died at his home here last night after a brief illness. He was one of the organizers of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation.

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