

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

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

NEW, GREAT FORCES AT WORK

Demand for New Order of Things is Universal and Reactionaries Merely Oppell the Rising Tide of Discontent.

Article IV.

By FRANK COMERFORD.

The most obvious thing in Europe is the changed attitude of the people, and yet there are many, particularly in the conservative, employing class, who refuse to see. There are none so blind as these. While they close their eyes and minds to the obvious, the change goes on. It is not idle rhetoric to say that new great forces are at work. Of course you cannot see the forces any more than you can see the grass growing, but you can see the effects. You can measure the character of the forces.

Everywhere I found people talking about a new Order. Men separated by hundreds of miles are thinking and talking the same ideas. It startled me to hear the same ideas up in the Balkans that I had heard in France and England. I did not meet any one who was able to give me a clear, complete meaning of the phrase, but it is on the lips of everyone. It has a meaning, and time will produce a plan. The people are forward looking—they are thinking, waiting for something to happen. They have faith that it will happen and that it will bring great good to the human race. Every one seems confident that some great compensation must and will come out of the siege of suffering through which they have passed. If they were not so earnest, so sane, so determined about it I should have interpreted their enthusiasm as fantasy.

A meaningless minority of reactionaries scorn and scoff at all talk of a new Order. These are the backward-looking men of big business, the stand-patters in politics. They are out of touch with the times; they think the real world is the little circle in which they live. They are the barnacles on big business. They snugly set down all talk of change as bolshevism. Fortunately the real leaders of business are breaking away from this point of view. Progressive, human and

Open minded, they see and know that unrest is a problem and that it must be solved. They are paying heed to the complaints of the workers. They admit that there is justice back of the complaints. Instead of arguing coercion, they are talking concession. They know a change has come, they want to meet it.

New Order Must Come.

A new Order will come. The one question that is bothering the minds of men who are awake to the change is, will it come through revolution or through evolution. The greatest friend of revolution is the stubborn employer who refuses to see the change, accepts things as they are, and insists upon the use of force as the only cure for unrest.

Money is a gross thing when compared with human life. To mention Europe's financial losses in the same breath with her dead and wounded, seems sordid, but it is an everyday world and in it money has its logical place. Since the war some people are thinking that money has had too important a place in the world. It has been charged with pushing man out of his place, but bills must be paid and Europe needs money. The war cost billions and billions of dollars. Millions of men had to be clad and shod, billions and billions of cartridges and shells, rifles, cannons, airplanes, ships, were made. Europe owes the money. How will she pay it; where will she get it? It is a question that even the wisest and most optimistic of men in Europe hesitate to answer. Some wonder, is there an answer?

Europe has borrowed until her interest charge today is almost as large as her whole cost of governmental administration was a few years ago. I heard Lloyd George say that England faced a yearly interest charge of three hundred million pounds. Another official told me that this interest charge that England must pay each year is nearly one hundred million pounds a year larger than the cost of administration was at the time of the Boer war. Only the other day her interest was due on some loans from the United States and she was forced to default, and our government charged the interest to the principal and passed the day of payment on. In the meantime the pound is going down in value. When I was on the Continent it had reached \$4.14. Today it is under \$3.87, and steadily going down.

France is in even a worse plight. The banks are loaded with government paper. She has made no provision by taxation to pay her debt. I was told on every hand that any effort to impose a tax would bring on a revolution. It is said that her debt has reached the startling figure of \$640 for every man, woman and child in the country. When I left Cherbourg to sail for America a regulation had been put into effect prohibiting any one leaving France from taking money

with him, either metal or paper money, in excess of a thousand francs, and on that day you could buy almost nine francs for an American dollar. Can France pay? The figures prove France insolvent. Her officials and her men of prominence say she cannot pay. Her war debt is enormous.

Poverty on Every Side.

Italy is as bankrupt as France. A forced loan temporarily held the lira from losing all of its value. Her war debt threatens the throne.

In the new Balkan countries we find no gold reserve, little but poverty. In Czecho-Slovakia the government closed the borders for ten days, commanded the people to bring their money to the banks where stamps were put on the bills. When they brought their money they were given 50 per cent of it back and receipts for the balance. In this way the government cut down the volume of paper money 50 per cent. Even after this was done in the city of Prague I bought kronens for less than two cents a piece.

In Poland every kind and species of paper money is in circulation. Her frontiers have not been fixed by the peace table, and the profiteers in money smuggling have dumped the worthless paper of Europe into Poland. In October I was in Warsaw and my recollection is that the mark was worth about two cents in American money. Poland has no metal money. She hasn't a gold reserve. Her struggle to get credit to keep her people from dying by the millions from hunger and cold is pitiful.

Austria is penniless, poverty-stricken. Vienna is a city of ghosts, listless, peepless, human beings. They drag their feet after them. Their heads are bent between their shoulders. The kronen was worth a cent when I was there in September, and even at that price there was practically nothing to buy. Austria in her extremity, her people starving, petitioned the peace table for the privilege of selling her art treasures and heirlooms. The plea was to exchange them for bread and coal. Necessity prompted the plea. The peace table refused the permission, holding that these things of value might be the only collateral out of which the allies could collect the indemnity.

Europe's debt is her crown of thorns, as her dead is her cross. Unrest is her Calvary. A new Order is her hope—her resurrection.

Facing Gigantic Task.

Europe is not dying; she is exhausted, tortured, confused. She is trying to find herself. She is putting all of her remaining strength into the effort. The task before her is stupendous. She must rebuild her house. She must nurse her wounded, care for her cripples. She has counted her losses, inventoried her possessions.

The past must bury its dead. Tomorrow is for the living. Today she

is planning for the tomorrow. She must repair her house, put it in order. To understand her work, to know her plans, to feel her problem, it is necessary to know her thoughts.

Unrest is frightening her. Fear is keeping her from work. It is causing her to worry. With all her soul she is pleading to the rich and powerful to become as little children again, her children. She is telling them that the fate of the family is at stake, that they must make concessions to their more unfortunate brothers. She is trying to make them understand that they are brothers. Many of them have forgotten the relationship. When she urges them to stop wrangling and quarrelling she is pleading for their common good, the family welfare. She is warning against the danger of justice too long denied, of unrest too long pent up. She is translating the nuttings and numblings of the discontented. She knows the complaint in their hearts, she sympathizes, she understands.

This was Europe as I saw her in her black rags arising from the war. (Copyright, 1919, Western Newspaper Union)

Greatest American Humorist.

On the 30th of November, in 1835, Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) was born at Florida, Monroe county, Mo. Mark Twain first was a pilot on the Mississippi river. At the age of twenty-seven he began his literary career as city editor of a newspaper, the Enterprise, in Virginia City, Nev. He is the best known of American humorists, and his works have been widely translated. During his life-time Mark Twain lectured a great deal in this country and in Europe. He had a great charm of personality and was beloved by all who knew him. He died at Redding, Conn., April 21, 1910.

Shoemakers' Wax a Liquid.

It is not always possible to draw a very clear line of demarcation between a liquid and a solid. Shoemaker's wax, which is so brittle that the fragmentation obtained when a sheet of it is hit by a bullet resembles that in the case of the very brittle metal antimony, is actually a liquid. To show this place leaden bullets upon a sheet of shoemaker's wax and then support the whole upon corks. At the end of a month the corks will be found floating upon the sheet of wax instead of beneath it and the bullets will be at the bottom as in a liquid.

Largest Movie House.

New York has in building a moving picture theater with a seating capacity of 5,300, which may constitute it the largest of its kind anywhere. Judging by the heavy patronage in other such places, the new house may be filled at the chief performances. The public is seeking professional entertainment as never before.

PERSONALS

If you needus, fonus, 188-J.

Mr. W. S. Wilson of Chicago, was in town on Tuesday of this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Rouse and son visited Sunday with friends in O'wega, Ill.

Don't miss the big picture at Dicke Theatre Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20th and 21st. adv.

Mrs. N. C. Perron and Miss Jessie Bryce, our local librarian, attended a library meeting at Oak Park on Monday.

Do you like good, sensible comedy—one in which the hero is a business man—or has some other serious vocation? See "The Four Flushers" at Dicke's next Tuesday. adv.

Those interestel in trailers for automobiles would do well to turn to page 2 and see the advertisement for

"the one that always tracks." These are a great convenience, for farmers especially.

Mrs. Eugene Pfaff had the misfortune to burn her left hand and arm to the elbow while attending to the furnace. So bad is the burn that it is necessary to change the dressings daily.

Mrs. Mary Winter of Clyde, who has been spending the past few weeks with her son, C. J. Winter at his home on Prince avenue, was called to the home of her daughter, Mrs. A. G. Dovin in Clyde, Saturday, because of Mrs. Dovin's illness.

The Rev. David E. Gibson, all high degree Mason and prominent in Masonic circles in Chicago will speak at S. Andrew's church on February 25, at 8:00 p. m. at the Wednesday Lenten Service. Mr. Gibson is a tireless worker for the church in the Bride-well and other institutions. These special Lenten services are for the community as well as the members of S. Andrew's church.

(Additional Locals on page 5)

SAINT ANDREW'S CHURCH

A NUMBER OF CAPABLE AND INTERESTING MEN WILL SPEAK IN THIS CHURCH DURING LENT ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AND SUNDAY AFTERNOONS. THESE SERVICES ARE FOR THIS COMMUNITY

Congregational Church

That "SHINDIG" that you may have heard something about will be given Thursday evening, March 4th, at 8:00 o'clock. The main part of the program will be a reading by Mrs. N. R. Feasley, from J. Hartley Manners' charming story,

"PEG O' MY HEART"

There will also be a big helping of good music.

Tickets: 25 and 35 cents.

GOT THE DATE?

Thursday, March 4, 1920

Make Preparations for Easter



IT is at the Easter season of the year that nature puts on the clothing of Spring and man has emulated her example. Easter is the time of the Spring Dress Up. It will be early this year. Ash Wednesday was day before yesterday.

ORDER EASTER SUITS NOW!

Order your Easter clothing Now! Give yourself time to get the pick of the patterns. Don't wait until the last minute and then buy ready-mades for Easter. Ready-made suits, for either ladies or gentlemen, are high in price and alter as you will, you still have "hand-me-downs" when you buy over the counter. Tailored-to-your-measure clothing is the best. It is also cheapest in the long run. You get quality work-



manship and materials. But even of more importance, you get a garment that fits YOU. It was made for YOU and not for a possible purchaser out of thousands of people.

Come in and let me show you what "Satisfaction" in an Easter suit really means.

Joseph Mazza

Fine Tailoring for Ladies' and Gentlemen

27 South Main Street

Telephone 62-M

MAZZA SERVICE INCLUDES---CLEANING, PRESSING, REPAIRING, LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING OF ANYTHING!