

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

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

MEN CHANGED BY BATTLE

Soldiers Have Learned What Can Be Accomplished by the Use of Force, Sternly and Efficiently Applied.

Article IX

By FRANK COMERFORD.

Making a soldier out of a civilian does more than change the clothes he wears. It changes the man. Men who had never owned a revolver or rifle, who had never even shot one off, who had never killed anything in their lives, were given firearms. They were drilled, taught to shoot, taught to kill. The education was thorough and scientific. They learned to look down the sight of a rifle, pick out a human heart for a target, fire and eagerly watch for the man to fall. They were trained to rush madly at a wall of human beings and drive bayonets into men's heads and bowels. Many of these men a few years before would have faintled in a stockyard where cattle were being killed. For four years they have been in a human slaughterhouse, not only as spectators, but as part of the place. It steels these men. Many of them contracted the undertaker's point of view towards life, a fatalism without fear.

Experience in battle taught them the meaning of the word "force." They discovered that the individual was only important and efficient when he acted in concert with a great group. Everything depended upon team work. Men learned that a group of men working in harmony, with nerve and rifles with fixed bayonets, could do wonderful things. They could take an objective. In other words, take the thing they wanted and needed. When these men came back into civil life and took off khaki and put on overalls, the taking off of the khaki and the putting on of muffit did not erase from their minds this lesson the war had taught them.

This lesson has borne fruit. The men look at the employer as an enemy. The employer thinks of them as a commodity. Hatred is cordial. The men want something. They demand it. The employer refuses. Their objective is to get the thing they want and need. The war taught them there is a way, a weapon—Force. Today in Europe men reason, "If we can't get what we want, and need, we must take it. We have the force." Having grown habituated to suffering, accustomed to blood and death, they look with indifference on the question of danger, of price. They saw that when nations could not agree they resorted to force. They discovered that victory generally went to the nation possessing the greatest force.

Threat of "Direct Action." In the labor movement of Europe we have this idea in what is called "direct action." "Direct action" is nothing more or less than applying war methods to peace conditions. It is an effort on the part of great groups of working men to compel recognition of their demands. They seek to secure their objective by force. No allowance is made for the fact that methods justifiable in war are not right in peace. Few people will deny that war is the supreme expression of force.

Many men got their first taste of fresh air and decent food while in the army. Very properly the allied governments gave the best of everything to the men in the armies. It isn't difficult to get accustomed to good food and fresh air; it is hard to go back to poor food and the restraints. Back home, many of the demobilized soldiers are not eating as well or as much as they ate during their service.

Notwithstanding the rigid discipline of army life, men are treated as men. The humblest man in the ranks has rights that must be respected. This is not always the case in civil life. Then, too, while in uniform the private was made much of. Class distinction was obliterated. He was looked upon as one of his country's defenders. Since he has been demobilized he has been forgotten and neglected. This has soured him. He resents it. Social distinctions have come back. He is only a working man now.

Another cause of unrest among the working man of Europe grows out of the war. Mobilization took millions of men from their jobs. A great shortage of labor resulted. Employers were forced to compete to get men. The usual competition was among men to get jobs. The law of supply and demand affected the labor market, wages went up. The soldier went off to war. While he was in the trenches the wages back home were high. His pay was small. Our fighting men were not interested in pay. They went to fight for a principle. With the coming of peace a large quantity of labor was dumped upon the market. The demobilized men rushed for employment. Comrades competed for jobs. The same old law of supply and demand sent wages to begging. The number of men who

wanted jobs was much greater than the number of places available. The returning soldier seeking a job was offered a much smaller wage than he knew was paid for the same work while he had been fighting. It incensed him. He figured that he had given four years out of his life, had come home tired and broke. He looked upon the decline in wages as a positive discrimination against him. Comparison Breeds Discontent.

Everywhere I have heard these men say: "We are out of luck. The bands played and we were applauded when we left to fight. While we were gone the wages went up. We don't begrudge the men who stayed at home the wages they got, but it's damn funny that when we come back down go wages. The cost of living don't go down. I guess we're out of luck."

I found two phrases inseparable in the speech of the discontented, "the high cost of living;" "the profiteer." Workmen with whom I talked, freely admitted that some of the high cost of living was the legitimate result of the great demand for everything and the natural shortage, but in the same breath they insisted that much of it was due to the mercenary, ghoulish profiteer.

The profiteer took blood money during the world's greatest tragedy. He exacted usury from the toiler at home and the fighting man at the front. He drew dividends out of the tears and wails of broken-hearted women and fright-stricken children. He minted his gold out of agony, starvation, heartaches. He stands today the Judas of the war, the most despised man of earth.

The profiteer is not an Englishman, a Frenchman, Italian or American. He is found in every country of the world, a man without nationality, without conscience, without humanity. He is the pimp of civilization. He is still on the job.

The profiteer has given the United States a terrible black eye. A common comment of Europe is, "The United States made money out of the war." These people do not refer to the money we made legitimately. They point to the fact, a fact that has been given great publicity in Europe, that in August, 1914, there were about 7,000 millionaires in the United States, while at the time of the signing of the armistice it was estimated the millionaire colony had increased by 23,000, making a total of 30,000 millionaires in the United States. The profiteer is still on the job. He is holding up the world, a starving, cold world.

Profiteering Case in Point.

Under date of November 17, 1919, J. R. Bache & Co., members of the New York stock exchange, in their financial letter say: "In mercantile circles there is proceeding at the present time a vast amount of speculation on a very large scale in commodities. An incident is cited to us of one concern that is carrying \$15,000,000 worth of vegetable oils, which are in great demand, and the concern is holding them for higher prices. This is a distinct damage to the consumers, and keeps living prices in these things, used daily, at top and increasing levels. Speculation of this kind is a real detriment to the community."

The pair of shoes the workman once bought for \$3.50 are now \$8 and \$10. It is true that the cost of labor and material have gone up, but not enough to warrant any such exorbitant prices. Business men have taken advantage of the situation, and justify their larcenies on the ground of the law of supply and demand. A shoe man with a prominent Chicago firm, a man long in the business, told me that the present unwarranted and outrageous price of shoes was due to the fact that American shoe manufacturers could get almost any price for shoes from the barefooted people of Europe.

Governments are blamed for not dealing with this species of holdup. The discontented ask "Why isn't profiteering treason—why shouldn't these Fagans be sent to the wall with a firing squad as an escort?"

Greatest of Hun Crimes.

Evidence that destruction wrought in France and Belgium by German armies was deliberate and unjustified by military necessity was accumulated since the signing of the armistice, according to a statement given out by the national committee of the United States for the restoration of the library at Louvain. Col. William Barclay Parsons, subway builder, who commanded the eleventh engineers, the regiment that went to Haig's aid with picks and shovels when the Huns were driving at the channel ports, in a letter to the executive committee, of which Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, is chairman, called the destruction of the Louvain library, with its precious treasures, the greatest of Teuton crimes in Belgium. Noted Europeans were quoted as sharing similar views.

Germans to Be Prosecuted.

Prosecution will be carried out, according to announcement made in Berlin, of German subjects charged with offenses and crimes committed in Germany against the person or property of hostile aliens during the war and up to June 29 of this year. The attorney general will be obliged to prosecute crimes perpetrated by Germans abroad during this period if the crimes are also punishable under the law of the country where committed.

The law covering general procedure in these cases has been submitted to the national assembly. It permits relatives or heirs of the injured party to appear as complainants.

ST. JOSEPH'S HAD PRETTY EXERCISES MONDAY EVENING

Dicke Theatre Crowded as Class of 1920 Receives Diplomas for Good Work Done.

The Class of 1920 of St. Joseph's Catholic School, received their diplomas for good work done, from A. C. Miskelly, President of the Board of Education, at the Dicke Theatre on Monday evening.

Those who graduated were:

- Mary Bahrs
- Agatha Faulhaber
- Mabel Miller
- Esther Faser
- Edward Baron
- Jack Dawson
- James Reha
- Thomas Canty
- Rolan Morenville
- Frank Schaller

The exercises, which were given before a house which took every available seat in the theatre, were very pretty. Bright, colorful costumes had been secured for each one participating and in the various dances and figures of the Librette, "Articania" made a pretty picture.

Those who participated in the Librette were the children of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th grades with the following principals:

- Aurora Borealis Esther Faser
- Prince Polar Edward Baron
- Pird Man Thomas Canty
- Freezing Point Jack Dawson
- Herald to Polar Star Rolan Morenville
- Uncle Sam Jr. James Reha
- Columbia Mabel Miller
- General Great I Am Walter Ciba
- Indian Chief Frank Schaller
- Spring Catherine Barnickel
- Nymphs of Spring M. Canty M. Mrkwicka, E. Baron
- Summer Mary Bahrs
- Nymphs of Summer A. Bahrs, V. Barnickel, F. Reha
- Autumn Agatha Faulhaber
- Nymphs of Autumn L. Bender, M. Sudeckowski, M. Barnickel

Queen of Night Helen Halloway
 Captain James Twohey
 Standard Bearers Wencel Mrkwicka, Wm. Morenville
 Before and after the program an orchestra, under the direction of Miss Engelschall, played several selections. The choristers sang and Miss Zita Norpel favored with a violin solo.

WEDDING RING LOST 10 YEARS AGO REAPPEARS

Harry Selig Finds Long Looked For Article While Spading Up His Garden.

Ten years ago this spring, Mrs. Harry Selig of Carpenter street, lost her wedding ring. At the time the most careful search failed to reveal the missing band. Advertising failed to bring results, the house was searched from top to bottom without success. Neighbors helped in the hunt for years after the disappearance the whereabouts of the ring remained a mystery.

A few weeks ago while Harry Selig was digging in the garden plot in the rear of his home preparatory to planting vegetables and after turning up a few spadefuls of earth he noticed that something was around one of the lines of the fork. A close examination revealed the missing ring which had been caught on the tine as it was going thru the ground. The ring was as bright and shiny as the day of its disappearance.

For ten years this little gold band has been spaded under, over and over, for ten years the snows of winter and the rains of summer have beaten upon the place where it lay, hundreds of times the Selig family have walked thru the garden without seeing the circle. The ring just found itself, that is the only explanation.

ODD FELLOWS ELECTED OFFICERS MONDAY NIGHT

At its regular meeting last Monday evening, June 7th, Downers Grove Lodge, No. 750, Independent Order of Odd Fellows elected officers for the ensuing term. There being only to elective offices made vacant at this time, the session was short. E. M. Brunson was elected to lead the lodge for the next six months and will occupy the Noble Grand's chair. G. A. Swanson was elected to the Vice Grand's chair. There are a number of appointive offices to be filled but they have not yet been appointed.

GOIN' FISHIN'



That little query is magic to many Downers Grove boys, men and women. The call of lake and stream is hard to resist to the true disciple of Isaac Walton, when a fisherman hears of some good catches his first impulse is to start for that place immediately.

Fishing along the Fox this spring has been pretty good. Reports from Geneva to Yorkville indicate that the bass are taking the bait.

Before you take your next fishing trip visit our store and stock up with tackle. We have a new line including:

- Rods, Reels, Silk and Cotton Lines
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