

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. With peace one thought ran around the world: There must be no more war. The men who did the fighting said it loudest.

"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," is the way they put it. Everywhere in Europe I heard, "It is over, it is finished, thank God."

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. The world was horrified. The length of the war, the number of dead and crippled, the raiding and bombing of defenseless cities taught the world that an end must be put to war if civilization was to live.

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. The dead were largely their dead. The returning cripples were blood of their blood. As they put it, they were from their class. Of course the sons of the other class fought, shared the hardships, paid the price, but they were few. The group from which they came is small, while the toll of casualties from labor's ranks was large.

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. If we did not have courts providing a peaceful determination of these disputes, the litigants would be compelled to settle their differences by force. Assault and battery would succeed orderly procedure. Nations have been without a peaceful means of adjusting their difficulties, and as a consequence they have been compelled to resort to force. Until some scheme of arbitration is created, to talk peace is to waste words, to hope for it is idle dreaming.

Peace Conference Fall 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 and thought that the world expected would be devoted to the building up of a league that would at least decrease the chances of future wars. Statesmen in their blind devotion to expediency lost sight of the great reason for the conference. They talked of boundary lines, discussed frontiers, and always from the point of view of financial and military advantage to their respective countries. It was noticed that the territories over which they quarreled were rich in minerals or some other thing of great commercial advantage. They squabbled over spoils. Then, too, these men who were supposed to be concerned in the future peace of the world, in arguing over frontiers urged their respective claims on the grounds that their respective countries needed these frontiers to make them secure in future wars. What future wars and why the discussion of future wars at a conference, the object of which was future peace?

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. I am only reporting the truth when I add they suspect this interest is Capital.

If the League of Nations falls this suspicion will be confirmed. The movement toward an internationalism of the workers will be given great impetus. The League of Nations failing, they argue there is only one other means of preventing war. It is for the men who make up the rank and file of the armies in time of war, the millions recruited from shops, factories and fields, to get together and organize an international labor authority to save the working men from war. Such a movement would take away from governments an important

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. The world is entitled to protection against such slaughter as we have just gone through, and if the political governments fail to take the necessary steps the plain people will.

World Now Closely Knit.

Internationalism is coming—in fact it is already here. Inventions have brought the people of the world close together. The wireless and the cable give us the happenings of remote parts of the world in a few hours. Distance has been destroyed. We are becoming neighbors in knowledge of each other, whether we live on the same continent or not. Modern transportation is shortening the time between places. An air service is in prospect which promises to make London as near New York tomorrow as Chicago is today.

We already have a successful internationalism in finance and credits. Big business long ago obliterated national lines. The commerce of the world is already organized internationally.

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. Will it be an internationalism of organized labor? If this happens it means the dictatorship of the proletariat. Both are equally undesirable. No part of the people should be permitted to enforce their will upon the rest. One kind of slavery is as bad as another. The great majority of the human race wants freedom, not advantage. It is not ambitious to dictate—it will not be dictated to.

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. That it is necessary is plain. Rivalry for markets, competition for trade, are bound to lead to war unless we have an agreement that these and other problems will be submitted to arbitration. It is not necessary to submit questions involving national honor. Few of such questions ever directly provoke war. It is when nations fighting each other for markets reach a point of positive disagreement that they begin calling each other names. These insults wound honor, war results.

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. Two cases serve to illustrate. The coal fields of upper Galicia, to be determined by a plebiscite between Poland and Germany would have been a cause of war if the peace table was not in existence. Poland had troops on the border. Germany had her soldiers at the frontier. One thing, and one thing alone, prevented war—it was the fear of the peace table. The same facts described the controversy between Poland and Czechoslovakia; war has been avoided by the peace table submitting the Teschen question to a vote of the people of the territory.

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. Every one respects the fact that the United States does not seek territory in Europe. This gives our country the commanding place as the one disinterested power in the world. With this moral force we can do much to maintain the peace of the world. 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.

(Copyright, 1920, Western Newspaper Union)

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 from 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.

But Germany has weathered two crises as serious: In the most difficult months just after the surrender a year ago; and the peace conference period, when she woke up, as loser, to the

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY REGULAR MEET'G

Mrs. G. C. Butler Gave Interesting Resume of "Languages" Chapter From Book.

The regular monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society was held Tuesday the eighth at the home of Mrs. Stump. The greatly increased attendance at the last two meetings shows a growing interest in the Society.

The reports of the Foreign and Home department treasurers give evidence of a flourishing financial condition.

Mrs. G. C. Butler gave an interesting and instructive resume of the chapter on Languages from the book, "Christian Americanization."

After the regular business meeting and program, the meeting adjourned to a short social hour, during which the guests enjoyed the delicious refreshments served by the hostess.

These meetings are open to all our church women whether members or not and a general invitation is extended.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our friends and neighbors for their sympathy, assistance and courtesies extended, also the beautiful floral tributes in our bereavement thru the death of our beloved mother and sister.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Kailer.
Mrs. Fannie Henderson.
Mrs. Lucy Watts.
Mrs. Emma Brandon.
Mr. S. D. Grant.

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
- Spinners, Flies, Hooks
- Sinkers, Plugs, Leaders and Spoons

Preparation is half the battle of getting the fish. Our line of fishing equipment is large and better than all, it includes only the best of each kind.

J.D. Gillespie & Co.

RETAILERS OF HIGH GRADE MERCHANDISE

81 S. Main St. Phone 30

30 Acres Trees, Shrubs, and Vines best for this climate.

Littleford Nurseries
Phone 312-J

Landscape Gardening our Specialty

TELEPHONE DOWNERS GROVE 167-M-2

B. THOMPSON

Manufacturer of

Awnings, Sleeping-Porch Curtains

AWNINGS FOR RESIDENCES A SPECIALTY.

Rollicking American Comedy

COMPLETE PRODUCTION

"IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE"

Company of Eight

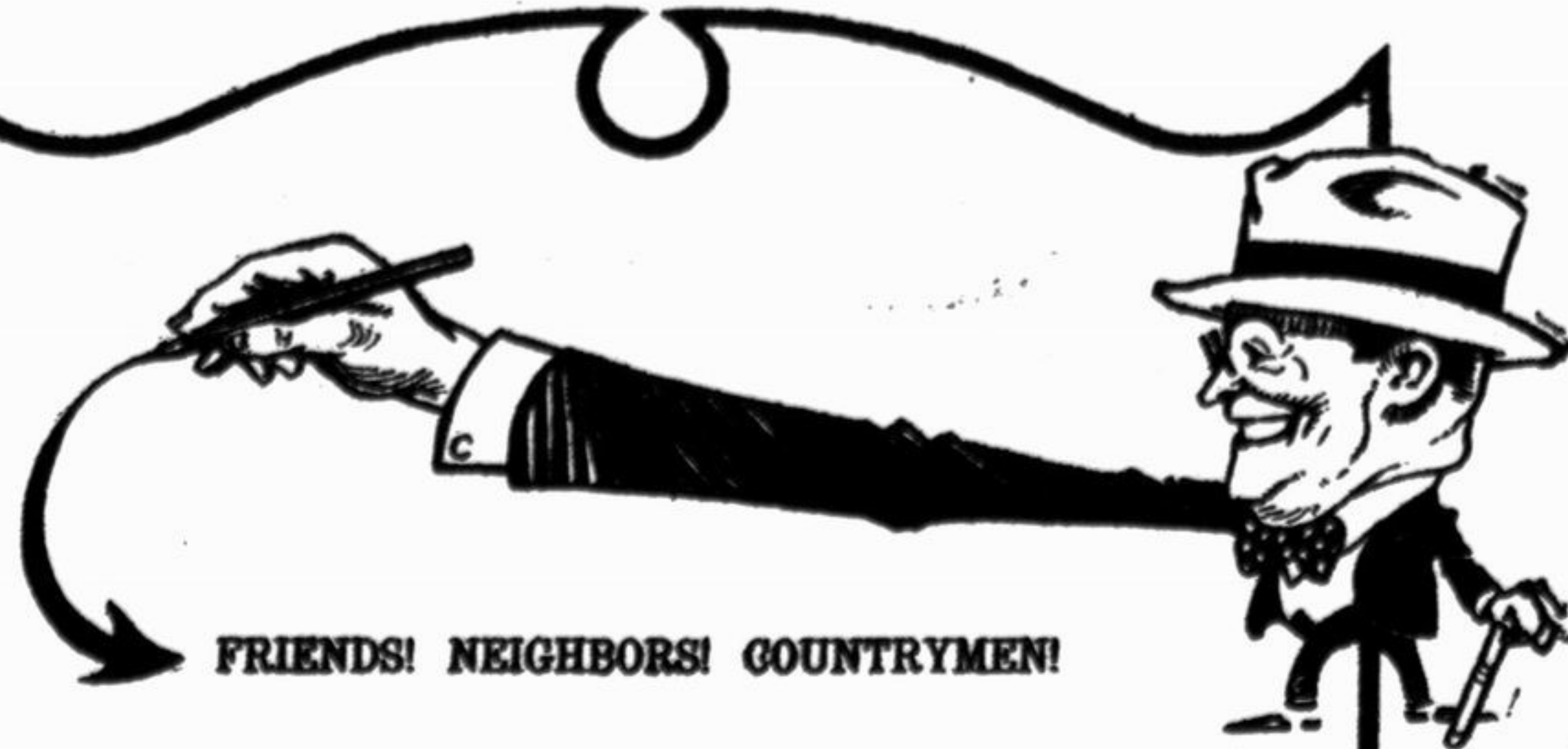
Special Scenery and Lighting Effects!

"It Pays to Advertise" is absolutely clean and wholesome and this fact combined with the rich Americanism of its humor the rapid-fire idioms of its dialogue and the many clever situations effected marked its New York production as the most successful comedy drama in years.

Redpath Chautauqua

FIFTH NIGHT

Just one of 12 big features of the Chautauqua. Season tickets for all six days \$2.50 plus 10 per cent Tax.



FRIENDS! NEIGHBORS! COUNTRYMEN!

Lead me your ears! I come to praise this town of ours.

I come to ask your loyalty to it.

I want to interest you in its solidarity, in the solidarity of all the people of this community to the end that each one of us shall be more prosperous and happier.

Up at the corner the other day I overheard one of OUR FOLKS relate with much self-satisfaction the fact that he had just received a piece of goods from a big city mail order house, which, he claimed, cost him a few nickels less than he could buy it in this good old town of ours.

An editor's shuffles are hand-cupped, but I have one to spare to bet that this neighbor really lost money if he figured on the charges and unseen goods. He paid the freight, whichever way it was shipped. He bought on faith, and faith at a distance is not a sensible thing these days of shoddy material and incompetent if high-priced workmanship. He had no chance to first examine the goods contained in his order. If the goods are damaged, he must return them to a distance and take chances on getting his money back after a long period, and perhaps after long quibbling. All this takes time—days and weeks—whereas at home he would never have picked a damaged, or poor, or defective piece of goods.

Let us have loyalty!

Loyalty to our town is good personal business to every soul in the community. Every dollar you spend here makes the man you spend it with the more able to spend money with you for the things you have to sell, whether you sell livestock, dry-goods, potatoes, butter or the labor of your hands.

Spending money to the big city, except where it can't be avoided, is helping the big city and making the whole people of the big city that much more prosperous. Let's keep the money in our own town and make ourselves more prosperous. The big town never does anything for our community over to milk it.

This town and neighborhood is our home. Here we are bringing up our families and educating them. Here is where our happiness lies. Here is also where our duty lies—on duty to do everything in our power to advance the interests of our home and community.

This editor believes that he can serve his home community in no better way than by urging every man and woman to patronize the merchants of this town. Therefore, beginning today, this newspaper will print a series of important articles on loyalty to our town—loyalty to ourselves. We believe that every subscriber will find them interesting, worthwhile reading.

Yours truly,

C. H. STAATS,

Publisher, The Reporter