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A FORMIDABLE, BRUTAL FOE

In Sir John French's recent report of the progress of the Allies we find this passage: "The Germans are a formidable enemy. Well-trained, long prepared and brave, their soldiers are carrying on the contest with skill and valour. Nevertheless, they are fighting to win anyhow, regardless of all the rules of fair-play, and there is evidence that they do not hesitate at anything in order to gain victory."

THE POTATO EMBARGO

In view of the efforts of certain commentators in expounding the United States potato embargo measure, it is quite possible for misunderstandings to arise. In this, as in all other matters, those interested should be guided by "the law and the testimony" rather than by the interpretation of designing, interested or innocent exponents.

The idea of sending inspectors to "indicate the fields which are free from the scab and grant certificates accordingly," with a view to satisfying the United States Government, is too childish to require any comment. It is quite within the possibilities that when this province can present a clean bill of health, as a province, our potatoes may be admitted to the United States market, unless the Aroostook potato-growers find another reason for excluding us.

VIEWED FROM OUTSIDE

It is interesting and often instructive to keep watch upon outside opinion. In the war situation we have been guided largely by reports, often friendly and therefore perhaps not independent. Regarding the result of the terrible and continuous battle raging for the past three weeks in Northern France and in Belgium we have had the optimistic views of friendly war correspondents and the somewhat vague reports of the war offices. The following is the opinion formed of the situation by the usually well-informed Brooklyn Eagle:

from Przemysl; Warsaw is threatened, and the Russian invasion of East Prussia, if not halted, is apparently making no substantial progress. The Austrians, crushed beyond hope of recovery in the Petrograd dispatches, seem to have developed an extraordinary recuperative power, which suggests that their telegraphic demoralization has been somewhat exaggerated. Critical as the situation is, there is no sign that the Allies are losing heart. If they have inflicted no decisive defeat on the enemy, the latter has been prevented from inflicting a decisive defeat upon them. They have to their credit the frustration of the German plan for an irresistible drive toward Paris, which was intended to lay France prostrate and force her to an early surrender.

WARM WORDS FOR CANADA

The arrival in England of the Canadian contingent was the theme of many tributes by the British press. The Motherland is unquestionably deeply moved by Canada's magnificent support in the struggle. The Ministerial "Westminster Gazette" says:—"This, indeed, is a magnificent contribution to the Imperial army now at work in Europe. We in the Motherland are deeply conscious of the splendid loyalty which Canadians, like all kinds of people overseas, have displayed at this critical time. A good many Canadian farmers find it difficult to leave their farms for the front. They may rest assured that by staying in Canada and growing wheat for us for 1915, they will perform a very real service to the Empire."

The London "Star" recalls that the troops have had no severe training, but will now get it soon, and be equal to the hardships of actual warfare. "Many are either athletes or have followed pursuits which harden the muscles and make them at the outset as fit as seasoned soldiers." It says, "They expect to be in the field themselves, and they would consider it would hardly be fair to be sent 3,000 miles just to do garrison duty for the British."

GERMANY'S MISTAKE

In following the Pagan philosophy of Nietzsche and attempting to conquer the world by brute force, Germany is running counter to all the principles which have stood the test of two thousand years. Perhaps, this is best illustrated by Milton—a sadly neglected poet nowadays, alas! who in his "Paradise Regained" tells us:—"They err who count it glorious to subdue, By conquest far and wide, to overrun Large countries, and in field great battles win. Great cities by assault; what do these worthies. But rob and spoil, burn, slaughter and enslave Peaceable nations, neighboring or remote. Made captive, yet deserving freedom more Than those their conquerors, who leave behind Nothing but ruin whereso'er they rove. And all the flourishing works of peace destroy. Then swell with pride, and must be titled gods, Great benefactors of mankind, deliverers, Worship'd with temple, priest and sacrifice; One is the son of Jove, of Mars the other; Till conqueror Death discover them scarce men. Rolling in brutish vices, and deform'd, Violent or shameful death their due reward. But if there be in glory aught of good, It may by means far different be obtain'd Without ambition, war or violence: By deeds of peace, by wisdom eminent, By patience, temperance."

This so graphically depicts the present situation that nothing need be added by way of comment.

NOTES

Germany is not only straining every nerve in the field of actual warfare, but her emissaries are carrying on an active and well directed campaign in all countries to arouse sympathy for her cause. Unfortunately for German contentions, however, the records showing the causes of this war are open to the world to read, and the stories of German atrocities in Belgium cannot be suppressed. German attempts to arouse sympathy will end in failure, just as her attempt to achieve world domination will result in utter defeat.

Ypres is a famous linen-making town of some 20,000 people. The English word "diaper" is a corruption of the French "d'Ypres" ("of Ypres"). It possesses some famous buildings, notably a cloth-hall and a cathedral, both built in the 13th century. One wonders if the canon will spare them. More notable art treasures in architecture have been destroyed by the Kaiser in this Belgian adventure than the whole of Germany can show. The Kaiser said his heart bled for Louvain. If it still bleeds for Ypres, God help that place!

VISCOUNT BRUCE DEFENDS WAR FOR TREATIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

er as well as in that later form which has overspread the world. The Greeks were a small people, not united in one great State, but scattered over coasts and among hills in petty city communities, each with its own life. Slender in numbers, but eager, versatile, and intense, they gave us the richest, most varied, and most stimulating of all literatures. When poetry and art reappeared after the long night of the Dark Ages, their most splendid blossoms flowered in the small republics of Italy. In modern Europe what do we not owe to little Switzerland, lighting the torch of freedom 600 years ago and keeping it alight through all the centuries when despotic monarchies held the rest of the European Continent? And what to free Holland, with her great art of learning and her paintings surpassing those of all other countries save Italy? So the small Scandinavian nations have given to the world famous men of science, from Linnaeus downward; poets like Madvig; doubtless explorers like Fridtjof Nansen. England had in the age of Shakespeares, Bacon and Milton a population little larger than that of Bulgaria to-day. The United States in the days of Washington and Franklin and Jefferson and Hamilton and Marshall counted fewer inhabitants than Denmark or Greece. In the most brilliant generations of German literature and thought, the age of Kant and Lessing and Goethe, of Hegel and Schiller and Fichte, there was no real German State at all, but a congeries of principalities and free cities—-independent centres of intellectual life in which letters and science produced a richer crop than the two succeeding generations have raised just as Great Britain, also, with eight times the population of the year 1600, has had no more Shakespeares or Miltons.

Culture Decayed in Imperial Rome

No fiction is more palpably contradicted by history than that which is promulgated by the school to which Gen. von Bernhardi belongs—that culture, literary, scientific and artistic, flourishes best in great military states. The decay of art and literature in the Roman world began just when Rome's military power had made that world one great and united empire. The opposite view would be much nearer the truth though one must admit that no general theory regarding the relations of art and letters to governments and political conditions has ever yet been proved to be sound.

(Note—Gen von Bernhardi's knowledge of current history may be estimated by the fact that he assumes (1) that trade rivalry makes war probable between Great Britain and the United States; (2) that he believes that the Indian princes and peoples are likely to revolt against Great Britain should she be involved in war, and (3) that he expects her self-governing colonies to take such an opportunity of severing their connection with her.) The world is already too uniform and is becoming more uniform every day. A few leading languages, a few forms of civilization, a few types of character, are spreading out from the seven or eight greatest States and extinguishing weaker languages, forms, and types. Although great States are stronger and more populous their peoples are not necessarily more gifted, and the extinction of the minor languages and types would be a mournful catastrophe for the world's future development.

We may not be able to arrest the forces which seem to be making for that extinction, but we certainly ought not to strengthen them. Rather we ought to maintain and defend the smaller States and to favor the rise and growth of new peoples. Not merely because they were delivered from the tyranny of Sultans like Abdul Hamid did the intellect of Europe welcome the successively won liberations of Greece, Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro; it was also in the hope that those countries would in time develop that was the chief motive of their present crude conditions new types of culture, new centres of productive intellectual life.

Gen von Bernhardi invokes history as the ultimate court of appeal. He appeals to Caesar; to Caesar let him go. "Die Weltgeschichte ist das Weltgericht" (World history is world tribunal.) History declares that no nation, however great, is entitled to try to impose its type of civilization on others. No race, not even the Teutonic or Anglo-Saxon, is entitled to claim the leadership of humanity. Each people has in its time contributed something that was distinctive by its own, and the world is far richer thereby than if any one race, however gifted, had established its permanent ascendancy.

We of the Anglo-Saxon race do not claim for ourselves, any more than we admit in others, any right to dominate by force or to impose our own type of civilization on less powerful races. Perhaps we have not that assured conviction of its superiority which the school of Gen. von Bernhardi expressed for Teutons of North Germany. We know how much we owe, even within our own islands, to the Celtic race; and, though we must admit that the peoples of Anglo-Saxon stock, have, like others, made some mistakes and sometimes abused their strength, let it be remembered what have been the latest acts they have done abroad.

Praised American Altruism

The United States have twice withdrawn their troops from Cuba, which they could easily have retained; they have resisted all temptations to annex any part of the territories of Mexico, in which the lives and property of their citizens were for three years in constant danger. So Great Britain also six years ago restored the ampest self-government to two South African republics having already agreed to the maintenance on equal terms of the Dutch language; and the citizens of those republics, which were in arms against her thirteen years ago have now spontaneously come forward to support her by arms under the gallant leader who then commanded the Boers; and I may add that one reason why

the Princes of India have rallied so promptly and heartily to Great Britain in this war is because for many years past we have avoided annexing the territories of those Princes allowing them to adopt heirs when the successors of their own families failed, and leaving to them as much as possible of the ordinary functions of government.

Service the Test of Greatness

It is only vulgar minds that mistakes bigness for greatness; for greatness is of the soul, not of the body. In the judgment which history will hereafter pass upon the forty centuries of recorded progress toward civilization that now lie behind us, what are the tests it will apply to determine the true greatness of a people? Not population, not territory, not wealth, not military power; rather will history ask what examples of lofty character and unselfish devotion to honor and duty has a people given? What has it done to increase the volume of knowledge? What thoughts and what ideals of permanent value and unexhausted fertility has it bequeathed to mankind? What works has it produced in poetry, music, and other arts to be an unfailing source of enjoyment to posterity? The small peoples need not fear the application of such tests.

The world advances, not, as the Bernhardi school supposes, only or even mainly by fighting; it advances mainly by thinking and by the process of reciprocal teaching and learning; by the continuous and unconscious co-operation of all its strongest and finest minds. Each race—Hellenic, Italic, Celtic, Teutonic, Iberian, Slavonic—has something to give, each something to learn; and when their blood is blended the mixed stocks may combine gifts of both. Most progressive races have been those who combined willingness to learn with strength, which enabled them to receive without loss to their own quality, retaining their primal vigor, but entering into the labors of others, as the Teutons who settled within the dominions of Rome profited by the lessons of the old civilization.

Let me disclaim once more before I close any intention to attribute to the German people the principles set forth by the school of Treitschke and Bernhardi—the school which teaches hatred of peace and arbitration, disregard of treaty obligations scorn for weaker peoples. We in England would feel even deeper sadness than weighs upon us now if we could suppose that such principles had been embraced by the nation whose thinkers have done so much for human progress and who have produced so many shining examples of Christian saintliness; but when those principles have been ostentatiously proclaimed, when a peaceful neutral country which the other belligerent had solemnly and repeatedly undertaken to respect has been treated, and when attempts are made to justify these deeds as incidental to a campaign for civilization and culture, it becomes necessary to point out how untrue and how pernicious such principles are.

Most Wars Needless and Unjust

What are the teachings of history to which Gen. Bernhardi is fond of appealing? That war has been the constant handmaid of tyranny and the source of more than half the miseries of man; that, although some wars have been necessary and have given occasion for a display of splendid heroism—wars of defence against aggression or to succor the oppressed—most wars have been needless or unjust; that the mark of an advancing civilization has been the substitution of friendship for hatred and of peaceful for warlike ideals; that small peoples have done and can do as much for the common good of humanity as large peoples; that treaties must be observed (for what are they but records of natural faith, solemnly pledged, and what could bring mankind more surely and swiftly back to that reign of violence and terror from which it has been slowly rising for the last ten centuries than the destruction of trust in the plighted faith of nations.

No event has brought out that essential unity which now exists in the world so forcibly as this war has done, for an event has ever so affected every part of the world. Four continents are involved, the whole of the Old World, and the New World suffers grievously in its trade, industry and finance. Thus the whole world is interested in preventing the recurrence of such a calamity and there is a general feeling throughout the world that the causes which have brought it upon us must be removed.

We are told that armaments must be reduced; that the baleful spirit of militarism must be quenched; that peoples must everywhere be admitted to a fuller share in the centre of foreign policy; that efforts must be made to establish a sort of leagues of concord—some system of international relations and reciprocal peace alliances by which weaker nations may be protected and under which differences between nations may be adjusted by courts of arbitration and conciliation of wider scope than those that now exist.

All these things are desirable, but no scheme for preventing future wars will have any chance of success unless it rests upon the assurance that the States which enter into it will loyally and steadfastly abide by it, and that each and all of them will join in coercing by their overwhelming united strength any State which may disregard obligations it has undertaken. The faith of treaties is the only solid foundation on which the temple of peace can be built up.

JAMES BRYCE.

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