

STRANGER THAN WAR

The sublime innocence with which the world generally, and the British Empire in particular, ignored the clouds which had been gathering for years previous to the outbreak of the war is only a little less wonderful than the war itself. Germany was accepted as the world's school-master; the whole world went to the German school; "finished in Germany" was the last word in science, in music, in art, in philosophy and even in theology. The world's Christianity had become largely Germanized while Germany went on religiously, coolly brazenly and openly preparing for the inevitable fourth of August, 1914.

Why did not the world see whether it was drifting under German guidance? Germany not only did not hide her purpose, she proclaimed it publicly. Her philosophers, our schoolmasters, taught it and we did not object, did not even doubt. We swallowed her philosophy as the product of the highest, namely, German authority.

Ernest Haase, one of Germany's most quoted authorities, said among other things, as long ago as 1908:

"War is for us only a means, the state of preparation for war is more than a means, it is an end. If we were not beset with the danger of war, it would be necessary to create it artificially, in order to strengthen our softened and weakened Germanism, to make bones and sinews."

In 1913 the Jung Deutschland, the official organ of Young Germany, promulgated the following doctrine:

"War is the noblest and holiest expression of human activity. For us, too, the glad quiet hour of battle will strike. Still and deep in the German heart must live the joy of battle and the longing for it. Let us ridicule to the utmost the old women in breeches who fear war and deplore it as cruel and revolting. No: war is beautiful. Its august sublimity elevates the human heart beyond the earthly and the common."

What a fitting sequel to this teaching is the "beautiful" murdering of women and babes, the piracy at sea that laughs at the drowning victims of the submarine!

The German Crown Prince, while in preparation for the coming world cataclysm with which Germany was to dominate the world, said, ten years before the outbreak of the war, "It is only by relying on our good German sword that we can hope to conquer that place in the sun which rightly belongs to us." And the Kaiser expressed himself, many years before the war as follows: "It is the soldier and the army, not-parliamentary majorities and votes, that have welded the German Empire together. My confidence rests with the army." "God has called us to civilize the world; we are the missionaries of human progress."

Out of this mess of philosophy and bombast, openly taught and paraded before a world that stood open mouthed to receive it, came the war, the "holiest" and the "most beautiful" of the fruits of German teaching.

Germany is once more our schoolmaster, this time teaching us by example as well as by precept what to avoid.

GET TO WORK

Commenting on the strike at New Glasgow, the Halifax Chronicle says:

The news that workers in the steel, munition, car and shipbuilding plants in New Glasgow and Trenton, to the number of some three thousand, have gone on strike, is disturbing and greatly to be deplored, not merely because of the effect upon the immediate community and the Province generally but because of the disorganization which it entails in an important phase of Canada's war effort. The moment when the Forces of Freedom are locked in a death struggle with the enemy of mankind on the embattled fields of France, is not the time for industrial and labor disputes in this country. Every message which comes to us from the trenches breathes the spirit of the glorious Poilus of France—"if the people at home hold fast, we can win the war." The Army behind the Army in the field must hold the line. At this supreme moment of the battle crisis there can be no question between employers and employees which cannot, and should not, be settled without recourse to the strike or the lock-out that inevitably hampers the nation's

war-winning activity. Steel-making, munition-making, shipbuilding and car-building, are essential war industries. The men engaged in these industries are essential units in the Army at home, and equally with the heroic men who are holding the line in France and Flanders, are in duty and in honor bound to "carry on," and to do their part as loyally as their comrades overseas. The questions in dispute between the workers and their employers appear to be the same as those which were submitted to a Royal Commission, appointed at the request of the workers in May last. That Commission filed a unanimous report, which the Company states that it has accepted without modification. So far as we understand the merits of the dispute, there does not appear to be involved therein any issue sufficiently important at this grave hour of history to cause a break in the relations between employers and employees, much less to justify the tying up of great industries engaged in the production of war materials. The situation on the battlefield calls for united and unflinching effort at home. Public opinion will demand that the parties get together and get to work.

MR. FIELDING'S POSITION

We hate to think, says the Ottawa Journal, that a deeply-ingrained partisanship is unconsciously or otherwise betraying Hon. W. S. Fielding into desertion of the splendid position he last year adopted, but we confess inability to find any other reasonable explanation for some of his recent actions. For example in the Montreal Journal of Commerce, last week, Mr. Fielding reverts (a previous print contained a lengthy criticism) to an attack upon the Premier for a "grave mistake" in "creating a ministerial crisis over such a question as that concerning titles," and then proceeds to flay Sir Robert for rushing to the end of the session "without allowing decent opportunity for enquiry and discussion." There may be something to be said against the policy of rushing large money votes through Parliament in the dying hours of the session; but what we cannot understand is that Mr. Fielding should throw all the blame upon the Prime Minister and remain absolutely silent as regards the time-wasting tactics of the Opposition. Would it not have been more consistent with Mr. Fielding's announced policy of "benevolent neutrality," if, in dealing with such a matter, he had had a word of reproach against the waste of time involved in Mr. Murphy's fulminations against Mr. Rowell, in the torrential nonsense of Mr. Cannon, or in Mr. Copp's six-hour apology for the Opposition's failure to secure the soldier's vote?

There have been whisperings of late that Mr. Fielding aspires to take his old seat on the Laurier benches, and it has even been hinted that he might be induced to lead a rejuvenated Opposition. We banish these thoughts from our mind, because Mr. Fielding's honorable record prohibits belief that he would use his present position to undermine a Government he later intended to openly attack. But the most charitable view we can take is that, in an effort to stand absolutely straight on neutral ground he is leaning badly backwards.

WHEN THE TIDE TURNS

A glimpse of what will happen when the tide turns is given by General Foch in an article he has contributed to one of the London journals. The supreme aim, he says, must be the destruction of the enemy's forces, and completely to achieve that aim the forces must be used with the utmost economy, a great reserve must be built up, and when the time comes that reserve must be hurled on the enemy in an action surpassing in violence and energy all other phases of the battle. Here is the key to the strategy he is adopting, says the Montreal Herald which also says that the General's article indicates why the Germans are so anxious to get him to bring his reserve into action, so that to a large extent it may be shorn of its force.

Of course, the same argument applies to the Germans. They are adopting the plan of hurling their reserve with unexampled violence against our lines. But so far they have failed of their object, which is the destruction of the Allies' army. If General Foch is able to continue to parry the German blows without eating too much into his army of manoeuvre, the time will come when the tide will turn. The moment he begins to hurl his reserve into the battle with surpassing violence and energy, he will be staking all on a single throw. It is easy to see how fatal it would be for the army leader's plan to be prematurely put into force by the pressure of public opinion impatient at the purely defensive tactics now being adopted.

WILDE'S "SALOME" LEADS TO SENSATION

That the unspeakable and unbelievable crimes charged against a number of prominent English public men, like Mr. Asquith, Mr. Justice Darling and Viscount Haldane will be speedily investigated and proved foundationless must be the hope of all decent and patriotic people. It is incredible that there should exist in England a so-called camarilla, such as was exposed in Berlin some years ago, and that leaders in the war effort of the country should be blackmailed into treason by German agents. Mr. Pemberton Billing, who makes the charge, has had a brief but sensational career in British politics, and in that short time has given evidence of extreme recklessness of statement. Nevertheless, he is a member of Parliament, and a certain responsibility would seem to attach to any accusation he might make, however preposterous it might be on the face. A long term of imprisonment ought to be his reward if he is unable to justify his charges and those of Captain Spencer which he published.

Producing Wilde's "Salome"

The sensational developments already reported originated in a suit for libel brought against Mr. Billing by Maude Allan, the dancer, and by Jack Thomas Grein, a theatrical manager in Mr. Billing's paper, the Vigilante. The paragraph was to the effect that these persons in presenting Oscar Wilde's "Salome" were catering to moral perversities. In his defence, Mr. Billing asserted that he was fighting for purity in public life, not because he was a moral reformer, but because he believed that the moral tone of the nation would have much to do with winning or losing the war. He intimated that persons of immoral life, if they held high positions in the nation, might easily be subjected to blackmail. He said that, while he denied that he had uttered a libel against either Miss Allan or Mr. Grein, he would welcome a trial at which he was prepared to produce important evidence in the public interest.

Plays as Propaganda

Mr. Grein, one of the complainants, said that he had received a Government subsidy from Lord Beaverbrook to present a selected group of plays in neutral countries, for propaganda purposes, but later on withdrew this statement and said that he had declined a Government salary, though he intended to produce the plays if the public would subscribe the necessary funds. He also asserted that "Salome" would be of the number, though what sort of propaganda could be advanced by this play rather baffles the imagination. Asked as to whether he considered "Salome" the type of play to raise the opinion of neutrals as to British morals and British art, he replied with a straight face, "It has already done so." He considered it a healthy performance for healthy people to witness various passages from the play which were presented to him as containing immoral or at least amorous suggestions he explained on the ground that they merely represented the awakening of the girl's soul.

Berlin Liked It

The defendants also alleged that the play had been presented in Paris by Bernhardt, and also in Berlin. There had been no objection made to it in either of these places. They considered it admirably adopted for

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Oh say, what is this thing called Fame, and is it worth our while? We seek it till we're old and lame, for weary mile on mile; we seek a gem among the hay, for wheat among the chaff; and in the end some heartless jay will write our epitaph. The naked facts it will relate, and little else beside: "This man was born on such a date, on such a date he died." The gravestones in the boneyard tell all we shall never know of men who struggled passing well for glory, long ago. They had their iridescent schemes and lived to see them fail; they had their dreams, as you have dreams, and all of no avail. The gravestones calmly tell their fate, the upshot of their pride: "This man was born on such a date, on such a date he died." The great men of your fathers' time, with laurel on each brow, the theme of every poet's rhyme—where are those giants now. Their names are written in the books which no one ever reads; and on the scroll—where no one looks—the record of their deeds. The idler by the churchyard gate this legend hath espied: "This man was born on such a date, on such a date he died." WALT MASON

presentation in war time because it offered those who witnessed it a chance to find solace in beautiful language. In the course of the hearing the fact came to light that Mr. Grein was dramatic critic of the London Times in 1910 at the time when "Salome" was presented, and received this tribute from the Times: "Salome is a wild study of sex perversity and bestial appetite." Mr. Grein explained, however, that this was the opinion of the musical critic, the two foundations of musical and dramatic critic not being, one and indivisible on the Times as is the case in most newspapers. He scored a point when he showed that in the plays produced under his direction at the Independent Theatre various war charities had benefited to a considerable extent.

Reputed by Beaverbrook

The suggestion that Mr. Grein might, with the sanction of the Government, take plays to neutral countries in order to create in them a sentiment favorable to British culture was flatly denied by the Press Bureau. It was stated that no such scheme had ever been considered, and that Lord Beaverbrook did not know Mr. Grein and never had had any correspondence with him. Whether Mr. Billing libelled Miss Allan and Mr. Grein, and however wide of the mark may be the charge that men like Mr. Asquith are being blackmailed by Germany, there will be a general opinion that the production of "Salome" at this time constitutes an unparalleled outrage upon public sentiment, and that it could have no effect but a demoralizing one upon all who saw it. It is also plain that the British censorship in leaving it to Mr. Billing to make a protest, showed amazing incompetence or lack of intelligence.

YOUR PROBLEMS SOLVED

BY REV. T.S. LINSKOTT, D. D. (All rights reserved)

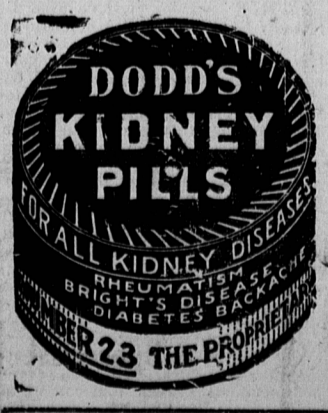
Dr. Linscott in this column will help you solve your heart problems, religious, natural, social, financial and every other anxious care that perplexes you. If a personal answer is required enclose a five cent stamp. No names will be published; if you prefer, sign your initials only; or use a pseudonym.

"THINKERS AND DOERS:"—"Social Service" asks, "On which does the moral and spiritual progress of the world most depend, men of thought, or men of action?" This is something like asking which is of more service to a man—his eyes or his ears. We cannot get along without men of thought and certainly nothing can be done without men of action. Men of thought see the needs of the world and plan a way by which they may be supplied; men of action then come along and do the work which has been planned. Personally we must both think, and do, or we shall amount to little and the world will be left in its misery.

GIVING AND GETTING:—"W. M. B." asks "Which is the better, giving or getting?" The man who speaks as never man spoke said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." This is contrary to the practice of the average man, but in harmony with that of the followers of him who made this striking remark. There is no use denying that all normal men get pleasure out of getting; there is a fascination which comes from success, but there is a different and a lasting pleasure which comes from giving.

THE LOBSTER HATCHERIES

In the course of his address to the Rotary Club Thursday, Dr. Knight touched upon the reason which caused the Hon. Mr. Balfour to close the lobster hatcheries. In one word the



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sole reason was inefficiency. According to the annual reports of the superintendents of our fourteen Dominion hatcheries, almost exactly two-thirds of the eggs died. The death of the eggs was caused partly through rough usage in scraping the eggs off the mother, partly through neglect in supplying the eggs with fresh sea water at the canneries while awaiting the arrival of the collecting boat, partly through lack of fresh sea water during transportation from the canneries to the hatchery, partly through the fact that the new eggs of one summer were mixed in the hatchery jars with eggs of the previous summer, and partly because the dead eggs in the hatchery jars smothered and poisoned the remaining living ones.

By reference therefore to the reports of the Fisheries Department it will be seen that the hatcheries as agencies of conservation condemn themselves. But this is not all. Even the output of one-third of the eggs in the form of living fry cannot be accepted as representing the real value of the work of the hatcheries. After the fry, or baby lobster hatch out in the jars and pass into the tanks where they are retained until transported to the sea, a considerable number of them die. Others die during transportation in the barrels in which they are detained on their way to the sea; and others still are eaten by bottom fish, like cunner, as soon as they are siphoned into the water.

"What proof is there" it will be asked, "that these losses occur as stated." In other words how has the output of the hatcheries been checked. The reports of the Biological Boards of Canada for the years 1916, and 1917 answer these questions, and can be had on application to the Fisheries Department at Ottawa. But apart altogether from his, Dr. Knight's reports to the Biological Board, many intelligent fishermen and not a few observant canners discovered the faultiness of the hatcheries for themselves. Their method of discovery was simplicity itself. They took a berried lobster, tethered her by a cord line to a wharf or stone and found that in a week or ten days she had hatched out every egg. The conclusion which fishermen drew from this simple experiment was that while a mother lobster hatches out almost

every egg, the hatcheries killed two-thirds of the eggs which enter them. Nor was this all, around almost every hatchery every season were reports of jars of rotten eggs being emptied into the sea. These were some of the considerations which made the more observant canners and fishermen doubt the value of the hatcheries. The evidence which the Biological Board supplied was merely in the way of corroboration. Microscopic examination of the eggs in the hatching jars at the beginning of the season showed that two per cent of them were new eggs and could not hatch out sooner than a year. About eight per cent more were dead, on account of the injury or neglect to which they had been subjected before reaching the hatchery. These dead eggs, inextricably tied up with the living, poisoned or smothered the good eggs until towards the end of the season there were not more than twenty per cent of them alive. No wonder that some 137 jars of dead eggs were thrown into the Georgetown harbor at the end of the hatching season last year.

Another topic on which Dr. Knight spoke was reproduction of the lobster. The average number of females carrying eggs is only between four and five per hundred, that is so far as the Biological Board has tested the matter. Lieut. R. A. Gordon, Inspector Duval, and Superintendent Samuel Wilmot, all agree that in the eighties and early nineties about two-thirds to three-fourths of the females all carried eggs. Contrast these numbers with observations made upon the North Shore during the past two weeks: during four of which days Mr. Andrew Hackett went out with fishermen, only one of 455 females caught in 500 traps, and only one berried female was found, and it measured only 10 inches in length. Couple this with the further fact that only one per cent of the ten inch females carry eggs each year, and the further fact that thirty-three per cent of the 14 inch lobsters carry eggs and it will readily be seen how short sighted our policy has been in killing off such a high percentage of our adult breeding animals. We are today cutting off our future supply of lobsters by canning the immature young and by canning also the few remaining adults.

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