

you may be able to give me in this direction.

The information that we primarily would like to have is data relating to the Scotch plants that have established the best records in distillation and recovery of by products through shales. We very much desire to get into communication with the engineers who have built these plants with the idea that if we can obtain their services based on the result of plants already designed and erected by them that would give us actual figures of costs and operation, we would feel justified in erecting such a plant in the Provinces.

My personal impression has been that these plants in Scotland have proved not only successful in operation but very remunerative to the capital invested and if we can obtain the actual assurance of the successful operation of such plants the capital is available here for the undertaking.

Trusting that you will be able to assist me in this direction,

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terrible and desolating years there would be a more urgent and hungry inclination towards God. I don't see it. I thought we should be dead weary of the old cisterns—broken cisterns which can hold no water—and that we should be turning to the well of salvation. I expected that we should be terribly tired of things, and that we should want more of the Spirit. I expected that God would be greatly worshipped, and that piety would be coming back to her sacred nest. Do you think we are seeking God, and that there is more piety than there was four years ago? I don't find it. I was expecting a more eager and a more passionate fraternity. . . . We see around us grievous wrongs, irritating and humiliating wrongs, which compel men to strike in order to get their wrongs righted. We see also men who have no wrongs at all, who cannot even state their grievances, and who are ready to inflict wrong on others. Because of misunderstandings which ought to have been settled in a day, and would have been so settled under the rule of true fraternity, the life of an entire community has been dislocated.

"My own serious and sober judgment is that the absence of a finer fraternity is due to the absence of a profounder piety. We shall not find one another till we have found God."

The Halifax Herald is, it must be confessed, a many sided paper. For instance, it is agonizing in soul over the churches, and offering prizes for articles giving opinions as to what our churches and ministers of religions should do to bring about a millennium; and at the same time it is showing the utmost interest in bringing about a 'Dempsey or other bout' in Halifax. Just how these brutalizing bouts are going to help uplift humanity, and do what it insinuates, the churches have not done, is not quite clear. I'm awfully afraid that the Herald is more materialistic than religious. I hope not, but if I err the Herald is to blame. It is possible the churches need a poking up, and people might believe that the Herald was anxious to help in the work of renovation, but the people cannot understand how the Herald can forward a reformation by calling in the aid of a boxing evangelist like Jack Dempsey. Of course there will require to be some sort of reform if those, who say they know, speak truly. For instance a Y. M. C. A. worker with the soldiers said lately:

"As it seems about certain that within the next few months the churches of our land will be awakened to the tragic fact that the demobilised men will not for the very most part come to them—unless something of an almost revolutionary character takes place within those churches—it may interest ministers and Church folk generally, who do not yet know, to learn what the men are thinking and discussing. I have to deal with one camp where we have a lively weekly debate, and I have known as many as 400 attend—in fact, the hut has been practically full each night. Here are the subjects:

Has the war proved that Christianity has failed?
Can democracy achieve its aims without religion?
Ought there to be an economic boycott of Germany after the war?

Is cursing a necessary part of a soldier's life.
Are the war aims of Labor satisfactory?
Will a League of Nations be strong enough to prevent war?

Is democracy more alive to its rights than its responsibilities?

Will the defeat of Germany end militarism?
Has the war changed our idea of God?

Would a Labour Government be able to deal successfully with the problems of social reconstruction after the war?

Does prayer protect the soldier on the battlefield.
Would re-union enable the churches to fight evil more effectively?

The voting on the first question was almost unanimous that the churches had failed, but certainly not Christianity.

The voting on the last question was a decided 'yes'.

I have long been of opinion, though I may not have expressed it loudly, that it would be good policy for our provincial coal operators to take the community a little more into their confidence, and try to show the people that their chief objects are not, first to grind down wages, and boost coal prices. Very many people, I believe mistakenly, are of the opinion that the companies are waxing fat over profits. So long as the workers and the public believe that, there will be disquiet. The late conference between operators and workmen did good. How would it do to have a conference between the operators and representatives of the general community, where prices could be calmly talked over. There might not then be the readiness to conclude that the operators in every dispute were mostly in the wrong. The public now cannot well advise, in case, say, of a strike, because it does not know which side has more of the right on its side. The following, from the Coal Trade Journal, has a bearing on this point:

"For the past month, the rate of production has been steadily declining. Cull bank coal, which figured so largely in the investigations, is a drug upon the market. Anthracite and bituminous collieries are closing because nobody wants coal. As might be expected, editorial damnation is visited upon the operators because of this. The anthracite differential upon independent coal has disappeared; in some places, reductions have been made in retail prices; but the increased demand, which, if certain critics were correct, should have followed the lowering of prices and the augmentation of supply, has failed to arrive. Therefore, if we are to believe certain of our public tribunes,