

miles from the scene of the firing. There can be little doubt as to the close connection between the gun-firing and the disturbance of the pheasants, for, in woods near Burgh-le-Marsh in Lincolnshire, the firing and the crowing of the pheasants were heard together.

In what way are pheasants affected by the distant gun-firing? Do they actually hear sounds which are too deep or too faint to produce any effect on the human ear? Or is it that they are in some way susceptible to the evanescent air-vibrations or are alarmed by movements due to those vibrations?

We know, indeed, very little about the varying capacity of the human ear for appreciating the low roll of distant gun-firing. We know still less about the powers of birds and animals for hearing such vibrations. The only evidence with which I am acquainted is their behaviour during earthquakes. For instance, during the Hereford earthquake of 1896, pheasants crowed at a distance of 111 miles to the north-west of the origin; the sound was heard to a distance of 170 miles in the same direction. During the Doncaster earthquake of 1905, the farthest place at which pheasants were affected is 38 miles from the origin; the sound was heard on an average for 62 miles from that place. The evidence is not quite conclusive, for pheasants are not so uniformly distributed as human beings over the country. So far as it goes, however, it seems to show that the pheasant's ear is less sensitive than our own to very deep sounds.

On the other hand, it must be remembered that even human beings are affected by sound-waves in other ways than through the ear. When there is a loud report close at hand we instinctively wink. It is the reflex action of the eyelids to protect the eyeballs from injury when the air-waves suddenly impinge upon them. It is possible, indeed, that pheasants never hear the report of guns at all, however close they may be, and that it is merely the resulting air-vibrations striking on their bodies that alarm them. On the whole, however, it seems more probable that the air-waves act only indirectly on the birds. The reports of the guns during the Cherbourg review were heard for 107 miles, but for 30 miles farther the air-vibrations were strong enough to make windows shake and rattle. In the same way, far beyond the Lincolnshire woods in which the guns were heard on January 24, inaudible waves would speed their way across the country. During their passage low trees and undergrowth would suddenly sway and quiver. The birds resting on them would be alarmed by the abrupt though slight disturbance, and would rise with the excited cries which they utter when somewhat similar movements are caused by the passage of earthquake waves.

## HIS VIEW OF EMPIRE

*Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke Foresees a Permanent Imperial Council*

THE cult of Little Englandism—thus writes Sir Clement in *The Fortnightly Review*—lies buried with the follies of the past; its leaders are ostracised, their followers discredited and disowned. Empire, which, at one time, found but little favour with organized labour, has become the watchword of Britain's democracy. To paraphrase a well-known saying of the late Sir William Harcourt's, "we are all Imperialists now."

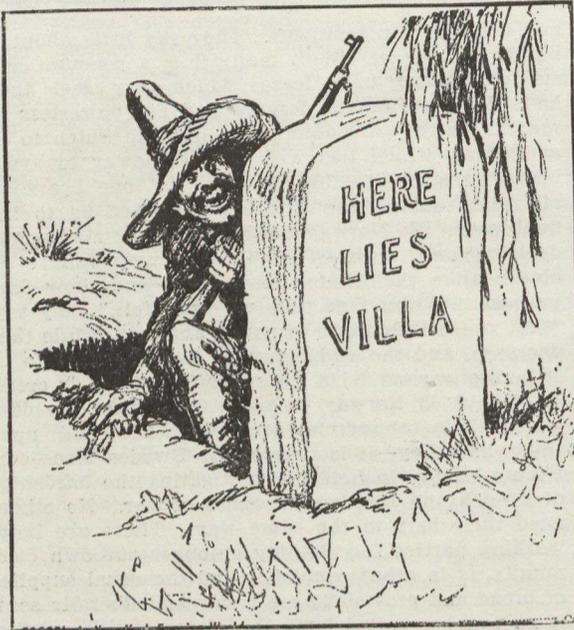
And why? What has happened to bring about so drastic a change in our body politic? The reason is simple enough and easily told. It is written large and bold on the battlefields of Belgium, France, Mesopotamia, and Gallipoli. The call to arms, if it found us, as a nation, unprepared for war, found us, as a people, determined at all costs to sacrifice the last man in defence of our national honour and the preservation of our race.

There must be no going back to pre-war days, no return to the limited outlook of parties, either in the Homeland or in the Dominions. In place of many policies there must be one policy, and that an Empire policy. We must not only think Imperially; we must act Imperially. Downing Street and the Dominions must come together as they have never done before. An entirely new order of things must arise embracing in every phase of its orbit the true inwardness of unity, the fullest recognition of Empire.

But in order to be prepared for the new status we must begin our preparations now. Once it has been decided that the nation's fabric is to be changed, and both the Cabinet and the country have so decided, no time must be lost in making ready. I do not say we should root up the foundations and pull down the walls of one house before we are in possession of plans for the new structure, but I would emphasize and lay stress upon the necessity of a truer appreciation of the axiom that, however long the war may

last, the approach of peace grows nearer day by day. What, then, are the more pressing matters that would find a place on the agenda of the Imperial Conference supposing that body were immediately to be called together?

As regards defence, both naval and military, no very close examination can proceed whilst hostilities are in progress. At the same time, it may not be inopportune to suggest, as far as the question of naval defence is concerned, that all future arrangements, whether initiated in this country or in the Dominion overseas, be placed beyond the reach of party strife. We cannot afford a repetition of what happened at



Coming Out of the Trench.

—Cassel, in *New York Evening World*.  
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Westminster and at Ottawa during the year immediately preceding the outbreak of war. Again, all contributions to the navy, whether in money or in kind, should be based, as far as possible, on the amount of risk covered, and included in the premiums paid should be a fair share, in each case, of the outlay incurred in the maintenance and upkeep of coaling and oil stations. I have no wish at this moment to raise the thorny question of local navies; there is much to be said for and against a policy of this kind; but I do not think any impartial critic will cavil with my conclusion that no system of overseas contributions can be really deemed Imperial unless it be one in which all parts of the Empire participate.

Concerning the twin question of military defence, I must content myself with mentioning two points. One is, that statesmen especially representative of the Dominions and India should be admitted to the sittings of the Imperial Defence Committee, not merely by invitation, but as a right. The other is



The Girl He Left Behind.

—Starrett, in *New York Tribune*.

that in every part of the Empire the privileges of citizenship must carry with them the obligation of military training, if not of compulsory service, subject only to such restrictions as may be considered necessary in the case of coloured races. These are Imperial issues which brook no delay.

With the proclamation of peace it may be assumed that Germany will endeavour to secure for herself and what is left of Austria-Hungary the same econ-

omic position in British possessions she held in pre-war days. Even now it is an open secret that the Central Empires are pressing forward plans to dominate production and the markets of the world. These attacks, as far as they relate to the British Empire, must be met not by the Homeland and the Dominions working apart, but by the Homeland and the Dominions working together.

As far as the Dominions go, it cannot be said that the Government have lacked advisers on matters pertaining to Empire reconstruction. The Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia and Sir George Foster, the greatest authority on Imperial trade that Canada has ever produced, were included in the British delegation at the Paris Conference. In addition, fortune has favoured us with a visit from a number of prominent statesmen from overseas, any one of whom would regard it as a privilege to be called into the councils of the State. Yet, so far, no Parliamentary movement has taken place in the direction of unification. It may be that the Cabinet is awaiting the arrival of Sir Robert Borden before making any pronouncement of policy, but whatever be the reason for postponement, the country is growing impatient to know what is to be our policy towards those great economic problems which must inevitably arise as soon as hostilities cease. Are we to continue imagining that no connection exists between the safety of the nation and its commercial and industrial prosperity? Or are we to have a policy that will make the word "Empire" mean something more than it has meant hitherto—a policy that will ensure not alone our naval, but our industrial supremacy?

Mr. Hughes has warned us against putting our trust in "men who regard *laissez faire* and Free Trade as doctrines handed down by the Deity which it would be impious to refute." For advisers such as these he frankly tells us that he, at any rate, has no use. Neither, do I think, have the people of this country. Like every true Briton, the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth is of opinion that the future trade policy of the Empire should be settled now. And, with a premonition and a foresight which the Government of this country will do well to imitate, he tells us that if we are to attack this question effectively it must be attacked systematically and scientifically.

Nor is the question of unity of less importance when negotiating with our friends. "If you take the Empire as a unit," says Mr. Hewins, "you can give concessions and advantages to your friends which you cannot contemplate if you split up into various separate independent dominions, each making its own treaties." Without unification we can accomplish nothing; with unification we can accomplish everything.

Let me now pass on to the question of migration. At present there is no machinery in this country for guiding the steps of emigrants, and unless that machinery is set up before demobilization takes place there is considerable danger that the bone and sinew of many of our ex-sailors and ex-soldiers may be lost to the Empire. The question, then, we have to decide is what steps are to be taken to keep these migrants within the Empire. In my opinion, a special Imperial Conference should take place in London at the earliest possible moment for the purpose of formulating a scheme of emigration and immigration, jointly controlled and jointly financed by the Home and Dominion Governments.

Now let us look at what the Dominions are doing in this direction. The Commonwealth of Australia have embarked on a land scheme involving an expenditure of £20,000,000, extending over a period of three to four years, for the settlement of ex-soldiers. Under this scheme successful applicants will receive £500 worth of land and £500 worth of improvements, repayable by the settler over a term of years, the Commonwealth bearing any losses. In addition, the New South Wales Government have, I believe, under consideration the expenditure of a similar sum for the settlement of returned soldiers in that State. Nor is this all; the Irrigation Commissioners of New South Wales have decided to make 500 blocks of land available for ex-soldiers during the next three months. Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia are also setting apart land for the same object.

In Canada, both in the Province of Ontario and in British Columbia, committees were appointed to consider the question of providing land for returned soldiers. Not only have these committees reported long ago, but in the case of British Columbia an Act is already on the Statute Book making provision for the granting of homesteads and homestead loans. A thousand farms for ex-soldiers are being prepared by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and these will be ready for occupation in the early autumn. Some of these farms will cover 160 acres, of which fifty will be ploughed and seeded, and this in addition to what is practically a gift of a house and out-buildings. The