

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 21, 1917.

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THE NEXT GREAT WAR

It has been predicted many times, and it is the hope of all earnest souls, that at the end of the war the wonderful energy which has everywhere been developed and directed into patriotic channels will not die but be diverted into channels of social welfare work.

the world. But at home luxury and wealth, poverty and misery still abound. High profits and dividends are still being accumulated.

After giving specific illustrations to prove that neither equality of service nor sacrifice exists, and that social conditions are full of material miseries for a great proportion of the people.

Mr. Lansbury refers to the National Mission of Repentance and Hope in England and says:

"There will be very little hope from the National Mission, very little hope from all this religious fervor, unless we get right down to the root causes and conditions which produce poverty, prostitution and destitution; unless we realize that humanity, while capable of very fine things, is quite incapable of living a decent, wholesome life while it is obliged to engage in a vicious scramble for daily bread.

Jack Tar and his Sal were up in front of the person. On being asked the usual question 'Will you have this woman, etc.?' Jack answered, 'I will.' 'You must say 'I will,' corrected the person and repeated the question.

The late clergyman threatened to stop the service altogether if the response was not properly given. That was too much for Sally, who broke in quite savagely 'Look a-here! There'll 'ave our Jack sayin' 'e won't in a minute if ye keep on badgerin' 'im.

The Bluff "The late General Funston," said a magazine editor, "thated a bluffer. Bluffers, he said, always gave themselves up."

"He often told a story about a bluffer who applied for a vacancy as tutor to a broker's son.

"The broker was an enthusiastic stamp collector, and he thought he would be the permanent chairman of the convention if he could catalogue his stamps, so he asked the man:

"The man last question. Are you acquainted with philately?" "The tutor smiled.

"My goodness, yes," he said. "I speak it like a native, sir."

Siberia's vast untouched wealth. Siberia, it is said, is destined one day to be the richest country in the world, for it has a natural wealth so diversified, and as yet almost untouched.

Mr. Lansbury's book is divided into two parts. The first deals with workers, the second with women and children, the third with business, the fourth with the suffering masses.

It is inevitable that the war, and the sharp contrast made between autocracy and democracy in all the appeals for national service, should be seized upon by advocates of radical social changes in the interest of the poor, to point a moral and press home a demand for an application of the same principles to remove burdens of social inequality.

One of these books, Your Part in Poverty, by George Lansbury, issued in London in January, and passing to a second edition in March, would be a very deep impression on the mind of every reader, however much some may differ from the author's point of view.

Curiously enough, and significantly, the preface to this book, which very vigorously assails the church on the ground that it has failed in its mission, is written by the Bishop of Winchester.

His lordship observes that there would be points in any writing or action of Mr. Lansbury with which he would disagree, perhaps in some cases vehemently, but Mr. Lansbury is a man of integrity and enthusiasm, and a popular leader with a righteous passion in his heart for social changes in the interest of manual labor.

When the class-war is spoken of, many people shrug their shoulders and refuse to acknowledge its existence. They bury their heads in the sands of materialism. But the war of classes is here. It is a literal fact in peace-time and war-time; it is the most soul-destroying fact of modern life; and every reader of this book (let him realize it) is inevitably one of the protagonists.

During the present war there has been a great deal of press talk about the breakdown of class distinctions; the nation has been represented as showing a united front, and ready to spend and to be spent on behalf of the country. Those acquainted with the facts of everyday life know that this unity has been to a very large extent quite superficial. It is true that on the battlefields men of all classes have sacrificed themselves with a heroism and is pressed upon them, to enlist for this new warfare in behalf of humanity.

ON FOOD CONTROL COMMITTEE

W. A. Cooper, manager of the G.P.R. sleeping and dining cars, who has been appointed a member of the food control committee.



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LIGHTER VEIN

Prohibitive "Do you eat your bread upon the waters?" "Not since it's 10 cents a loaf."—Puck.

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H.E. Duke Will Be Good Chairman Of Convention

Chief Secretary of Ireland gave Up Huge Income For Patriotic Work

Boha or Smuts First Wanted—T. P. O'Connor Gives Character Sketches of Both Smuts and Duke

(Special Cable to The Toronto Star Weekly by T. P. O'Connor)

Washington, July 14.—The announcement that the chief secretary of the Irish convention is to be taken temporarily by H.E. Duke, the chief secretary for Ireland, apparently does not mean that he is to be the permanent chairman of the convention. Then, attention was directed to the fact that the convention is to be held in the city of London, and that the chief secretary for Ireland, H.E. Duke, is to be the permanent chairman of the convention.

It is the end of a long question. The fact that all doors are now open to the possibility of a change in the leadership of the convention should have as its president Gen. Botha, whose immense prestige would undoubtedly have made the success of the convention almost certain. But Gen. Botha has his own difficulties—Sinn Fein not being a solely Irish product. The next greatest and most outstanding figure in the empire now—Gen. Smuts.

I do not think that people on this side of the Atlantic have yet realized what a man in that position, knowing the agonies of nervousness and uncertainty through which even the most practiced speaker has to pass when he has an address to make in unfamiliar surroundings and on momentous occasions. The man, alert body, the light hair, the blue eyes, the rather delicate features, might suggest the lawyer rather than the dandified and staid soldier, if you did not study those strange eyes of his, and behold in their depths the lightning resolution of a daring and inflexible nature.

I thought that such a man would find it difficult—especially speaking a language which was not his mother-tongue—to approach the polished rhetoric of the Gaiety and cultured speaker he was to follow; but my apprehensions were without foundation. The speech, cold, simple, unadorned, was that of a great master of the best of all style either in speech or in writing—the style of pellucid simplicity. Before he had been speaking for more than a few minutes he had a thorough grip of his audience; you could see that by the scintillating in which they listened, always a sign of profound emotion in a British audience.

The speech was utterly unlike what was expected. It was nothing more nor less than a plea for the principles for which he and his countrymen had fought in the great war of the Dutch Republic against the British Empire. This was followed by a description of his ideal of the future of the British Empire. That ideal may be summarized as an insistence on the full recognition of the differences and variations, racial and otherwise, of every member of the community; that made up the empire; of their nationality, of the language, of all their special characteristics; in other words, it commended to the affections and to the

loyalty of both; and by suggesting a permanent here and a concession there, may bring them to an agreement. I regard his appointment then as a very favorable sign, and as increasing the chance of agreement between the contending parties.

Mr. Duke is a typical English barrister in appearance. He is clean-shaven; serious, in expression, almost solemn; but his handsome, regular features, works fourteen or sixteen hours a day though he is well over sixty years of age; is, in short, one of those conscientious, hard-working Englishmen, who when they take up a job, forget everything in like mother's milk. There was an even more remarkable speech at perhaps the most remarkable gathering of the most famous and distinguished statesmen of the world, in the House of Commons, in London, in 1914, when the death of Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar, the centenary of the battle of Waterloo, and the centenary of the death of Nelson were commemorated. It was a most beautiful chamber in which there are two great pictures—the one of Nelson at the battle of Trafalgar, the other of Nelson at the battle of Waterloo. The speaker, Mr. Duke, was a man of great ability, and his speech was a masterpiece of oratory.

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For Christendom, and should be carefully studied. Nobody should fail to read the page on which it is plainly written that when peace returns we must become a united people appreciating and protecting the blessings which God has showered upon our nations, or else Christendom to become a Mexico as then pass out of existence. The system of war is forcing upon the world many things which God made it possible to be practicable. A grimace is on our horizon. Civilization is trembling with fear. The future crying "My guardians, my guardian head my pleading."

The system of war and the system of the religious ideas of men should be together. They are the trouble maker that go hand in hand. Christendom throw off their load of superstition, gospel and all walk together by way of the ten commandments and the Lord's prayer. Such is the straight and narrow way. It may seem very barren when considering all the ceremonial ideas of men, but there are plenty of good things to gather and plenty of road to pave. We can trust in war and be united in fighting. Let us be united in God and be united in peace.

Not very long ago a prominent Englishman said that the man who says "I am a biological necessity" ought to shoot himself. And I hope that the man who says that there will always be war because it is man's nature to fight, will realize that it is not man's nature to kill, and that war is not the result of the soldier's nature.

When we think that war cannot be avoided, we should look to the unutilized and unutilized parts of the globe and not to our great nations. Christendom whose people are the carriers of the earth. It is to be plain to see that war is not the fault of a people, but the unutilized system which forces them to ignore the common sense of God and kill, kill, kill. This unutilized system is banished from our nations, Christendom will become an Eden with human beings, and the crimes now being forced upon men will fall to exist.

Many are lamenting and saying, "We do God permit this cruel war?" I answer is plain. When children disobey their father's commands and follow that which leads to wrong, the must suffer the consequence. God is a kind and loving father. To His children He gave the world and His instructions. In the children's failure to follow these instructions it is to be feared the catastrophe will cause all civilization to turn to dust and the people to turn to God and His leadership. The destruction of treasures, millions of maimed, the millions of weeping mothers, wives, and children, the ragged and homeless orphans should impress those having eyes to hear and eyes to see.

I do not believe that there is a civilized man in all Christendom who would object to the complete destruction of the system of war or to placing our armies and navies under an international system for the sole purpose of keeping order and resisting crime.

Let us pray that the time may come quickly when peace and progress will be the aim of all, and when the principles of Christianity will have been so firmly established that the world will be free from the scourge of war, and the people will be free from the scourge of war.

Yours sincerely, ELLIENNA M. COOPER St. John, N. B. July 18, 1917.

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