

Notes and Comments

(Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M. A.)

Peace Proposals

The Kaiser's Peace proposal is a reversal of the principles under which the German State went out to war. The German people were taught for years that war was necessary for the virility of a nation, that world-power was the goal of German effort, and that the Beatitude should read: "Blessed are the war-makers." The sudden suggestion of peace negotiations indicates a discovery that the principles above stated break down in the presence of the eternal facts of human life. It is by no means likely that the Allies would even seriously discuss the terms which the Kaiser would dictate, but the fact of his opening up the subject seems to make it incumbent on the Allies to state their position in this crucial matter.

The Premier's Visit

The visit of Sir Robert Borden and Mr. R. B. Bennett indicates the real gravity of the whole war situation. It is not an easy matter for the Premier of Canada to leave the Capital to travel across the Dominion at a time when his office at Ottawa is crammed and congested with business. There is no need of pessimism, but there is need of our taking things a little more seriously. Cabarets and dansants and overflowing theatres as well as Sunday desecration and extravagant living ought to be put sternly aside. This is not a time for "the gaiety of nations."

A National Service Week

The first week in January is to be National Service week in Canada. It is set apart for the registration of the man-power of the Dominion. It is also the week that has been set apart for years by the world's Evangelical Alliance as the Week of Prayer. There is special fitness in the concurrence of these two in the present hour. The great leaders of the army and navy, Sir William Robertson and Sir David Beatty, have called the Empire to prayer. "There are more things wrought by prayer than the world wots of," and the opening week of the New Year may well be made a time of both devotion and concrete activity.

The Slavery Question

A mass meeting in New York presided over by Rev. Dr. Manning, and addressed by men of international fame like Elihu Root, has protested against the slave-raids into Belgium and the deportation of the Belgian people to man the industries of Germany. But a mass meeting in New York is not enough. How a great nation which has as one of its chief distinctions the immortal work of Abraham Lincoln, the emancipator, can quietly look on without protest while an unoffending nation is being whipped into slavery, baffles ordinary comprehension. Is the United States going to allow this great world struggle to be fought out without raising her voice against conditions which would have caused the writers of the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation to boil with righteous indignation?