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## PEACE AND GOOD WILL.

For four years as Xmas has come round we have sung the angel song "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace good-will toward men" to the accompaniment of the booming of the guns at the battlefronts. Surely a very strange accompaniment for such a song! But this year we shall sing that song with an accompaniment more appropriate. The bells will ring out. Church organs will peal forth their music. And all hearts will rejoice that peace has come again to the earth and that the way is being paved for fruitful progress through all future generations and centuries. The note of thanksgiving may very properly be sounded loud and long—"Glory to God in the Highest". He hath done wonderful things for us. "His right hand and His holy arm hath gotten Him the victory."

And now we must address ourselves to the new situation which confronts us. Never was there a time when clearer vision was called for in a people than is called for now. The situation in the world is one of supreme gravity, and surely we have learned that we must try and estimate the smallest matters of local and provincial interest in their larger relationships. The police strike in Montreal recently and later in Toronto is symptomatic of a much wider movement and deeper convictions than a police strike. It reaches to the very bottom of the social relations of men. We are enjoying peaceful conditions again but the upheaval of the last four years has set in motion currents of feeling and ambition that have not ceased to flow with peace. They still flow with deep and irresistible power and it requires the greatest wisdom and sympathy and faith on the part of our present leaders if they are to share at all in the direction of the affairs of the future.

The public generally is aware of the present critical situation in Europe, specially in Germany and Austria where the forces of law and order may collapse at any moment and give place to confusion and anarchy. But what is not so clear is the fact that such a breakdown in Europe might involve us of the American continent as well. The danger that now overhangs the world is that of a socialist revolution that would be international in its scope. It is the one great danger we now face as it is the last hope of our defeated foe.

What may precipitate such a calamity upon the world is lack of sympathy with the position of the laboring classes, the toilers of the world. God forbid that we should overlook them, for if we do we court our own doom. They must have a greater portion of the fruits of their labor than hitherto

they have enjoyed. The wealth of the world must be more equitably divided. Education and opportunity, peace and comfort and happiness must be more nearly within the reach of those who worthily seek after them. And the reason they feel this and the reason we say it is that they have in a thousand battles through this long bloody war proved their right to a fairer division of the country's resources and wealth.

We argue thus not only in the interest of those whom for the want of a better name we call the toilers but also in the interest of the capitalists and those who have heretofore led the thoughts and actions of men. For neglect of sympathetic consideration of all classes in our ordinary thinking, and in the peace proposals and adjustments, will result in an outbreak of Bolshivism and anarchy both in Europe and America.

The great need of this hour—so pregnant for good or ill in the future of the world—is a wise sympathy that will enable men of all classes to consider the position one of the other. The man who is wealthy must consider others. The man who is poor must consider others. And every effort we can exert must be put forth to advance this mutual sympathy and understanding.

To this end class divisions should be rigorously avoided. Infinite patience must be used and a desire to understand differing points of view. Everyone must hold his own opinion in such a way that light and sympathy will enable him to modify it. This may be done without sacrificing convictions or violating conscience and with great profit to the public good.

Further international relations of amity and good-will must be fostered especially with people of the same ideals, language, and aims. It is obvious that for the future well-being of this world the two great democracies, our own British democracy and the democracy of the United States of America must live and work together for the realization of the lofty ideals of order and liberty for which each stands. Every Britisher should therefore as a patriotic duty foster such a spirit of good-will and every American for the welfare of his own country must also cultivate a like spirit with Britishers.

We rejoice that we are permitted to see the dawn of world peace at this Xmas time, and what we have said in this article is said with the earnest hope and desire that conditions of permanent peace may be observed and the ideal of the angels on the first Xmas made real, "On earth peace good will toward men."