

way. What would happen plural voting, brewing, tithes and the rest if the non-conformist women had a vote? If all this heaven was working in the mass before the war be sure it will not lose its cunning when peace arrives again.

The whole world, it would appear, then, is out of joint and bewildered statesmanship will have to steady its nerve and clear its wit so as the better to grapple with the problems of restoring or recasting the social and national fabrics.

I shall start at the very heart of the Empire, or rather commonwealth, for I fear that word will have to pass; and see if possible what manner of resurrection or reconstruction it will have. Taking it for granted the tide of democracy cannot be stemmed, it will be stronger when peace is proclaimed than before the war. The common man from England, Scotland and Wales and Ireland, north and south, fighting in the trenches as comrades will carry back a consciousness of brotherhood. Privilege and caste and ascendancy will be weakened. It was weakened before the war. The loss of the veto by the Lords was the greatest victory without revolution in the history of democratic evolution. It has emasculated the menace of privilege as much as the French Revolution did in the 18th century. The Irish land law had a similar if indirect influence on the land owners in the British Isles. The fact that selling was compulsory and that the Government advanced the money to the buyer to be paid back in a reasonable time at a reasonable rate of interest got noised abroad in England itself and the tenants were soon jealous of the agitators across the strait. With this anti-bellum progress in democracy both as to land and law as a pedestal, what a statue of liberty will they not erect when it is all over! The paying of the interest on war's bonded indebtedness by succession duties and income tax will help to rear the statue and will work hand in hand with the loss of lands and laws. Democracy will do the same with the other questions in Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The ascendancy of the North will be no more. The Home Rule is law although quiescent. Possession is nine points of the law. - A Tory Government could not repeal it now and why? Democracy is the why. Labor in England now is a brother to Irish labor. The question of religion is all the while growing less and the question of a living, opportunity and rights is growing greater. Home Rule in Ireland would be a piecemeal, patchwork affair without Scotland and Wales as partners. That must come. There will be a federation in London the same as in Ottawa, Cape Town, Melbourne and Washington. Sovereignty and nationhood flatters a people; it divides the honor and the onus. It will be feasible, too, because it existed before except, perhaps, in Wales. Scotland, England