

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Call to Arms

The war, which is raging in Europe at the time of this writing, will go down in history as the crime of the ages. For that crime the Emperor of Germany, as representing the military classes of his dominions, must be held responsible. It would be unjust in the extreme to lay the blame upon the whole German people. For there are in Germany two classes—the great body of workers and thinkers, who lead the world in all that makes for advance in industry, science, art and literature; and the great military body, proud, arrogant, ambitious, that unfortunately now dominates the councils of the nation. It requires no argument to show that the ideals of the military cast are two centuries behind those of that devoted body of men who have made moral and industrial improvements their aim. German life is such that the veriest subaltern in the army counts for more, socially and politically, than the wisest scholar or the ablest industrial leader.

If Germany had been content to become the first among the nations through exercising leadership in arts and science, she might easily have attained her ideal. She would at least have won the admiration of the world and her name would ever be held in loving reverence. But, owing to the grotesque folly of her military leaders, she has determined to aim at leadership of another kind—a leadership to be won by force of arms, rather than by intellectual and moral effort. No right thinking person either in or out of Germany can sympathize with a policy so mediaeval and so completely out of harmony with Christian ideals. For it will be remembered that when Christ was asked time after time to tell about the coming of His Kingdom, he gave his hearers to understand that he came to rule in the lives and hearts of men, and not to exercise military lordship. The sorrowful thing in this war, so far as Germany is concerned, is that she is relinquishing a leadership in all that makes for true greatness, in the hope that she may attain to a political leadership, which would surely not endure even if the Kaiser had all the successes of Napoleon. For the German Empire even now is awakening to higher things. The Socialists are completely out of sympathy with the ideals of the war lords. They know that the great need of the Empire is not more territory and more power among the nations, but greater freedom for the masses. They have as their ideals nothing less than self-government and thorough-going democracy. One of the reasons why Germany is anxious to engage in war, is that she may appease this growing feeling. The militarists had to do something to justify their authority and their enormous expenditure. Hence the war.

For this war the German army has been preparing ever since 1870, but more particularly during the last three years. There has been unexampled activity in shipbuilding and in the manufacture of arms. New explosives have been tried and the most deadly manufactured in the greatest quantities. Airships have been built as fast as the makers could produce them. France has been placarded with advertisements to direct invading armies in their movements.

The seas were stocked with mines—even before hostilities were announced. Nothing was forgotten.

Then came the psychological moment. Britain had her Ulster troubles; Russia had her strike; France had her Caillaux trial. It was easy to urge the doddering old Hapsburg to declare war on Servia, and thus to start the conflagration. The meanest feature of it all is that after the endless scheming and planning, the Kaiser should solemnly

of the standing armies of the world. Thus will come a gain to both Germany and France, and to the world as a whole.

We have not as an Empire willingly undertaken the task of chastising the over-ambitious but mistaken zealots who unfortunately control the councils of Germany, but having been forced into the conflict we hope to emerge with credit to ourselves, with increased good will of the nations, and, last of all, we hope that a new Germany will be born which will be free to follow the ideals of peace. Towards this Germany even now we can hold out the hand of warmest friendship.

In the long struggle that is impending there will no doubt be dark days for the Empire and for Canada, but there is no doubt as to the ultimate triumph of the principles for which we stand, and no doubt as to the ultimate triumph of the combined forces of Britain, France and Russia. There will be quieter, saner judgment in the parliaments of the world as the result of this conflict. It is necessary that reckless pride and ambition should receive a check. Yet it is impossible to get away from the thought of the needless sacrifice of the bravest and best in the land. A full appreciation of this sacrifice is what nerves us to mete out punishment to those who are primarily responsible for the war.

The readiness of Canada to assist the mother land might have been taken for granted. Yet no one could have imagined there was lying dormant in every province such a wealth of patriotic sentiment, and that so many men of all ranks were willing to risk their lives in a just and holy cause. Our Canadian soldiers will acquit themselves nobly. Should death overtake any of them they will not have died in vain. They will have contributed their lives to the triumph of democracy, to the furtherance of the world's peace; they will have made possible a new Germany in which the ideals of peace shall prevail. And as for our country and our Empire we shall be richer because of self-sacrifice, and in addition shall have learned to love and respect still more highly two great sister nations with whom we hope to exercise friendly relations for all time.

And so with good heart and clean conscience we can say

"God speed the right."

We quote the following from the Rev. Dr. Du Val, the venerable preacher of Knox Church, Winnipeg, as to our duty in a crisis like this: "It was to see that we proved a help and an honor to the mother country; to prevent the fostering, whether for religious or political reasons, of the spirit of nationalism among our foreign population; to give ourselves to reverence and prayer, and to keep away from self-indulgence and expensiveness. It was necessary to struggle to keep Canada pure, that she might be strong. She should be frugal because there would be hungry to feed and the wounded to nurse."

ENGLAND, MY ENGLAND!

(William Ernest Henley)

What have I done for you,
England, my England?
What is there I would not do,
England, my own?
With your glorious eyes austere,
As the Lord were walking near,
Whispering terrible things and dear
As the song on your bugles blown,
England—
Round the world on your bugles blown!

Where shall the watchful Sun,
England, my England,
Match the master-work you've done,
England, my own?
When shall he rejoice again
Such a breed of mighty men
As come forward, one to ten,
To the song of your bugles blown,
England—
Down the years on your bugles blown!

Ever the faith endures,
England, my England:
"Take and break us: we are yours,
England, my own!
"Life is good, and joy runs high
Between English earth and sky:
"Death is death; but we shall die
"To the song on your bugles blown,
England—
"To the stars on your bugles blown!"

They call you proud and hard,
England, my England;
You with worlds to watch and ward,
England, my own!
You whose mailed hand keeps the keys
Of such teeming destinies
You could know nor dread nor ease
Were the song on your bugles blown,
England—
Round the pit on your bugles blown!

Mother of ships whose might,
England, my England,
Is the fierce old Sea's delight,
England, my own.
Chosen daughter of the Lord,
Spouse-in-Chief of the ancient Sword,
There's the menace of the Word
In the song on your bugles blown,
England—
Out of heaven on your bugles blown!

rise and declare that he was forced into the war and that he was actuated by a high sense of Christian duty. The last thing the modern world will tolerate is hypocrisy.

And so the war is here. True to her traditions, Great Britain has espoused the cause of justice, and where Britain leads, her children will follow. So as we respond to the call to arms it is well that we should know clearly what we hope to achieve. Surely as the result of victory this much can be expected—a new form of government for a soldier-ridden land; a restoration to France of her lost territory; a lessening of armaments; and a decrease in the numbers