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## PETER WRIGHT SAYS EDUCATION IS THE NEED

Same and adequate education of the rising generation and of the public mind of today provides the only sure panacea for Bolshevism and other radical tendencies, Mr. Peter Wright, secretary of the British Seamen's Union, declared in addressing a meeting.

Mr. Wright asserted his conviction that the British Empire, though struggling with the most staggering problems that ever confronted a nation, would emerge from the present crisis as still the greatest factor in the world's civilization and most powerful of the upholders of democracy.

"The majority of people are afraid to say what is on their mind because it is unpopular," declared Mr. Wright. "I am not here to gain favor. I have a mission to fulfil, a message to deliver, and I intend to deliver it."

"It may sound peculiar to hear a workman speak in terms of praise of the British Empire," said Mr. Wright. "I believe, however, that no land under the canopy of the heavens gives the same possibility of freedom of thought and action and the same opportunity to work out our destinies as the British Empire."

"I have been about a great deal, and I am not talking idly. I am keenly interested in the welfare of the Empire, and I am confident about it, even though Uncle Sam seems to think that Britain is down and out. We have been playing with hell with the lid off for the last six years, but we are not down and out. Uncle Sam should remember that no one was ever killed by diversity, but that some have died through prosperity. If I were to give advice right now to Uncle Sam, I would ask him to be careful and on guard, and remind him that wealth killed Rome, Persia and Greece, to cite just a few great nations that were the victims of affluence."

"To the people of the Empire I would say to be courageous and strong-hearted. This is no time for pessimism and dull spirits. There is a great soul in Britain, and it extends right down as far as you can go. There is a resurrection coming when Britain will step forward as the greatest force for civilization that the world has ever seen."

"But in our courage we cannot afford to blind ourselves to the fact that no nation was ever beset with such intense difficulties as are now facing Britain. In 1914 the Empire set out to kill German militarism and keep intact liberty and freedom, the right to work out individual salvation and other ideals for which we have always stood sponsor."

"We have won the war, but there is still a fight to be made. The Bolshevik philosophy is not dead. You may think that you are secure in Victoria; that you have nothing to fear respecting Bolshevism and the other forces of revolution and disintegration. Make no mistake about it, the next few years will decide whether Bolshevism will rule the world. Today the issue is not clear; there has been no decision—no final fight."

"You need not draw the sword to kill Bolshevism. If you would kill it, I would say that your duty is to pay more attention to your civic and national duties. Our future depends on you. In the past you have been too willing to submit your duties to representatives and politicians. Just because you elect a mayor, you must not think he is a Superman, capable of solving the problems of your city without the help and guidance of those who elected him. Don't imagine that after election day he can get in and run the whole bally show to suit you. To make him strong you have got to get behind him and inspire him; make him feel that you are with him and helping him. Otherwise, he will be simply a round peg in a square hole, running around as mayor in name only and serving no utility."

"Remember this: Whatever you are today is due to your mother and home life. The child is the only real asset of the nation and the only asset of the Empire. Many men wear the flag and talk about their wealth, but they neglect the child and everything that is worth while. The whole Empire, we in Great Britain, you in Canada and Australia and the other Dominions, should be ashamed with what has been done for the child. Talk of civilization! We are barbarians. No nation can be civilized unless it properly cares for its child life."

"You hard-headed business men, realize if you can that the child is the citizen of tomorrow, and that within the child is innate, hidden potentiality, lying dormant. What are you doing to draw it out? You herd fifty or sixty children into a classroom and give them as teacher a man or woman who perhaps is incompetent, who cannot control them or teach them anything worth while. Then you wonder that some children take the wrong road when they grow up. I have eight children of my own. On Sunday I used to try to look after them at home while my wife went to church. I couldn't begin to do it properly. How can you expect a man or woman to look after fifty or sixty someone else's children during the most important period of their lives? How can you expect the teacher to establish sympathy with them, to understand their individuality and personality, to create an atmosphere in the school suitable for every child? Unless you can do these things you are wasting money in your appropriations for education."

"I am for an Empire of cooperation, a commonwealth based on equality for every child. Some people are able to pay for special facilities for their children, and are able to buy for them all that culture under the most favorable conditions can provide. We can never have a lasting Empire, an Empire based on solid, sensitive foundations, until there is equal opportunity for the child of the slums and the child of the millionaire. Some people will tell you that we have that condition already. I say it is a lie and a damned lie. Equality in education doesn't exist."

"I wonder if you have examined your child mortality statistics. I wonder if you know that in Canada 100 to 170 children die of every thousand



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are murdered by ignorance and little more cautious, a little more farsighted, your representatives in parliaments would be the same. They must keep pace with the people who elected them. They cannot afford to be behind them or too far ahead.

"The people of the Empire must realize, too, that man is something more than a mere money-making machine. If you make all the money in the world, you can't take any of the damned stuff along with you when you go. The men who have done the great things for the world, the pilots of civilization, were not men of enormous wealth. They were men who died in poverty, but whose names and works still live.

"I have found out here in British Columbia traces of Bolshevism and anarchism. That is the result of ignorance. There is no good in liberty unless in the schools you inculcate a knowledge of what true liberty is and of its relationship to the welfare of the world. The books on the soap box preaching class war is sure to get a following so long as he has ignorance for an audience. The men individually and collectively be just a who will listen to and be convinced

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Pearl Soap one tried the same experiment; testing the alarming slump in sales in six months they resumed their advertising and did not bust.

If people did not die; if people did not move, if new generations did not grow up, if customs and habits did not change, if competition did not compete, if people were not open to suggestion and receptive to new ideas, there would be no need of advertising, and when a business was once built up it would stay put. But until then advertising is the surest safeguard for the established product, be most certain hope for the new idea.—Aberdeen (S. D.) News.

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by arguments to smash up the hated capitalists and divide the spoils are products of neglected education. The evils of today are a product of our own creation.

"I know I am a dreamer, but it takes a wise man to be a fool. I may be ahead of my time, but I believe the time is coming when the Empire will stand on one commonwealth where there is true liberty and equality, where the spirit of altruism and love will be pre-eminent, where every man will be afforded the opportunity of attaining the highest in culture; where the aim of man will be to uplift his fellow rather than continue the damnable competitive system. I know the commercial fabric from top to bottom. It is based on barbarism. It can be altered and it will be altered, but not along the lines advocated by Nikolai Lenin. It will be altered by evolution and enlightenment, and not by physical means."

"In Stockholm in 1917 I talked with Lenin. He told me that it was impossible to alter the present system without a struggle, a clash of arms. I differed with him. He was too tied up with the doctrine of Karl Marx to understand the spirit that is dominant in the Anglo-Saxons. I told him that so far as Britain was concerned the revolution which he said was inevitable would never come off. Ramsey Macdonald had much the same view as Lenin. He asked Premier Asquith for a passport to go to a conference with the Bolsheviks. I begged Asquith not to do it, but politicians are funny animals. They always sit on the fence. Macdonald got his passport, but at Aberdeen he was prevented from boarding his ship by a sailor. The sailor's opinion would not let him go. I mention the incident because it is interesting to know that Ramsey Macdonald only six weeks ago damned Lenin in every way he could, and said he had been to Russia and he had found out."

"When I left England I was informed that I would be shot within a month. I don't mind that, but it shows that hidden forces of revolution are still with us. They are fed here by gold and they are not making the noise they once did. They may be quiet, but they are not ignorant. Intellectual leaders are behind them."

"It is your duty to combat them not by force, but by education by the light of knowledge and public opinion. Public opinion can kill any movement like Bolshevism, but I know nothing else that can do it. Public opinion is the result of education. Communism, Bolshevism, anarchism and the Sinn Fein are sinister movements, and they still are strong. It is your duty to confront them. It is your duty to create the atmosphere for a healthy and happy nation. Unless you start with the child and get your foundations there, teach the fundamentals of democracy and citizenship to your growing men and women from infancy, you cannot prevent the growth of radicalism."

"Teach your children what their forefathers did not—eliminate the bumbing that is in the text books of today. President Harding talks of universal peace. I wonder if Harding knows that in the textbooks of American schools there is material that urges children to hate the British. How can we have universal peace when children passing through the most impressionable age are taught that sort of thing? Get at the child before he is fourteen and you can make him anything."

Mr. Wright urged the calling together of an international conference on education for the purpose of standardizing textbooks, largely with a view to break down the prejudices being sown by partisan history books.

"The war killed 20,000,000 men, the flower of their countries," he proceeded. "The war left an army of widows, of cripples, of orphans and war millionaires. No wonder we have great, staggering problems to face. We should try to settle our differences at a round table conference. I never knew a mother who wanted war, nor a father for that matter. A great co-operative world movement to lay the groundwork for lasting peace through education of the rising generation is the only way we can prevent future wars. It is the only foundation on which to rest a superstructure that will realize the Kingdom of God on earth."

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