

STRIKING TRIBUTE TO CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

[Continued from page 7.]

the 11th day of November had produced the result of not merely mobilizing 3,700,000 men, but, with the very generous and indispensable assistance of the British transportation fleet, transporting two millions of them to France (applause), clothing them and equipping them, concerting itself with the French and the British in the matter of the manufacture of munitions so that all speed would be obtained and the maximum use made of the common resources of all the countries,—a country which in twenty months had done that and then had so supplemented and enlarged and speeded up and diverted and changed its industrial processes that on the 11th day of November the tide of munitions, guns, ammunition, clothes, food, aircraft, all sorts and conditions of devices for the making of war, was rising in the Pacific and swelling over to the Atlantic coast until it was almost impossible to find a place on the Atlantic coast of the United States where you could see the sea. (Laughter.) Of course the armistice was signed because the German army was beaten, and if it had not been signed on the 11th day of November it would have been signed on the 12th day of November. What you were doing, what we were doing, what Great Britain was doing and France was doing—what the free and enlightened men of the world were doing everywhere, with a common purpose and with a common spirit, nobody thinking of his own and everybody thinking of saving the vital things of life—what we were doing was a swelling anthem to an imperial theme, and if the end had not in fact come on the 11th day of November the tide of disaster had registered for our adversary. (Applause.)

CANADIANS AND AMERICANS.

Now, if I may turn aside from that to a somewhat more intimate thought just a moment. While I was in London I had the privilege of attending a theatrical exhibition given at night on Sunday, because we could not get to the theatre at any other time. It was given by amateurs. They were a company of Canadians, Canadian soldiers. I am sorry I do not remember the names of those delightful fellows. Only one of them occurs to me at the present moment; his name, I think, was Murray, and I think he was from Montreal. They gave the exhibition for the benefit of the American soldiers who were stationed in London, and it led me to inquire of the American general over there something about the relations between the American soldiers and the Canadian. I inquired of him, and then I, having started on that inquiry, made it my business to inquire every place I went, and I have an unbroken line of testimony that the American soldiers and the Canadian soldiers were friends from the very start. (Applause.) Apparently we had no barriers of any sort between us, and the friendships that were begun then undoubtedly are going to continue when our soldiers come home. (Applause.) That means then, if it means what I think it means, that the people of Canada and the people of the United States stand now upon a somewhat different—I think I may say a somewhat higher—plane of friendship than we have ever stood on before. (Applause.) We have been engaged together in the greatest task that either of the countries has ever had a chance to participate in. We have won the greatest victory the world has ever seen, both because it is the largest victory in mere size and also because it has the most profound significance of any victory that has ever been won; and we have won that victory by being a part of the forces of righteousness arrayed against the forces of unrighteousness.

And we look back now to our traditions as a peace-loving and a peace-following people, and ask ourselves what is the meaning of the victory. What are we going to get out of it? And I am sure it will be clearer to you all that I have not in my mind any vulgar question about profit and loss, in the ordinary sense, when I ask that question. On the fields of France there sleep to-day tens of thousands of boys

who were raised in this Dominion. Side by side with them there sleep tens of thousands of boys who were raised across the line. They died fighting the same fight; they are buried in the same soil, and that soil is consecrated by the sacrifices they have made; and the thing they died for, it is our trust and duty to see executed. (Applause.)

WHAT WOULD THEY HAVE?

If we could summon them back and make some tally of their judgments and ask them what they wanted us to insist upon as the arrangements that are to grow out of this peace, what would their answer be? Would they have had, would they now have, any special interest in questions of geographical boundary? No doubt if we could explain to each one of them the precise intricacies of some of the geographical questions which affect the welfare of races and nations, they would have just views as to what ought to be done about that; but, uninstructed about these things, what would be the wish of these soldiers as to our task if we could ask them about it?

I remember, when I was in France the last time, I happened to be in a hospital in which there was a Californian soldier of the United States who was wounded, and somebody brought into him a French newspaper in which it was said that Bulgaria had asked for terms and that it was thought that Austria would ask for terms very soon, and they asked him, this wounded American from California, what he thought about that. He was silent for a moment and then said: "Well, you see, I live six thousand miles from here and I can't be coming over every ten years to straighten this thing out. (Laughter.) Let's do it now."

If we could summon this company who have made the sacrifice and could ask them what their wish about it is—if their dust could stir and their voices could speak, what would they say to us? Would they not say: "We cannot make the sacrifice over again. Don't let this one be in vain." Would they not ask us to make some arrangements to prevent such a catastrophe from occurring again? I care nothing about the details of plans. As a matter of fact, I have been too long connected with the administration of laws to imagine that the forms of laws matter very much, but the spirit that is back of law is the thing that we have to be concerned about. Is it not therefore our duty to them and our duty to those who are to come after us? We might shuffle through our generation without another such disturbance as this. I suppose we have had the war disease and we personally are immune; but the next generation will not be protected perhaps by the mere fact that we have been victims. Is it not our duty to those who have

died and to the next generation to see that in the arrangements now made there shall be such facilities offered as are necessary to bring into concerted action promptly the good-will of right-thinking and civilized men everywhere to avert a repetition of this catastrophe from the face of the earth? (Applause.)

TRIBUTE TO SIR E. GREY.

We had an old-fashioned kind of peace in 1914. We had the balance of power, and everybody was afraid to breathe hard; and then when these streams of conflict of opinion and these eruptions of ambition and these fruitions of long brooded and evil designs began to come to the surface and the currents of world affairs began to swirl in the direction of a catastrophe, what more pitiful spectacle had any of you ever seen than the powerlessness of the great statesmen of the world to meet that emergency? When the history of this war comes to be written, one of the noblest, and most pathetic figures in it will be Sir Edward Grey, as he sat in his cabinet in London and sent telegram after telegram from one capital to another and sought formula by which some interposition might be made that would avert what he saw was a catastrophe to the human race. We realized the need of machinery to aid. No physicians had been educated who could minister to that disease. There were no shops from which any of the drugs necessary to assuage it could be procured. There were no instruments by which the necessary operations could be performed to relieve the distress. He sat there, high-minded, perfectly aware of the headlong flight of mankind to the worst catastrophe in the history of the world; exhausted his ingenuity, invoked the aid of every other right-thinking person, and got it, and found that he was powerless to prevent this thing.

WHAT PEACE MUST BE.

I am not a member of the Peace Conference, and neither are you; we are talking on the outside—I am not seeking to bind anybody by any plan. I don't care two pins what the plan is. I am a pragmatist about it. I want a plan that will work. I want some arrangement made which, when the heady passions of evil men seek to throw the world into a further turmoil and tumult, will focus the enlightened opinion of mankind and focus the conscience of mankind upon them in such a way that every man can see exactly what is going on and the real, sane and just opinion of the world exert a controlling influence. (Applause.)

There are other problems connected with the war. This is a different world from what it was in 1914. It will never go back to that place. It is a wiser world, a better world, a more hopeful

world. I look forward with immense elation of spirit to the things we are going to do from now on. Men who could do what your Canadian soldiers have done on the front in France and what the soldiers of the United States have done on the front in France have a capacity for big achievement which is immensely promising for their activities when they return to the solution of our civil and domestic questions.

Yet in this different world which we are now facing there are some problems of very grave moment, growing out of the fact that in many parts of the world peoples who have not your traditions, nor ours, of self-government, people who have been long repressed under the tyranny of wrong-headed governments and under the illusion of wrong philosophies, have now come to a time when by your efforts and ours—the associated efforts of the civilized people of the world, a whole category of new liberties and freedoms have been born. The gift of freedom has come now to nations who have never had it before, and they are splashing about a good deal in trying to find out what to do with it.

THEY WOULD NOT BE MISSED.

I sometimes think that if every governing person in a country like the United States or Canada were by some process—I don't want to suggest anything unpleasant—but if by some process they were all removed at one time (laughter), it would not make any difference. What would happen, for instance, if all of the persons who govern the city of Cleveland, my native city—the Mayor and all the councillors, the police and the firemen and all the rest of them—went away on a long vacation? Instantly there would be people gathered in the streets and they would look around and find the tallest man, or the most solemn-looking man (laughter); they would say: "What is your name?... Well, you be Chairman." And in a very little while there would be a committee appointed to rearrange the business, and that committee would move along toward the City Hall, and find other committees coming down there; and finally all the committees would get together and they would pick out somebody whose name was known, they would make him Chairman and provide a temporary arrangement. Pretty soon there would be a new set of officers and things would go along about the same. That is because for generations the traditions of self-government have been bred into us; we know how to organize the community opinion of our people for expression through regular and orderly channels.

But in many of these nations where freedom has now come, nobody recognizes the chairman. (Laughter.) Each man imagines that freedom is a personal asset and that he can exercise his part of it without any reference to anybody else. They do not recognize the fact, which we have learned by long experience, that one man's rights end where another man's rights begin. Each of them thinks of himself as a circle and of everything in that circle as all his, and thinks that it is the whole body of liberty and freedom. He does not know that all the circles around him are interlocked with it and make interferences, where he has to yield something in order that somebody else may have the circle of his rights. And so, those people, not having these traditions, not having these experiences, are going to be very much troubled about what to do with freedom. They cannot become wisely governed and sedate communities by merely borrowing your constitution or ours. Both of them are very excellent documents if you understand them. (Laughter.) But neither of them is of the slightest use to a man who cannot understand them; they might just as well be printed in Hindostani. Those constitutions require to be read by people who have lived them, and sending them over by parcels post to somebody else adds merely to the accumulation of literature and nothing to the benefit of liberty.

WATERS MUST BE TROUBLED.

I am not in any sort of despair about this. It is in this case, as in many others; the waters must be troubled, and sometimes profoundly troubled, be-

[Continued on page 9.]

HOW DEPENDENTS OF THE SOLDIERS ARE HANDLED

Approximately 50,000 dependents of Canadian soldiers overseas are in the British Isles at the present time, in addition to some 22,000 already returned to Canada, according to official estimates of the Department of Militia.

Under the Government's policy as announced, these 50,000 will be brought to the Dominion at public expense. The number includes wives, children, and other dependents of all officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force still serving overseas. In addition to this number, other dependents to the number of several thousand, who have come to Canada since the signing of the armistice on November 11 last and who have paid their own ocean and railway fares, will have the money expended refunded by the Government, the new regulations being retroactive to that date.

Although full particulars are as yet unavailable, it is well established that by far the great majority of the 50,000 dependents still to come to Canada are the wives of the Canadian fighters married in Great Britain since the outbreak of the war, many of whom will see the shores of the Dominion for the first time.

On arrival at the port of disembarkation facilities will be provided for men and their dependents to travel on civilian trains, instead of the regular troop trains, and every means taken to provide for their comfort until their final destinations are reached.

In connection with the arrival of returning soldiers, the Militia Department again expresses the hope that relatives in Canada refrain from going to Halifax, St. John, or other port of disembarkation to meet ships, in order that unnecessary confusion and congestion may be avoided.