

## WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING

### Bright Clippings from Wide-a-wake Contemporaries

"The German Government is clamoring at any door, back or front, which promises entrance to any peace which is not the peace of undisguised defeat."—*"Manchester Guardian,"* June 21, 1917

"For reasons to which this nation may fairly plead guiltless the end of the war is more remote than once seemed possible. A sudden collapse of the enemy may be ruled out of our calculations."—*"Times,"* June 20, 1917.

Films of the Russian Revolution, presented to the Soldiers' and Workmen's Council to raise money for a fund for released Siberian prisoners' needs, have come to London. They show a New Russia in the first ecstatic moments of its freedom.

#### A GHOULISH MOCKERY

"The graves before Sebastopol must always stand as a mockery of the graves on Gallipoli."—From *"The Future of Constantinople"* by I. S. Woolf.

#### A NEW PATENT CRANK

The *"London Telegraph"* has discovered that Pacifists are "Cranks," but that cranks are little things which make revolutions.

#### AMERICA, OUR HOPE

Our "fight for victory men" now seem to be depending on a huge army to be sent over from America. On this the *"New Republic"* (quoted in the *"Nation"*) says:

The result for this summer and the next would, at best, be a hideously expensive stalemate. The deadlock could be broken only by the dispatch of a huge American army to Europe one so large that it could not be recruited, equipped, and trained until the summer of 1919. Even then it might be impossible to transport it to Europe. . . . A war conducted until 1920 on a scale required by a military decision might bring peace with victory, but it would also bring victory with suicide.

#### A TRAGEDY OF WAR

"One of the greatest tragedies of the war is to see the idealist laying down his life for a peace that is to be arranged by the materialists."—From a British officer's letter, quoted at the Leeds Convention.

#### CONNOLLY AGAINST CAPITALISM

"It was not against England but against Capitalism that Connolly rebelled. His death was a protest against its atrocities."—Lion Phillimore in the *"Nation."*

#### "THE PUSH" NOW 1918

The *"New York Tribune"* declares that if Germany is to be decisively defeated a 1918 campaign is inevitable.

Mr. Bonar Law stated in reply to a question in the British House of Commons that the passports of the I.L.P. delegates to Russia, had not been withdrawn.

Any official, high or low, who uses the power entrusted to him by the citizens to deny them any right which the Constitution grants, is a greater enemy to Canada than a foreign foe. It is the Prussianized public official who is now the greatest menace to the liberty of the people.—*The Messenger,*

"So far as the Allies are concerned, the best hope of peace is a frank and open statement both by way of avowal and disavowal of the objects for which they are fighting. As a means to that

end I welcome the fullest use of all opportunities for an interchange of views between representatives of the great democracies. It cannot be too clearly stated that this is a matter for the peoples, rather than for the governments. Once that is realized by the democracies of the world, we shall be within measurable sight of an honorable and lasting peace."—Herbert A. Asquith, ex-premier of Great Britain in the House of Commons, on July 26, 1917.

#### COMING TRANSFORMATION

No revolution ever rises above the intellectual level of those who made it, a little gained where one false notion supplants another, but we must some day, at last and forever, cross the line between nonsense and common sense.

And on that day we will pass from class paternalism, originally derived from fetish fiction, in time of universal ignorance, to human brotherhood in accordance with the nature of things and our growing knowledge of it—from political government to industrial administration, from competition in individualism to individuality in co-operation, from war and despotism in any form to peace and liberty.—Thomas Carlyle, 1871.

#### THE FRACTION OF A MEANING

##### War in 1917.

The *"Nation"* for June 23 contains a letter from a young officer written to a friend. In it he speaks appreciatively of a recent article in the *"Nation,"* "On Leave," and avers:

It is hideously exasperating to hear people talking glib commonplaces about the war and distributing cheap sympathy to its victims. Perhaps you are tempted to give them a picture of a leprous earth, scattered with the swollen and blackening corpses of hundreds of young men. The appalling stench of rotting carrion mingled with the sickening smell of exploded lyddite and ammonal. Mud like porridge, trenches like shallow and sloping cracks in the porridge—porridge that stinks in the sun. Swarms of flies and bluebottles clustering on pits of offal. Wounded men lying in the shell holes among the decaying corpses; helpless under the searching sun and bitter nights, under repeated shelling. Men with bowels dropped out, lungs shot away, with blinded, smashed faces, or limbs blown into space. Men screaming and gibbering. Wounded men hanging in agony on the barbed wire, until a friendly spout of liquid fire shrivels them up like a fly in a candle.

But these are only words, and probably only convey a fraction of their meaning to their hearers. They shudder, and it is forgotten. . . .

#### IS LIBERTY AT STAKE?

According to a news dispatch from "Le-Pay," warships stand like sentinels guarding Montreal, and special companies of soldiers have been drafted to conspicuous positions, provided with the usual civilizing accoutrements. We are led to ask what for; are they preparing for a regatta, or a jubilee? Potters Field is not inconveniently situated, however, in case of any person refusing to become a convert to militarism.

#### A SHORT CUT

##### Or Diplomatic Expediency.

"Labor Leader," June 14, 1917.  
The suggestion of Mr. G. Bernard Shaw that "if we wish to kill C.O.'s,

cannot we shoot them out of hand and have done with it, Dublin fashion" would seem to have commended itself to the military authorities who are responsible for sending another batch of C.O.'s to France.

The following letters have just been brought to our office. Both are from members of the I.L.P., and both are shining witnesses of the reality of the faith on which our movement is founded. Well we know it that our comrades are prepared to do or die, and to die gladly, rather than submit to the intolerable slavery that would compel a human being, utterly against his will and conscience, to become the slayer of his fellows or in any way to aid in that slaying. But is our Government prepared for the consequences of the cold-blooded murder of such men? We warn them that the echo of the shots which should free our comrades' spirits from bondage will be heard in every part of the world today, and most of all in Tolstoy's country, the new Russia of the Revolution.

#### LETTERS FROM C.O.'S IN FRANCE

Somewhere in France,

Friday Night.

My Dear Wife,—Just a few lines to let you know that I have arrived in France. We had a beautiful passage across this morning; we are at present at a rest camp and are being moved again to-morrow. Now do not worry; I am in the best of health and spirits. I feel proud that I am one of the first Manchester men to be sent out here to testify to our glorious cause. I trust that God will give men strength to come through this struggle.

Albert Middleton.

Somewhere in France,

June 9.

Dear Mother and Dad and All,—Just a few lines to let you know that I am still in good health and spirits and quite prepared for whatever happens. I hope that you won't worry and get downhearted by my being here, as I am proud to think that I should be chosen to suffer this ordeal, which others have suffered.

I hope you have received the letter and postcard I sent you when in England, and hope parcel will be returned to you soon.

Please remember me to all on Wednesday, and tell them to keep the flag flying, as we shall. Well, I will close now, and will write you as often as I can, but if you do not hear for a day or so don't get anxious about me, but hope for the best.

Well, good night, with best love to all at home.

I remain your loving son,

Joe Davies.

No. 48,178, E. Co., 3rd Manchesters, 30th I.B.D., A.P.O., S. 17, France. Guard Room.

#### A SINISTER DOCUMENT

Material for reflections is provided by a trade prospectus which appears in the *"London Times"* of July 27th. The prospectus refers to the "British Trade Corporation," an undertaking with a nominal capital of £10,000,000 and a directorate of influential business men. The corporation is described in the City Notes of the *"Times"* as being the "British Trade Bank." "The corporation," says the prospectus, "has been incorporated by Royal Charter with a view to carrying out the recommendations of the Departmental Committee of the Board of Trade appointed to consider the best means of meeting the needs of British firms after the war as regards financial facilities for trade. . . ." The corporation will specially devote its energies to the development of the trade of the British Empire in every part of the world. The corporation states that it has the goodwill of the British Government and quotes the

following from its charter as showing this:

"In any cases in which as a result of arrangements between Our Government of the United Kingdom and any other government, whether the Government of a British possession or protectorate or a foreign Government, Our Government is desirous that British Capital (a capital "C" is used) shall participate in financial operations not falling within the terms of any agreements or arrangements with other parties which may be existing at the date of Our Charter, and requires an Agent for the representation of British interests so far as relates to trade and finance. We do hereby . . . grant and confer on the Corporation the right in such cases of being such Agent of Our Government."

The directors are sixteen in number. The names include directors of large firms of merchants, of East India merchants, of chemical manufacturers, of the Calico Printers' Association, and of other firms. They also include the names of Sir Vincent Caillard (Director, Vickers, Ltd.), J. H. B. Noble (Director), Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Sir Hallerwell Rogers (Chairman Birmingham Small Arms Co., Birmingham).

This document, in its implications, is compact of all the evils that most definitely contributed to bringing the present war and which will, if unchecked, bring further wars to the world. It implies the continuance and even the more vigorous pursuit of the competition with capitalists and financiers of other nations for foreign markets, for concessions in new countries, and for the privilege of loaning money to China and other extra European countries. One recognizes this regretfully enough; for one had hoped that the war had taught the wisdom, if not of abandoning, at all events of modifying, the lines of activity which analysis has shown to have been so largely responsible for the war's occurrence.

And there is something in this document that is perhaps even more foreboding than the mere continuance of the policy of capitalistic "expansion." It would appear that the Government puts itself definitely behind this body of capitalists. We have known that in the past the policy of the Foreign Office and the intrigues of diplomats have been largely inspired by a desire to advance the interests of capitalists and financiers of their nationality in securing concessions and favorable opportunities generally for the exploitation of "undeveloped" countries, but never before has a definite alliance between the Government and the capitalists in this exploitation been so openly confessed.

This alliance gives a very good indication of what will certainly be a pronounced trend in the movement of economic life after the war, viz., an alliance between capitalism and the State—always, it will be pleaded, for the benefit of the nation of the Empire and because of patriotism. Associated with this movement will quite probably occur the state control of certain industries, but the object of the movement as a whole will only be to make capitalism more efficient as a whole under the developing conditions of to-day. So long as the State continues essentially capitalistic in its make-up, capitalism will only benefit by alliance with the State. The war has shown the capitalists of Great Britain that, for the sake of their future, they will be compelled to acquiesce in and even to welcome the "socialization" of certain industries, such as has been taking place during the war. It is recognized on all hands in Great Britain that the relations between the State, Capital, and Labor can never be the same after the war as they were

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