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DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP.

The present war has brought about a certain condition which is unparalleled in the history of the world. The conflict we are engaged in is so immense, its ramifications so widespread, that practically the whole universe is in a state of unrest, or at least is existing under abnormal conditions.

Such conditions demand that the peace time methods of government go by the board. The government, or system of government, which was satisfactory during times of quiet commercial business, is unfitted to handle the crises that arise during a period of war. The need for stern measures of government is seen throughout this conflict, and we have to admit that Germany's success is mainly due to the autocratic control she has over her own peoples, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria. As time goes on, the nations are developing along the line of autocratic government—not in the strict sense of the word—but, in a form rather more along democratic lines, by appointing controllers with certain powers.

These nations need only to go a step further now in order to control the situation as it should be controlled by appointing Dictators. It is only necessary to refer to the present crisis in the United States over the question of coal and fuel shortage, involving restrictions upon users, to illustrate the need for a dictatorship which would be powerful enough to take no notice of protests from the outside.

In the case of England, which today has a form of government as nearly democratic as can be found, Premier Lloyd George is, to all intents and purposes, Dictator; his powerful stand on the questions of war control is sufficient to indicate that he is "the man on the job".

It is an open secret that the high command of the French army has asserted its authority on the vital questions at issue in France during the present war, in spite of the elected chamber of deputies. Dictatorship again.

By dictatorship is not meant one man government, but rather individual power to seize the opportune moment, to assimilate the best ideas, and to express, in no uncertain terms, the ultimatum.

This, in our belief, is the only method of government that will be successful during the war.

Drastic measures naturally control and restrict the liberties of a people. This is the principle underlying the success of the measure. Strikes in England and Scotland, demonstrations in France, and organised resistance in the United States, have been the outcome of

certain drastic measures controlling the food supply, the provision of men for military service, and the fuel supply; showing that the people are not educated yet to such dictatorial methods.

True democracy, as we know, demands equality of liberties of the people as dictated by the people. The mere suggestion of authority is opposed to these principles: Authority suggests Control, and Control the Restriction Of Liberty.

Revolt is the outcome: Revolt leads to War, and War to Chaos—demanding unequal self sacrifice, which in its turn destroys democracy, so that we cannot have true democracy in time of war.

Democratic government depends for its existence upon pacific times. The present conflict has placed the nations in an abnormal state and government on democratic principles is undergoing, at the present moment, its most severe test.

Dictatorship, or its equivalents, is coming to the fore in all directions and is, we believe, the only solution of this problem.

MAJOR MOORE THANKS
US FOR COLLECTION

To the Editor of

"Knots and Lashings".

Dear Sir:—

Will you allow me the courtesy of space in the columns of your paper to express both for myself personally, as well as for the Wardens of St. James' Church our hearty appreciation of the response made by the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Engineer Training Depot to the appeal for assistance to better equip the Chaplains' Service Overseas. In addition to the usual Sunday collection we received from this source the sum of \$140.75, including \$33.25 collected for this purpose by C.S.M.'s Escott and Sims. This generous response is of a piece with all our experiences of the Engineer Training Depot whenever any good cause is named to them, and we count it a

privilege to receive this response and send it forward to aid in the good work it is intended to support and extend.

Yours very faithfully,

Arthur H. Moore,

Rector of St. James' Church.

Jan. 24th, 1918.

SEEN THE NURSERY?

The officers class-room bears the sign "Officers Class No. 34—NURSERY". We who have been through the "Milne" at the stables and in the riding school think it should read "Hospital" instead of "Nursery". We understand, however, that the sports committee has under its earnest consideration the provision of toys for this room.

PRISONERS OF WAR FUND.

We are asked to acknowledge with thanks \$10.00 from Mr. A. De Rosiere, c/o Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd.

THE REAL HERO

We've heard a lot about the man
Behind the hammer and the plow.
Who keeps industries thriving
And feeds the world just now.
Also about our heroes
Who fight for right, not might—
But what about the little girl
Who prays for him each night?

This little girl who waits at home,
Her lonely vigil keeps:
And looks upon her darling boy
As peacefully he sleeps.
"Ah, dear God, send my loved one back"—
She sends her prayer on high,
Then turns away from baby's crib
With tear drops in her eye.

At night, when sitting all alone,
With heavy heart and sad—
She wonders if her baby boy
Will ever see his dad.
She pictures him in bloody strife,
While her poor heart nigh breaks—
This is the hero of them all
The little girl who waits!

—Sergt. MURPHY.