

dominions without in any way lessening their present political status. There will always be great danger in this general council of reverting to the colonial condition in which a tax might have to be paid on tea shipped not to Boston but to Quebec. Treaty-making without sovereignty was new to the dictionary, still that now is an accomplished fact. And some new federation may come after this war between the various members of the British commonwealths that will divide equally between the overseas and the at home legislators the political deposit and powers of the whole. Something new will be worked out in the British Isles that would not have been possible before the war. Ireland, Scotland and Wales will have, no doubt, local Houses and look after local matters. But foreign relations, fiscal policies and war will not be within their competence or jurisdiction.

Another matter of political importance which the war is going to permanently affect is socialism. This theory which is partly economical and partly political has been exploited with persistence, violence and heat since the days of Engel and Marx. It's the voice of dissatisfaction and discontent. It is a reaction against the individualism of the eighteenth century. It is now almost cheated of its incentive and objective as the majority of men, even society itself, has also been quietly but strongly running in the opposite direction. Brotherhood, neighborhood co-operation are words in everyone's mouth and consequently the speakers in the parks not saying anything new are neglected and find their trade and popularity almost gone. In the twentieth century the pendulum is swinging to the exact opposite extreme from where it was in the eighteenth and those who come after us may find the tide setting in again in the opposite direction. What it advanced regarding utilities—that they should be taken over and administered by the state in the interests of the people—has been done and is being done more fully now—to their hearts' content or rather discontent, for they hoped to have had a hand in it and to have gotten credit for it. The exigencies of war have forced the governments on the one hand and coerced the people on the other to adopt all their important theories. Everything from corn to cotton has been socialized. Everything from munitions to men has been mobilized. The individual now is a thing, is an instrument, is an asset of the state. This new thing will remain with us till the war is over. After that some of it will no doubt never be revoked. As a political theory socialism, collectivism and the others in modified forms were tried in a small way and tentatively centuries ago. And they failed, as extreme doctrines are always bound to do. Now that they have been adopted as a military necessity,