

is nothing to be said for the Turks now, and if that is the only phrase—and that is the only one I can find—which the hon. member thinks conflicts with the general spirit of the declaration made by the Council of Workmen, I do not think there is any ground for saying there is any substantial difference of opinion between any of those who have spoken this afternoon. There is nothing new in this statement. It is a little more elaborate, but it was precisely the same as the celebrated statement of the right hon. gentleman [Mr. Asquith] that we would never sheathe the sword until Belgium recovered all and more than all she has sacrificed, until France was adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities were placed on an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia was fully and finally destroyed. That is only the same thing stated more shortly than in the reply to President Wilson's Note, and that was all that we purported to say, as is actually stated in the Note itself.

*The Time for Negotiations*

Then the hon. member said we ought to enter upon negotiations. I thought my hon. friends answered very well that at this moment it would not be desirable for us to ask for terms of peace from Germany. There is a well-known French saying—it arose on a discussion with regard to capital punishment, and the reply was, 'Que messieurs les assassins commencent !'—let the murderers begin. But certainly, to judge from the German Chancellor's speech, there is no inclination on the part of the Germans even to state what terms of peace they are ready to accept. I am not going to say much about that speech. As far as I can see, what is happening in Germany now is what has happened in every domestic crisis in that country for the last forty or fifty years. We have had it over and over again. A popular movement, a popular demand for some reform or some act of justice, an appearance by the Government that they are going to yield or make terms ; a protest, generally couched in very offensive terms, from the Junker party, and the immediate surrender by the Government to the Junkers. That appears to me to be exactly what has happened and what is the real meaning of Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the Reichstag the other day [February 27, 1917], and