

production and in the acquisition of wealth, but as one concerning the health and comfort and happiness of the workers of the world. Captains of industry, whether they represent capital or labor, will in Mr. King's treatment of the subject find much that will be helpful to the good understanding between the parties to industry—Labor, Capital, Management and the Community, Mr. King names them — without which neither peace nor progress can be expected. The book will take a high place in the literature of the social questions which in these days are assuming paramount importance.

Secret Diplomacy

THE approach of the Peace Conference affords an opportunity for a revival of the nonsense so often spoken and written about the alleged evils of what is called "secret diplomacy." To the multitude who have no time to think seriously about the larger questions of public affairs, nothing is more likely to be acceptable than a general denunciation of secret diplomacy and a general demand that all public business be transacted in the open. That some international arrangements made in secrecy have worked against the world's good is true enough; but it would be a grave mistake to assume that therefore all public affairs should be considered and settled in open courts. Lord Northcliffe, whose zeal as a journalist seeking sensations appears to be outrunning his common sense, is the latest to join in the demand for publicity in diplomacy. In an interview at Paris a few days ago he said:

"Nothing can be worse for the prospects of the coming conference," said Northcliffe, "than an atmosphere of secrecy and half-truths. Yet up to the present there has been no official statement that the momentous meetings about to take place will be held in accordance with President Wilson's expressed views on the question of open diplomacy.

"The days of secret conclaves are dead and gone. Clandestine assemblies are the harbingers of intrigue, suspicion and possible deception. It would be intolerable that the fate of whole nations—great and small—should be decided in secret. Shall the destinies of millions of people in all quarters of the globe be left to the tender mercies of a comparative handful of delegates, against whose enactments there is no public appeal? Such would be mockery of that principle of self-determination of free nations which has been fought for and won in this war."

Lord Northcliffe, we think, is too hasty in assuming that President Wilson is to demand that the Peace Conference be open to the press and public. The fact is, a certain degree of secrecy is necessary not only in diplomacy, but in all the affairs of public and private life. Public men and journalists may find that it gives them a kind of popularity with the masses to talk and write about the evils of secrecy; but the moment they come to have responsibility in handling important matters they find secrecy necessary. President Wilson does not invite the pressmen to attend his Cabinet meetings. These are conducted in secrecy, the President giving out what he pleases concerning them, or, as in most cases, giving out nothing. Lord Northcliffe, when he came to the United States to assist in propaganda, did not make his arrangements and give his directions

to his agents in open meetings. At Washington not only do important committees hold sessions in secret, but the Senate itself transacts important business with closed doors. A proposal to hold the meetings of the Peace Conference in the presence of the press representatives and the public would be too ridiculous to be entertained. The public has a right to know at a reasonable time the conclusions that are reached by those who are acting on behalf of the public. But the negotiations and discussions leading up to these conclusions are properly matters for treatment in a confidential way in the secrecy of the conference chamber.

The New Era

THE old order changeth, giving place to the new." The stupendous world-wide events of the past few weeks have so overleapt each other as to be dimly realized and faintly understood. Even the tidings of peace came with such swiftness that men wondered, can it be so? That after four years of struggle and striving, what had been sought had suddenly come seemed hardly possible, that the "invincible" army had collapsed, and the mighty had fallen. In 1848, Ernest Jones, the great Chartist leader, said: "The Book of Kings is closing in the Bible of humanity." What would he have said in these great days, when six thrones have crumbled? Amid the wreckage, one throne, "broad-based upon a people's will" is more firmly secure than in some periods of the past. King George the Fifth, by his tact, wisdom, devotion, throughout the war, has wrought the people lasting good, and is deeply entrenched in hearts who with gratitude pray, "God save our gracious King."

The war brought vast problems. By whole-hearted service and sacrifice they were solved and victory crowned unflagging effort. Peace has brought its vast and far-reaching problems. They are world-wide. To-day the world is neighbor. The guiding stars of 1914 were hope, courage, and duty, a deep sense of righteousness, an unquestioning conviction of the justice of our cause, with a deep-seated loyalty to the priceless principles of liberty and freedom. The greatest, most valued principles of our Christian civilization being at stake and in peril, sacrifice became a joy, and service a glorious privilege. Principles and spirit that know no defeat in the onward march of a world's well-being are the highest glory of any people.

If history be the teaching of Providence, then recent history affords the light, the wisdom to go forward in confident hope that the same undaunted spirit, the same loyal devotion, will yield still greater things for the welfare of our people. Out of the welter of the war has emerged a brotherhood, declared by the world's greatest Leader and Teacher by His Cross and by His Word: "Ye are one."

National prejudice has been worn off through a common aim, in unity of spirit.

"Shall I ask the brave soldier who fights by my side

In the cause of mankind if our creeds agree?
Shall I give up the friend I have valued and tried,

If he kneel not before the same altar with me?

From the heretic girl of my soul shall I fly,
To seek somewhere else a more orthodox kiss?"

No! Perish the hearts and the laws that try Truth, valor or love by a standard like this."

The new era dawns with Tennyson's noble vision brought much nearer through the war: "For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see. . . .

Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rained a ghastly dew

From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue; . . .

Till the war drum throbbed no longer, and the battle flags were furled,

In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world."

A League of Nations to end war and establish a court of reason, is in a fair way of coming. Its accomplishment may well be viewed and regarded as the glorious mark of our age. The difficulties are many but:—

"Not once or twice in our fair island story

The path of duty was the way to glory;

On with toil of heart and knees and hands,

Through the long gorge to the far light has won

He that ever following her commands

His path upward and prevailed,

Shall find the toppling crags of duty scaled,

All close upon the shining tablelands

To which our God himself is moon and sun."

World-wide are labor troubles, accentuated by the inevitable increased cost of living. So many millions withdrawn from productive industries must result in scarcity and greatly increased cost of necessaries. Abnormal times create abnormal conditions. In the unrest there is a soil ready for strange and oft illusory theories. Unfortunate Russia is a world warning. Capital and labor are the two hands of industry and production. Each is needed for the other. Good relations one towards the other, ever regarding that which is "just and equal," are not only wise but imperatively necessary to peace and prosperity. Rights and duties have blended in the war and been crowned with glorious victory.

Had we fully realized before 1914 what war problems were ahead, the cry would have been, how can we solve them? The task would have seemed too great. Our capacity and power have been a revelation, a surprise to ourselves, a wonder to the world. To-day we are on a new and higher plane, and whatever may be in the lap of the future, past victory is an inspiration, a pledge of future conquest and honor.

The sacred memories, the noble sacrifices of those who at the behest of duty gave their lives to maintain right and freedom, will encircle the future. The thought and spirit of President Lincoln's words express our fervent hope and ardent desire:

"It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

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