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Special Articles

Dominion Labor Exchanges
By J. W. MACMILLAN.

The National State
By W. W. SWANSON.

Conditions in the West
By E. CORA HIND.

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Germany's Peace Offers

WHEN a robber-bully, with a band of cut-throats under his command, has for a long period been committing every form of crime, and suddenly in the midst of his iniquity professes a desire to be honest and decent, it is a fair guess that he sees the hand of justice closing upon him, and that the fear of punishment is what moves him. If for appearance sake he sets aside his chief lieutenant and selects as his adviser one less notoriously infamous, the trick will hardly deceive anybody. It is the robber-bully still behind who has to be remembered. This represents the situation created by the peace offer made by Germany in the note of Chancellor von Hertling's successor, Prince Maximilian, to President Wilson. The actions of Kaiser William and his naval and military circle throughout the whole war make it impossible for any intelligent person to believe that Germany—the Germany of Prussian brutality—can be brought to a sense of honor by any other power than the sword. No peace proposal, no offer of anything savoring of consideration for others, would come from Germany while she felt that she had the power to impose her will upon the world. She is now realizing that her desperate game has failed and for that reason she is suing for peace. The military circle must long ago have seen that war to the end would mean a German defeat. But the German people were not permitted to know that. The truth was concealed from them as long as possible. The battle was continued. The pretence of a coming victory was kept up to deceive the mass of the people. All the resources of German intrigue, all the power of the army and all the devilry of the submarines were still employed, in the hope that some condition might arise in which the Entente Allies, could be induced to agree to a German peace.

The time has come when this game cannot longer be played. Germany's allies can no longer be deceived as to the outcome of the war. Austria-Hungary begs for peace. There is a ministerial crisis at Vienna, Bulgaria gives up the war, and her King gives up his throne. The German people are awaking to the facts of the case. They are a submissive people, well drilled in the service of yielding almost unquestioning obedience to the will of their military rulers. It is because of that drilling that they have so long been silent and apparently content to carry on the war. But there is a limit to what even Germans will stand. Once they have learned the whole truth they will refuse to go on with a conflict that they will see means only the loss of millions more of their sons and the creation of an additional mountain of debt for them and for posterity. Revolution under such circumstances is almost unavoidable. The signs of it are already evi-

dent. To pacify the war-weary people the new Chancellor promises reforms of administration, a broad franchise, greater power for the civil authority, something like democratic parliamentary government. And under cover of this programme for the soothing of the German people, the Chancellor proposes to President Wilson an armistice and a peace conference. The Kaiser is fighting now, not for Germany, but for his throne, and he is willing to grant—or promise—almost anything that will enable him to hold his place.

In sending the peace offer to President Wilson, Chancellor Maximilian doubtless hoped that the American President would view the matter from an angle different from that of the allied continental nations, and that consequently the offer would be more likely to meet with favor at Washington than at London, or Paris, or Rome. Mr. Wilson's answer is yet to be given, but the tone of the American press of all shades of political opinion indicates that the German expectation of a division among the Entente Allies will be disappointed. The United States has given its heart and soul too deeply in the great conflict to be content now with any German peace. The Allies, we may be sure, will make it clear that they have no such desire to crush the German people as the German leaders constantly attribute to them, but that the crushing of the German military power, and the abandonment by Germany of her schemes of domination, are essential to the peace and freedom of the world. Until German Kaiserism is thoroughly beaten and punished, and provision made for some sort of reparation for the wrongs of the last few years, there can be no peace; and, indeed, until better evidence is furnished of true repentance on the part of the Kaiser's Government, there should be no peace negotiations.

Unconditional surrender of the Kaiser's forces is necessary, not only to the peace of the world, but to the welfare of the German people, for only through that channel can they reach the democratic freedom which they, as well as the people of other nations, must desire.

The Higher Appeal

IN a recent editorial in the "Ottawa Citizen" entitled, "The Higher Appeal," that paper publishes two fine pieces of descriptive writings from the pen of John Masfield, the English poet. The editorial itself is so timely, while the writing from Masfield's pen are so excellent that we have great pleasure in reproducing them both.

The campaign for the new Canadian war loan is getting under way, and already there are ample evidences of the nature of the appeals to be made in its behalf by