

The National Government was overthrown and a foreign King took possession of Madrid. He wound up his career with a long and costly war, all because he was too modern to follow well established principles.

The world is very old and our boasted civilization only skindeep. In the U.S.A., modern in most respects, they still use lynch law and make a joke of a soldier or a sailor. The country as a whole is a by-word, the world over, for crime and lawlessness, and yet it is the home of the pacifist and reformer. There is no evil in the world that they will not try by legislation to cure. If a man drinks, they must have total prohibition; if a man commits murder, he is suffering with some mysterious disease, and is not responsible for his actions. We see in the U.S.A. the failure to enforce law and order, and yet strange to say, old countries like Great Britain, Holland, France, all of which are rich in wisdom and have brought their civilization up to a high standard, are all classed as blood-thirsty fire-eaters by the U.S.A., because Germany ran amok, as the U.S.A. will do themselves some day. They overlook the fact that a little of the European Military discipline would soon restore order in their own country.

This is (on my part) the end of the discussion on "preparedness". Mr. Sheppard said in a recent letter that he cannot be converted from his principles, so further discussion is useless. I still maintain that the fundamentals of law and order, whether applied to men or nations, is to speak softly, but carry a big stick, and this policy is backed by ages of wisdom and ~~modern~~ common sense.

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