

A Good-bye of War

By J. ANTHONY MAYHEW

"Good-bye, John. After it's all over—if there is an 'after' for both of us—we'll meet again, and have plenty to talk about, too. Till then I hope we shan't come across each other. You must go your way, and I mine. Good-bye to you, John, and good-bye."

The words, which were spoken with hardly a trace of foreign accent and in a singularly sweet voice, stirred John Hatherton to the heart, and he could find nothing to say as he watched the figure of his best friend leaning out of the window of the departing train, for he realized only too well the great possibility of a future being cut out of one or both of their lives. But just before it was too late he pulled himself together, and, forcing a smile, waved his hat long and vigorously. Then he turned and walked slowly and very sadly away.

Many thoughts troubled him, and not the least among them was anxiety for his friend. He and Hermann von Ritter had played and worked together for fifteen years, which represented a good portion of their lives. They had been at the same school, and were alike in tastes and ambitions, whilst now they were both known as two of the most daring and enthusiastic aviators in England. When the great war had burst upon Europe, with its train of inevitable tragedies, von Ritter had realized that love of country came before love of even the best friend in the world, and offered his services to Germany.

This was the origin of the friends' leave-taking. The next day Hatherton himself would be leaving for France to serve under the British flag.

After two hours of flying before a

stiff breeze John Hatherton's goal loomed up before him, and he started a descent of several hundred feet. As he hung above the vast masses of German troops stretched for miles upon miles along the French frontier, he realized fully for the first time what war in this age might mean. His mission was to discover whether the rumor were true that the Germans in the van of the huge army were starving owing to the impossibility of conveying food along the crowded roads, and with his eyes intent upon the scene set out before him, his mind fixed on this one idea, he flew low down, so low indeed that the features in the thousands of these faces upturned below him were almost discernible. The extraordinary interest of the scene held him, and he hardly noticed that many of the soldiers turned their rifles upon him and fired. Corps upon corps of armed men lay spread out before his eyes, the whole of Europe seemed to John to be packed into them, and the glitter of their weapons in the burning August sun dazzled him. Great ambulance carts loaded with the dying and wounded were making their way back from the front, whilst transport wagons struggled to get a passage forward with the food that was waited for with a terrible eagerness. Everywhere the roads were blocked with men and horses and guns, all heading towards France. The man in the aeroplane hovered over them fascinated. A hail of bullets whizzed around him, but he seemed to bear a charmed existence; nothing could hurt him, nothing could bring him down. It was a tremendous moment of John's life.

Suddenly, some distance away to the east, another aeroplane, of the well-

known Taube pattern, shot up into the air and made straight and swiftly for the Englishman. John rose instantly, but the German, rising too, came on with a deadly intentness of purpose. In a second John realized the meaning of that terrible oncoming, and dexterously swerved aside, only just in time. With a horrible whirl of machinery his opponent turned and rushed towards him once more, and the two machines cut backwards and forwards thru the air, now rising a little and now dipping to within a couple of hundred yards of the ground. Their movements were so swift that the soldiers beneath dared not fire for fear of shooting their own man. To John it seemed hours before the awful struggle ceased and he had time to look about him. There, not more than thirty feet above him, the German aeroplane poised, hovering in the air like some deadly insect. For a few seconds they remained thus, and then, suddenly, the Taube moved with a swift, awful rush.

The German aviator made a swift volplane, intending to ram the machine of the other from above. He shut off his engine, and the stretching wings of his foe's machine came into his line of vision as he dipped, nose downward. A resounding crash and he shot from his strapped seat like a bolt from a cross-bow. At this moment, when the man's life depended upon the infallibility of a piece of mechanism, one wing had crumpled up from the suddenness that the manoeuvre demanded of it.

He shut his eyes, and knew himself for lost, but as he hurtled thru the air he remembered the position, directly beneath him as it had been, of the other aeroplane. He felt himself crash on to

something which he knew to be above ground, and clutched wildly as he opened his eyes with a start.

John had heard the rending of the Taube structure, and almost at the same instant a mighty rush of wind swept by his back. Then his machine began to rock dangerously. Instinctively he looked out of the corner of his left eye, and his vision caught the glinting light of the plane as it jerked violently upwards. There was no time to cast about in his mind for a reason. He must at all costs retain an even keel, and so he turned his machine sharply to the left, banking acutely. Simultaneously a scraping, clutched sound caught his ear—and there at his right hand, sliding spread-eagled towards him, was the oil-skinned barbarian he had so desperately eluded. The German, falling on to the tip of the right wing, had been forced to the base by the amazing dexterity with which the Englishman had preserved his equilibrium.

With one hand firmly grasping the steering-wheel, he gave the much-needed support to his strangely-acquired passenger with the other. The man was dazed and exhausted by his terrible experience, and it seemed to Hatherton that he might be forced to relinquish his hold of the machine at any moment. After a few seconds, however, he was able to assist the German to clamber to the seat behind his own. He looked into the man's eyes, and recognition was instantaneous.

"Hermann!"
"John!"
Von Ritter's clear, well-remembered voice was scarcely more than a whisper.

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Methodists Condemn Militarism

Manifesto of General Conference of Methodist Church in Canada urges International Court and World Police Force

"It has been demonstrated that great armaments do not guarantee the blessings of peace. We have seen that war does not solve, but accentuates the social and economic problems on which so much of human happiness depends."

This is an extract from a manifesto on War and Peace, read to the Methodist General Conference by Rev. Dr. W. W. Andrews, of Regina, and embodied as a sub-report of the report of the department of temperance and moral reform, or what is to be known in future as the department of social service and evangelism.

In the manifesto the "barbarism of militarism" is vigorously condemned and the men and millions of the empire are dedicated for the purpose of destroying the menace. An international court of arbitration is urged, which should have jurisdiction over a body of world police. Only when nations decide on these measures will disarmament take place.

The Manifesto

The manifesto was heartily endorsed by the conference. It reads, in full as follows:

"In the present momentous days as a general conference we wish to call the attention of our people to matters in which as followers of Christ we are deeply concerned.

"That it should be possible for Europe after twenty centuries of Christian teaching to exhibit the unexampled welter of carnage we now behold, must awaken serious questionings among us.

Lesser Matters

"Have the churches of Christendom been so emphasizing the lesser matters of creed, ritual and mystical experience, forms of organization and denominational loyalties, that they have obscured the supreme claims of that love which is the end of the commandment and the fulfillment of law? Have we forgotten that

the only purpose for which the church exists is to establish brotherhood in the affairs of men? Why has the church not made the message of Jesus grip the conscience of the Christian nations? Is she ready now to bear faithful witness for her Master, who said 'Love your enemies?' All judgment is committed unto the Son. Before him all the nations and the church alike are being judged. Is the church on its record ready to stand before His great white throne, or even before the enlightened conscience of the world?

"In our perplexity and sorrow at the lamentable war in which we are engaged we rejoice in this, that the arms of Britain have been called to the service of the weak and her blood is being shed for the sake of honor among the nations.

Military Barbarism

"When the barbarism of militarism has been recognized and its influence destroyed, human interests the world over will be safer. To this cause we dedicate our men and our millions and pray that thru the empire's sacrifice war may the sooner cease and ever widening good may come to all men. Thru these anxious days let us pray to the God of Peace: 'Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done.'

What Armaments Don't Do

"Our greatest concern as Christians is the establishment of lasting peace. We believe the world as a camp of armed forces can never train its populations to walk in the highest paths of progress. It has been demonstrated that great armaments do not guarantee the blessings of peace. We have seen that war does not solve, but accentuates the social and economic problems on which so much of human happiness depends. When we have grimly carried to a finish this fateful war, which is the first war to affect injuriously all nations, let us hope that the sense of human brotherhood in the heart of the democracy of the world will wipe away the bitterness engendered in the struggle and prepare the way for the statesmen of the world to arrange a safe and magnanimous peace. We make our appeal to the democratic consciousness of the world to judge on which side stand freedom and world-wide good, and so to express their judgment as to 'promote the cause of human rights and perpetual peace.'

"The conscience of the world is developing rapidly under the tremendous schooling of the terrible tragedy of this unexampled war. Already it is formulating its demand that this war shall be

the last great war of history. The commercial interests are joining in this demand. Lasting peace can come to the world only when international distrust has been removed and the peace sentiment has been organized by practical statesmanship upon a business basis.

Two Great Victories

"We therefore call attention to two great spiritual victories which will do much to create an atmosphere of international confidence in the world. The decision of the people of the United States to stand by the broadest interpretation of the Panama Canal Treaty is one, and the other is the action of Great Britain in plunging into the greatest war of her history to guard her word of honor to the weak. We are too near these events to judge of their historical significance, but because the word of great nations must now be inviolate, the world will walk with firmer tread toward universal and lasting peace.

"To aid in the practical realization of our great hopes we submit the following suggestions:

International Court

"One requirement is the establishment of a supreme judicial international court. The methods of diplomacy, good offices and mediation, treaties and a court of arbitration have proved valuable for the settlement of international disputes, and will still be useful, but something more is needed, namely an international court of justice, clothed with the power to enforce its own decrees.

"As Bismarck said, no nation can afford to range against itself the moral judgment of the world. All the more will this be true when that judgment has an organized means for expressing itself. The constitution of such a court has already been the subject of study

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WESTERN FARMERS' PARLIAMENTS

The following dates have been selected for the Annual Conventions of the Western Farmers' Organizations:

MANITOBA GRAIN GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

Brandon, January 13, 14, 15.

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

Edmonton, January 19, 20, 21.