
A Plea
to the
People of Canada
from the
Society of Friends
at
Goldstream, Ontario.

To all our Brother Canadians :

The Dove of Peace, dispelled from warring Europe, finds apparently but a temporary rest for its ruffled and weary wings in the United States, and peers with blinking eyes, wondering where it shall gain a permanent home. It had fondly hoped that when the nations of Europe would become exhausted in the present conflict they would be wise and establish a world-wide federation to end all wars. Such a scheme could easily be inaugurated if men only thought so. The greatest menace to that hope is President Wilson's unexpected program for a powerful United States' navy and protective armament. The proposition did not come from those who really sought for peace, but from armament manufacturers serving not God but greed. By this perfidy and despotic act of the democratic Head of the greatest Democracy in the world, the United States has thrown away the golden opportunity of serving, in the greatest measure possible, the whole world's humanity. This glory is now offered to Canada. Will Canada be wise to it? The United States has chosen betwixt God and Mammon. Whom will Canada serve? Shall we invite the Dove of Peace and give it an abiding place?

But it is said, "You are yourselves a belligerent camp." True, but it is not of our making or choice. It has not, as yet, poisoned our national life. Canada's test is to come later.

We recognize the uselessness of attempting to stop the present war, the greatest of all time. It is the natural result of past conduct. It is the chastening of the nations for past sins. It is the inevitable punishment for God's violated laws. Expiation or exhaustion of the weary nations alone will bring its end. Our energies are wiser spent in prevention. Let us sow for a happier harvest, for men and nations reap whatso-

ever they sow. Now is the time to forestall the next war. Now is the time for wise and far-reaching preventive measures. Let us extinguish the match, or newly kindled fire, and save the city from doom.

When the European war is over our returned military men, grown accustomed to excitement, and others craving glory, will sound forth the slogan for "preparation" against our arming neighbor. And our munition manufacturers, whose plants have been vastly enlarged and equipped, will unite in the cry of "preparedness, protection, fortifications." The dividing line of rivers, lakes and plains, they will want bristling with forts and cannon. They will call for navies to man the two seas and the whole air.

O fellow Canadians! Let us stop and think. We are but 8,000,000. The United States are 100,000,000. Safety in armed force, in our case, is not to be thought of. But you say, England will back us up. True she would like to. But England may have more than her match at home. History, both past and present, shows that nothing is more certain than the uncertainty of the alignment of nations in wars. No one can tell where the balance of power will divide or what nations be crushed. With England's hands tied, and the United States our enemy, we can neither help England or save ourselves. Though England's hands be tied, with the United States our friends, as now, we will be safe. Force has never preserved a nation, even the mightiest, from oblivion. Babylon, Assyria, Rome, where are they? Surely there is something better than hate, and more enduring than force. O Jesus Christ! Whom we call our Master and profess to follow, wherein is our hope and safety?

"LOVE YOUR ENEMIES. DO GOOD. BE RECONCILED.
FORGIVE."

Conciliation! Let that be Canada's motto and her motive force! God Himself stands behind His command "to love."

Did any of the great painters ever represent Jesus helmeted and bearing a sword? Could we possibly imagine Him be-

hind the death-dealing cannon? His final temptation in the Judean wilderness was world-power and he turned it down with the memorable renunciation "Get thee behind me Satan."

Turning our back then on the things that are wrong, and that have failed, let us try those that have the sanction of Christ, viz., love and conciliation. And let each one begin now to live it more and more until it becomes a national force, and as surely as it proves efficient in private affairs, will it prove adequate in international diplomacy, and there will not be found any cause for war while the world stands. The decision of reason is always safer and saner than the arbitrament of war. To oppose the United States with armed force, we are at dreadful odds. To meet them with conciliation we stand on equal footing. To be shattered before the cannon's mouth is a fearful thing. To be defeated in the courts of justice is only right. Even if we are unjustly treated and wronged, by peacefully submitting, according to Jesus, in the spirit of love, we come out victors.

So whatever the result we still are conquerors, and without the shedding of blood, or the tears of widows and orphans, or the loneliness and starving in desolated homes.

We appeal to the educators of our rising generation, to declare the full meaning of "patriotism." It means love of our country, not hatred of another. It means our country first, not selfishly but in helpful service to the rest of the world. The object of patriotism is not to divide but to unite.

Ministers of the Church! We appeal to you, especially, to support and aid in this gospel propaganda, for you reach the general public and are largely moulders of its thought. Ye who teach salvation in Christ should be of the same mind as the master, who requires His followers to love their enemies. That supreme command carried out would establish in the world, eternal peace. It is impossible to love Christ and hate our enemies. A saving faith in Jesus involves a practice of his precepts.

Canada has passed through much, but her supreme test is yet to come, and soon. It is not too early to prepare for it. To every Canadian we make this fervent appeal.

Fellow countrymen ! The fate of Canada is already now in your hands. It is not too unimportant a matter to weigh and decide while you are repeating the Lord's prayer in the closet of your Holy of Holies.

OUR FATHER ! " WE WOULD DO THY WILL, MAY WE FORGIVE THAT WE MAY BE FORGIVEN. THE GLORY BE THINE.

Thus by the practice of love in the heart when the time comes, Canada will not be unprepared for her destiny. Impelled by the people may our statesmen make ready with our Southern neighbors for another century of peace.

In our international intercourse let us, at all times, practice justice and good will.

In our international diplomacy let us use tact and conciliation.

Let the acts and attitude of other nations fill us neither with hate nor fear.

Let the jingo fire-brands in our own, poison not our minds with distrust of our neighbors.

Let national prosperity of the other instil us not with envy or jealousy.

Let mammon not infect any of our people with a spirit of greed, making capital into a despotic plutocracy and labor into a caste of paupers and slaves.

So shall we best prepare against a war that shall never come. Then shall Canada furnish a refuge of rest for the droop-winged Dove of Peace, and rise to the golden opportunity of enthusing all nations with the spirit of the Angels' Anthem, " Peace on Earth, good-will to men," for lo ! the blessings are not to the mighty but to the meek, for they shall inherit the earth, and to the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.

To this we add the plea and the plans we issued a year ago for world-wide peace :—

Seeing that all past plans have proved unavailing in establishing peace in the world, it behooves "The Powers," at the conclusion of the present struggle, to unite in some sort of international federation that shall bind all the nations into a lasting peace. The world is fully ripe and ready for it.

The recently popular idea that "peace can be maintained only by being prepared for war," has been suddenly exploded. The intrigue of armament manufacturers in inciting nation against nation for selfish ends is all too patent. The absolute power of one ambitious monarch, with arms and the men at his bid, is constantly a menace to the rest of the world.

Any scheme to be adequate and successful must strike at these defects and menaces.

We sanction and advise the following, to take effect and be applied, as a part of the stipulations in the readjustment of international relations at the conclusion of the present war.

There shall be :

- 1st. A universal system of arbitration signed by all nations.
- 2nd. An international force for police purposes contributed to by all nations.
- 3rd. The government control by each nation of the manufacture of all articles that may be used in any way for such purposes.
- 4th. A disarmament of all nations.

It shall be part of the duties of all ambassadors to see that no violation of any of the above stipulations occur, and in case of such violation they are to apprise their home governments, when appeal can be made to the "International Court," which shall arbitrate thereon, and pass judgment upon the

offending nation. If the violation is still persisted in, as a final resort, said nation shall be penalized by withdrawing from it all trade on the part of the rest of the world, but in other respects friendly relations are to be maintained.

We trust and pray that sufficient pressure may be brought to bear upon the authorities of all nations that such a consolidated international body shall be formed, and laws provided for its guidance that shall speedily insure a lasting peace.

In the meantime, and in earnest of our desires, let all peace lovers strive to check and mitigate as far as possible the disastrous feeling of bitterness and hatred that is being intensified between the warring peoples, and thus prepare them sooner for the new regime of universal brotherhood.

ISSUED BY THE
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
AT
COLDSTREAM, ONTARIO,
CANADA.
JANUARY, 1916.
