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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

## It Is Time

THERE was never any decisive result to any war except when one nation either utterly crushed another, or took from it its offensive or defensive power.

Our fathers did not crush Great Britain, but did take from her the power to make further war upon them, fighting as she was three thousand miles from her base.

We believe that now, after sixteen months of unparalleled warfare, the chief powers of Europe are all convinced that nothing like a decisive victory can be won by either side; that the final settlement cannot be brought around by further wholesale murders.

If this is true, then it is time for the law of might to give way and for reason to be called in.

And we believe it is time for a calling-in session by the neutral nations of The Hague Tribunal and for those neutral powers to assert their authority in demanding of the belligerent nations a cessation of present horrors.

We believe the call would be listened to, for the present suffering and the apprehensions of for more sufferings in the near future have become almost intolerable, from the English channel to the Baltic and Aegean seas. We believe that it is time for our government to take the lead, to call the congress and to issue to the warring nations an invitation to bring their differences there for settlement, at the same time reminding them that brute force is not an agent that appeals to anything high or holy, but that it has been the reliance of all the dark passions of men from the beginning. The cities of Europe, not in the war zone are filled with maimed men, cripples, refugees and prisoners; there are millions of delicate women and helpless children that are hungry; the debt is overwhelming, the sorrow unspeakable; surely it is time for the men who are directing the awful tragedy to be willing to listen; to be willing to admit that the war is a failure from every standpoint.

A new international code is needed, a code that will be binding and so fenced around that for any one power to violate it will bring down upon the offender the vengeance of all the others. Such a code if accepted would by indirection settle present differences, which those directly interested cannot settle by themselves.

We know of no other way by which they can be settled.

All the belligerents are making claims which can never be realized. Indeed, we see no chance for any settlement among themselves. There must be an outside arbiter and The Hague Tribunal seems to be the court the decisions of which might be accepted.

It should be tried at least. Humanity demands it. There is danger that as things are going half

of Europe will be peopled by lunatics in a few months more, for there is a limit to human endurance.

Those races will be stunted physically for sixty years to come through what has already been suffered; the present program will in a little while longer stunt the brains of the people.

## The Message

THE president's message is a classical production as usual. His urging the immediate beginning of a better preparedness against possible attack from without is good, though it would be quite as effective had it been more terse and direct and bearing upon it fewer literary bouquets.

We like his idea, too, of paying the added expense of preparation without selling more bonds. The money the work will cost will not be sent away, but spent right at home, so there is to be no depletion in the volume of money—only a change of owners. Indeed, if paid in legal tender notes it will be a help to the people.

The latest feature of the message is the running of needed steamship lines to foreign lands for export and import service by the government.

His description of the disadvantages and losses this country is suffering under for want of an efficient merchant marine has been quite as effectively explained every week for quite thirty years past; we are glad that war has finally worn the scales from his eyes and that he has been made to realize what a three-wheeled cart our country's business is with no ocean commerce in our own hands.

But his statement that to begin to build up a merchant marine is too great a task for private capital to engage in, is not borne out by one fact.

It would have been vastly more frank and fair had he said: "If congress would only offer such subsidies as will be necessary to compete with the subsidized ships of the old world nations, there are plenty of citizens eager to build and sail American ships. And they would be better ships than the government can buy or build, and would bring better results than can be obtained from government owned and government navigated ships, but the party in power cannot afford to pay subsidies, it will be better to make up the losses under cover of a deficiency drain."

As was expected, a continuance of the tariff on sugar is recommended "for revenue only."

It was perfectly proper for the president to commend in his message his policy in dealing with Mexico. Somebody ought to commend it, and we know of no one who could do that except the president. His position is not unlike that of a mother who loves her deformed child more than any of her perfectly formed children.

The president's exaggerated expressions of affection for all Spanish America are a little overdone, but just now the president is a little in love with all the world.

His reminder that in the event of an attempted conquest of any Spanish-American state we should be bound to go to the rescue, is entirely proper, and a proper notice to serve certain

foreign powers who have long looked upon portions of Spanish America with covetous eyes.

We wish that state authorities in all the states after reading the president's program for insuring increased preparedness, would reflect that the most necessary preparation is the training of men for military duty, that every state is alike interested in this, and that the preparations should begin in every high school, academy and university.

That would at once place a million young men under training, and if in the future all wars could be avoided, still that training would be the most useful accomplishment of the schools.

## In The Interest Of Peace

A GREAT many English-born and German-born men in this country are impatient that the United States does not take a decided course in favor of their respective countries. This is due no doubt to that attribute which attaches to a great many people who have decided views and who with a little practice get to think that people who do not entertain their particular views must be either prejudiced or lacking in clear reasoning powers.

Both England and Germany have been repeatedly violating international laws since the first months of the present war. The United States could have found full justification for a serious misunderstanding with each or both of them, and the reason it did not was not because of fear or involvement in trouble, but in the interest of peace and neutrality, which the president proclaimed when the war burst upon the world.

As we think back a little this country is not under any particular obligations to either power. In our great Civil war we had plenty of reasons for declaring war upon Great Britain.

In our war with Spain every American soldier killed was killed by a German bullet fired from a German-made gun.

For a full century all western and southern Europe has been unloading her paupers, criminals and lunatics upon us.

We have taken care of the lunatics, given the poor honest employment and educated their children and have hanged a few of the criminals. The greatest menace that threatens us today is an organization of criminals ninety out of every hundred of whom never had a decent suit of clothing or enough of wholesome food to eat until they were supplied by our country.

In our international dealings with the old world we have kept all our contracts; since the present war began through the generosity of the American people, American hospitals and relief stations have been established in half a dozen countries of Europe. The American Red Cross is on every battle line in Europe. Moreover, it is the expectation of every thoughtful man in this country that our country will be taxed to the limit by the wave of impoverished men, women and children from Europe that will sweep in upon us when the great war closes.

The American hope is that because of the course pursued by the American government and