

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

HERE IS but one world, each part of which is most intimately linked with each other part. In this world "There is now neither peace nor war." America must support Europe until Europe is stable again, else the chaos there will produce chaos here. Just as certainly as unrest in Russia is communicated in some degree to the United States, so must unrest in France, England and Italy be communicated, but in a larger degree.

Europe cannot gain calm until there is a certainty that the matter of war and peace will not come back to the council table to be fought all over again.

The natural economic forces by which the industry of the United States is usually controlled cannot function properly until the peace treaty is signed.

The Senatorial partisans, bickering week after week, are doing their best to perpetuate a threatening condition upon which no thoughtful man can look without uneasiness.

These facts and conclusions are made very clear in President Wilson's message, in which he advises Congress how to protect the public from the profiteers in the necessities of life.

The prices of necessities have in many instances increased in the face of large increases in the quantity of the commodities on hand. Such increases are, the President believes, due to hoarding and deliberate profiteering, and such criminal conduct is not beyond the early reach of Congress.

The weapon upon which the President will chiefly rely, judging by the order in which he states the proposed remedies, is that of control, which includes price fixing, and he recommends an improved Food Control Act, to include all the necessities.

This legislation will suffice to stop hoarding, and will permit the government to withdraw from private warehouses the stocks therein concealed, for distribution to the public.

For immediate remedy the government will distribute at cost the great stocks of food and clothing in its own hands. The government holds a supply sufficient to feed the entire population of the United States for about five days, not taking account of wheat, which the government entirely controls.

There is estimated to be in storage very great quantities of food, far beyond the immediate necessities of the people, and sufficient when brought into distribution to drop prices substantially.

Of retail trade the President says: "There can be little doubt that retailers are in part—sometimes in large part—responsible for exorbitant prices."

Those who read the message will conclude, if they consider it in connection with other facts, that the entire business of distribution is under fire, and that the future for manufacturers and middlemen will depend upon their ability to meet conditions to the satisfaction of the American people.

The market cannot be left in the chaos of uncontrolled greed without disaster to all.

The business men of America will welcome, in so far as they are intelligent students of their times, a control by and through government, which they are unable themselves to exercise.

An unrestrained market is breeding revolution in America. Of this there can be no reasonable doubt. The President proposes a discipline, and ordered march of trade which will prevent violence, immediately benefit the public, and, in the long run will benefit even those who will find their immediate profits somewhat diminished.

UNREASONABLE MR. GARRISON

LINDLEY M. GARRISON, is receiver of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, an officer appointed by the courts to administer the affairs of that organization. Unless the court interferes with him, he has powers more complete and drastic than the owners of the property.

The workers on the B. R. T. lines are organized into a union, in which are embraced the workers on most of the street railway lines in the United States.

The men are on strike and desire to bargain through the representatives of their union.

Mr. Garrison, very haughtily takes the position "that I will not deal with an outside organization."

This attitude is unreasonable, and injurious to everybody else.

In the process of the long friction between labor and capital certain facts have come to be admitted, among which are the facts that employers and employes have the right to organize into unions, have the right to bargain collectively and have the right to strike and lockout.

It has been found in practice that there are fewer strikes when labor is well organized, and that those strikes are easier to settle.

It is impossible to make agreements with unorganized labor. Such labor strikes first and negotiates afterward. With organized labor the attempt to negotiate almost always precedes the strike. A bargain can be made which will be kept.

In taking up the question of railroad settlements the President requires the shop workers who are on strike, against the orders of their union officers to go back to work. He then as a matter of course takes up the matter of bargaining with the railroad brotherhoods, who represent all the railroad workers.

Mr. Garrison fancies himself wiser than his times; believes he can avoid conditions which the United States government accepts as equitable and necessary.

Mr. Garrison is a rebel. He wants his own way. He is one of those men, found on both sides of every question, who prevent delay solutions.

This is the same Mr. Garrison, who as secretary of war fancied himself bigger than the President, and left his office in a huff and his country to go to smash.

The main reason why America in these difficult times is a safer country than Europe is to live in, is because the American people are reasonable. They do not want to fight over the same ground twice. They seek methods of accommodation when they differ with each other. They compromise disagreements, look pleasant when they argue, and avoid situations that provoke unnecessary vexation.

The B. R. T. men who are indulging in violence are doing the side they favor as much injury as Garrison does the side he favors.

THE RAILROAD PROBLEM

QUITE RECENTLY a distinguished speaker, addressing the Chamber of Commerce, pointed out the likeness between industrial conditions in America and Great Britain, and said that in time the very same demands expressed in Great Britain would be uttered here. He estimated that a period of six years might be the extreme limit of time between

similar situations in the two countries.

The facts have beaten his estimate by almost the entire period.

The demand of the railroad workers for government owned railroads, in which the workers will have a portion of the management, is modelled very noticeably after the demand of the British coal miners, with respect to nationalization of the mines, and their partial management by the workers, co-operating with the government.

In Great Britain mining coal is an industry more important than railroading. In this country the contrary is the case. The British coal miners are typically representative of the British working classes, much more so than the American coal miners are of the American workers. In America the railroad workers are far more powerful, in numbers, and by the fact that they are mostly citizens of the country, and for other reasons.

The development in Great Britain and America is an outgrowth of the war, which produced everywhere a demand upon the part of the workers for more participation in production and its proceeds.

To ignore this vast, world wide movement, would be stupidity. The times call for study, reflection, considered actions and remedies based upon sound principles.

As far as possible class recriminations should be avoided. Men are not dealing with personal hatreds of any sort, but with opinions regarding the methods of carrying on industry.

In the beginning it will be well to avoid the mistake, which some newspapers are making, of referring to these movements as if they were patterned after the Soviets of Russia.

The Soviets are composed of manual workers almost entirely and they have seized and conduct the government of Russia upon the theory that only workingmen, and mainly those who do manual labor, should participate in government. The Soviets are an oligarchy, not a democracy, and their government is operated under a proletarian dictatorship.

As a part of their program the Soviets have nationalized Russian industries. That is they have put into effect government ownership.

Neither in Great Britain nor in America do the coal miners, nor the railroad workers, seek or demand a proletarian dictatorship. They support a Democratic form of government.

The coal miners in Great Britain and the railroad workers in America do however, demand the nationalization of mines in the one case, and of railroads in the other, through acquisition by purchase. And such a demand is neither revolutionary nor un-democratic. Government operated mines and government owned railroads have long existed.

In neither country is there any attempt at confiscation, any purpose to obtain the property of others without compensation, or in any other way than by due process of law.

Upon this question of nationalization each citizen will continue to make up his own mind, and be for or against, according to his predilections, environments, opinions and material and moral interests.

The Times-Farmer has for many years advocated nationalization of the railroads, believing public ownership much preferable to the disastrous private management which has afflicted railroad transportation over large parts of the United States for many years.

The Times-Farmer believes that everybody would be better served by public than by private railroads, precisely as the public is better served by one great, nationalized and unified post office than it could be by many little postoffices, disunited and privately owned.

To the principle of nationalization as it is ordinarily stated, the railroad workers add certain novelties.

The post office is operated through the postmaster general, who is appointed by the President. All authority thus descends until it reaches the last man in the service. The rank and file of the postal employes have no more to do with operating the service than they would have under private management.

The railroad men propose to place control in a directorate upon which will be five men representing the government, five representing the operating heads and five the body of the employes. The operating heads are the officers, presidents, vice presidents and other organizing and managing workers, who now conduct operation.

The question then is as to whether this control would succeed. Would it be a good, or a bad thing? In the field of national ownership of public utilities there is little or no experimental evidence. The existing managements are straight government controls.

The new type of management is adopted from the programs which have been put into effect by manufacturing corporations, or which have been discussed in connection with manufactures.

American manufactures everywhere are discussing the advisability of admitting representatives of the workers to share in the management. In some plants such representation has been arranged.

An investigation of these arrangements would furnish useful information.

But certainly there is nothing in the proposal for such a management that is not American, and nothing that should excite any feeling except a desire to know and to do what is best to be done.

There is a further objection to the railroad program which will make it unacceptable to many minds. Some will ask how far the nationalization of industry is to go? A man may be very well in favor of nationalization of railroads who would not favor at all the nationalization of a manufacturing plant.

The precedent will sometimes create more fear than the mere fact of publicly owned railroads.

All this is a matter for reflection, discussion and argument.

So long as all things are settled in the domain of reason, by legitimate political and economic action there can be no wise objection.

The railroad men propose to convince Congress that their plan is good. If they fail they propose to elect, if they can, a Congress which will accept the program. The matter will be reasoned out before the people, and the decision of the people will govern.

Here is no Soviet program, no dictatorship of the proletariat, but some millions of Americans proceeding under the law of the land in an attempt to convince the American people of the wisdom of the so-called Plumb plan.

There is no problem whatever which Americans have now to solve that will not be easier to handle if discussion is frank, honest and general. Vituperation, falsehood, and prejudice only render difficult situations more difficult.

If the Plumb plan does not commend itself to the American people it cannot prevail. If it does commend itself its

standing as a precedent will depend upon how it works. The American people will make one experiment at a time, rather than many experiments, all at the same time.

BERNHARDI NOT A PROPHET

GENERAL FRIEDERICH Von Bernhardt wrote a book called "Germany and the Next War." It was a dull book, with no imagination in it. It was little more than an attempt to explain the plans of the German High Command, and their ideals. They were good, plain going men, with some capacity for management of established things. They had little inventiveness among them, and were not distinguished for any additions to the art of warfare beyond those already known when the war began.

Bernhardt did not even foresee the type of war which would be made between Germany and the Allies on the French front. The long line of trenches, in which millions of men were immobilized year after year, were as strange to him, as though he had been the veriest tyro in the art of war. Bernhardt gave no adequate weight to the moral factors in the war; did not foresee the development of the submarine or the aeroplane, and pinned his faith to the movements of massed men actuated by the "good old German spirit."

In the area of morals he especially did not foresee the breakdown of the Austrian Empire through revolution among the peoples who composed it.

Because Bernhardt has been tried as a prophet and has been found wanting, his present views on the future of war need not be seriously received, all the more that they show the same lack of comprehension of material and moral factors that he showed when he wrote his book.

Bernhardt makes every guess. He predicts war between England and the United States. He predicts war between Japan and the United States. He predicts war generally because he thinks that nations will always fight, when they believe their more important interests are involved.

Out of consideration he leaves such factors as these.

That the recent war brought such a development of weapons and promised such an increase in the potency of weapons, as threaten to make the next great war annihilative.

That the cost of war increased so enormously while the recent war was being carried on, as to threaten the very existence of private property, and that another war would probably extinguish private property, so that the propertied classes are for the most part against more war.

That the general effect of the war was to increase the influence of the workers in the affairs of governments, and hence increased the authority and power of the social elements opposed to war.

The shallow quality of Bernhardt's reasoning powers are shown in his discussion of tanks as a weapon. "A general who staked his victory on tanks," he said, "would be lost." He compared tanks to the elephants of King Piraeus, which at first created consternation.

The elephants of King Piraeus, being conscious creatures, could be stampeded and driven back into the ranks of those who sent them, doing the same damage to friends that had been intended for foes.

A tank is not an elephant, but a potent weapon, which has its place, precisely as a great gun has, not necessarily as a decisive weapon, but as a weapon that may at any time become decisive.

The decisive weapon in a battle may at one time be rifles at another machine guns, or field artillery, great guns, tanks or air service. Everything depends upon conditions.

Bernhardt does not fail to wipe out his own arguments against the success of the League of Nations. He says, "The small Nations may have to put up with it, but no great Nation will allow other people to declare war for them or tell them when they may not go to war."

The General is not very logical in his thinking. Germany is a Federation of Small States, each of which not so long ago declared war, or refused to declare war at its own will.

Yet each of these States afterward submitted to have the German Empire, through the German Emperor, "declare war for them or tell them when they might not go for war."

The several small nations submitted because of an agreement they made.

Great Britain is a union of Nations each member of which formerly made war at will, and which now allows other people to "declare war for them or tell them when they may not go to war."

The proof is that Nations agree with each other to do certain things, or to refrain from doing them, and keep their agreements.

The League of Nations is a union of Nations effected under an agreement to prevent war. The history is in favor of the success of the agreement.

When the German States united they yielded many rights to the whole. It is harder to yield many rights, than a few.

The League of Nations, to which each Nation yields but a few rights should have perpetuation with more certainty than the German Empire has it.

DISTRIBUTION OF MILK

MILK IS A prime necessity. It is the most important single article of food. It is indispensable to every diet. In the diet of children it is necessary to life itself. Milk is already so costly that the mortality among infants is increasing. Children who survive are often so reduced in energy that they will in many cases be unable to reach healthy adult life.

More than half the cost of milk is in distribution. The distribution is unspeakably wasteful. No such wasteful methods would be tolerated in any manufacturing plant in Bridgeport.

Milk ought to be delivered as a municipal monopoly, without duplication of routes. By this means alone the price would be reduced six cents a quart.

The morning papers report the resignation of the President of the Borden Farms Products Company, the cause being, it is alleged, his dissatisfaction over price policies. The price has been raised. The company operates in New York. Even those who profit by the distribution of milk are beginning to understand that there must be an end to price raising in this commodity.

According to Commissioner of Markets Day, the farmers of New York had an opportunity to produce for consumption instead of for speculation. "They can't understand why a quart of Grade B bottled milk should be produced by them for 6.6 cents, and the cost of distribution be 9.4 cents." The New York State farmers want the city and the government to supervise or take over the channels of distribution until the milk reaches the consumer.

Something must be done and done soon, in Bridgeport as well as in New York.

TREATY DISPUTE
DRIVES OFFICERS
OUT OF SERVICE

House Holds Up Measure Intended to Prevent Wrecking of Air Service.

INADEQUATE SUPPLY
OF MEDICAL OFFICERS

Only a Few Hundred Can Be Maintained—Wounded Soldiers to Suffer.

Washington, Aug. 12.—The Administration bill authorizing the Secretary of War to retain 5,000 emergency officers during the current fiscal year, passed unanimously by the Senate on July 28, is held up by the House. The important measure is designed to prevent the utter wrecking of the Air Service, to provide for the care of the tens of thousands of wounded and sick soldiers and to enable other army branches to retain sufficient commissioned personnel to wind up business. The Committee on Military Affairs reported it with reasonable promptness. Then it went before the Committee on Rules, with a view to providing early consideration.

Had not President Wilson forced the abandonment of the proposed five-weeks recess of the House, in all probability the bill would have been shelved while the cream of the emergency officers disgusted over the existing uncertainty, were discharged.

In the Rules Committee a dispute developed among Republicans as to the necessity for passing the bill, some declaring it would add \$15,000,000 to the expense of maintaining the army for the fiscal year ending June 30. Others declared that with the exercise of due diligence and economy the War Department could get along with the officer personnel provided for in the Army Appropriation Bill.

It was the House which reduced the funds for the pay of the army in the Appropriation Bill to a point which necessitates the discharge of all emergency officers by Sept. 30, unless the bill is passed. The Senate substantially increased the House appropriation for this purpose, but was forced to yield.

While it has been clearly demonstrated that the Air Service should have at least a minimum of 1,200 commissioned officers, the large majority of them pilots, unless supplementary legislation is passed the commissioned personnel of this service will be reduced to 222, involving the discharge of the technical engineering section built up during the war and leaving hardly enough officers to look after administrative work.

There are 1,159 officers of the Regular Army in the Medical Corps and 17,315 emergency medical officers. Only a few hundred emergency medical officers can be retained under the existing law, and the number will be wholly inadequate to take care of the wounded and sick soldiers.

Other important branches of the service are in relatively the same position and the situation grows worse from day to day as officers insist upon their release when attractive business offers come to them and they have no means of knowing what Congress will do.

In a reply to a rumor that an order has been issued sending all the officers and men at the Long Island flying fields to Texas and Florida, and leaving only four men to guard them, Major Gen. Charles T. Mesrobian, Director of the Air Service, today denied he had issued such an order or had one in contemplation. He said:

"Of course, we must cut down personnel substantially, releasing some 3,000 officers between now and Sept. 30, but there is no thought of discontinuing all aviation activities on Long Island. Every man who has given any attention to the matter is convinced that permanent provision must be made for aviation activities in the vicinity of New York. There is no escape from such a conclusion.

"We own Mitchel Field and it will be retained permanently."

YORKSHIRE MEN
WILL WAGE A
FINISH FIGHT

London, August 10 (Via Montreal).

The strike in the Yorkshire coal fields, involving 200,000 miners, apparently will be fought to a finish. The coal controller yesterday told the men's leaders it was impossible to concede their demands. To do so, he said, would mean a strike in every coal field in the country for similar concessions.

No further conferences with a view to arriving at a settlement have been arranged. It is said the strikers' funds will last only another fortnight, already £250,000 has been spent in strike pay.

"DRY" WORLD
FIGHT TO COST
\$35,000,000

Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 12.—It will take \$35,000,000 to conduct the world Anti-Saloon League fight and the campaign will commence at once, according to announcement by the executive committee of the league at its meeting here. The fight will be waged in every nook and corner of the globe against the manufacture or sale of liquor.

Dr. Purkey A. Parker of Montgomery is general superintendent, and presides over the meeting. A number of prominent members were present, including Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel for the league.

The people who are making big money out of their profiteering are convinced that it is dangerous for the government to interfere with private business.

Some of the people who wonder why real estate doesn't sell better, are the same ones who allow themselves to be swayed by the propaganda of the cant law.