

Frank A. Vanderlip Rubs His Eyes Over Europe

THREE months of travel in Europe has brought a sea change of varying results to many an American as we know. But on few of them has been wrought so marked an effect on a man's business and social viewpoints as is to be observed in the pages of Frank A. Vanderlip's "unpremeditated book" entitled *What Happened in Europe*.

The history of this little volume is not the least interesting part of it. Mr. Vanderlip arrived in England on February 2 of this year and sailed from there for the United States on May 10. Meanwhile he had visited seven countries of Western Europe, including Spain, talking with all sorts and conditions of men, from kings to commoners, statesmen, financiers, employers of labor and labor leaders. Then in the five days he spent in making the westward passage across the Atlantic he dictated the matter comprising the 188 pages of his discoveries as to the things that befell Europe while the war was in the hostilities stage and since the armistice was signed.

One of the first effects produced by this story is that Mr. Vanderlip seems to have been too busy carrying out his duties as a bank president since 1914 to pay much, if any, attention to the extraordinary changes that were going on in Great Britain in particular as a result of war conditions. Labor had been striving to bring about many of these changes for a considerable number of years, and when Charles Edward Russell wrote about the causes of these conditions only a few years ago he was styled a Socialist.

This war may not have brought any spiritual uplift in its train that we heard so much about a year or two ago, but it has effected a very great change in industrial and social conditions in England. And it is these changes that are one of Mr. Vanderlip's chief concerns: for France, Belgium and Italy have been too much exhausted with war, particularly in their laboring element, to have brought about the reforms the observing world has noted in Great Britain. Much of this last result is due to the fact that labor in the British Isles has actually become a party with political power, and it is a party, moreover, whose leaders are men of brains, initiative and force.

We may look to the industrial elements of France, Belgium and Italy to have their say in the future, now that peace seems assured.

Mr. Vanderlip points out in the preface of his book that to some travellers life's appearances in the countries of Western Europe, through which he travelled might seem normal, and that they might return to this country ready to "describe a Europe exhibiting little change from pre-war days." But from the talks he had with the leaders of the political, financial and industrial worlds across the Atlantic he has come to some conclusions that he calls "startling." He

continues: "If they were only my own conclusions, there are some of them that I should doubt myself. It is hard to believe, when one sees what is outwardly a perfectly normal country with its people quietly moving about, apparently fed and clothed to a normal standard, that there may be impending a catastrophe for such people—a catastrophe that they themselves do not dream of at the moment, a catastrophe that may be marching with the grim certainty that marks a tragedy. But this catastrophe may be averted if statesmen are wise enough and if America is wise enough; for America is the last hope of Europe." In some other words, we helped to win the war, and now the additional responsibility is put upon us of

helping to save Europe from the worst effects of the war.

What this traveller saw in Europe was that industrial production was not only disorganized but paralyzed, and this condition affects the war zone and extends to the industries of neutral countries. The breakdown of transportation is something more than its surface effect, it is a tragedy, since "hundreds of thousands of people have starved to death in the last twelve months in Europe" not only for lack of food, but owing to the breakdown of transportation.

Then there is the "chaos of currencies" which "is enough to make Europe seem like an economic madhouse," and the extraordinary condition of international ex-

change. In discussing the question of *Credit* Mr. Vanderlip quotes an American banker as saying that "he would advise his partners henceforth to keep very close to the shore." The writer's reply to this is that "keeping close to the shore might result in having a hole stove in his boat. America cannot keep close to the shore. We are launched, whether we like it or not, in the world's currents. We have moral responsibilities that should and will appeal to us; but if we only look at the situation on the narrowest of material grounds, and look with clear vision, we will understand how involved is our civilization with the civilization of Europe, and we will comprehend what it will mean if by failing Europe in her hour of great need we permanently injure the fabric of civilization there."

In his interviews with leaders of the industrial world in Great Britain Mr. Vanderlip has learned much of the new ideas that have been put into practice there in the way of shorter hours of labor, a participation of the workmen in the government of their industry, and other reforms out of which he has drawn these conclusions. "I have come to feel," he writes, "that a liberalizing of the views of employers and capitalists in respect to labor will be followed by a gain to both sides the value of which could hardly be measured. In that direction lies the hope that America may make the same sort of short cut to industrial peace that she made in freeing herself from a life of apprehension of military domination. It seems to me as clear as crystal that along this road there lies not only great moral satisfaction, but side by side with that lies the greatest material prosperity."

Mr. Vanderlip sums up his conclusions as to what we should do to help Europe from what has "happened" to her in his final chapter, *An International Loan to Europe*. He believes the problem is one including all the countries "and must be so solved that there will be a serious and comprehensive effort made to re-establish the industrial cycle in each one of the European countries simultaneously. If this is not done, there can be no safety in financing any one of them."

He suggests a consortium of bankers be appointed by the Governments of the "lending nations," who should appoint an International Loan Commission to handle this situation, one that he believes calls for quicker action than is usually thought of in connection with such things. And the United States must see to it that some such plan is carried into effect and the peace of Europe is not turned into chaos, politically, industrially and socially. It is a programme that seems as hopeless of accomplishment as anything the world ever faced.

And yet, as this writer points out to us, it is one that has to be faced and won through if the world is to be fit for all of us to live in.

The real Mr. Pelman is undoubtedly Arnold Bennett.

Why These Authors Succeeded

RIDER HAGGARD, E. F. Benson, Baroness Orczy, Jerome K. Jerome, Granville Barker and Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch all have said a good word for Pelmanism, we understand. Pelmanism is described as a system of mind and memory training. It comes in twelve lessons, and then you go right on applying what you have learned the rest of your life.

Mind and memory training! This explains everything. It explains how Rider Haggard continues to turn out, when he likes, the same sort of thriller that he wrote in *King Solomon's Mines* and *She*. His latest, *When the World Shook*, proves that he has trained his mind and memory while properly allowing his imagination to run wild. If the mysterious Pelman had trained Rider's imagination the world would be heavily the loser. E. F. Benson does not show the results of his tutelage so distinctly. But Baroness Orczy—isn't she there with the *Same Stuff*? We will say so. Jerome K. Jerome must have fallen down somewhere about Lesson Four. Otherwise he would come through with another *Three Men in a Boat*, or *Three Men to a Boat*, or *Three in the Same Boat*—you see what Pelmanism can do for us.

if it's all it's cracked up to be. All we remember is that J. K. J. years and years ago wrote a really funny story about several men and a nautical contraption and has lost the formula since.

Anybody who read Granville Barker's *Picket: July, 1916*, printed in *Books and the Book World* some months ago will perceive what Pelmanism has done for, or to, Granville. This sketch described every little fleeting thought on a particularly uneventful night of sentry-go. Granville was there with the detail—meticulous was the word for his impressions. Pelmanism may or may not have helped Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch to remember, after the lapse of years, the formula for a first rate melodrama so that he was able to quit the Oxford atmosphere and soak himself in his corking tale, *Foe-Farrell*. We can only guess. It seems to us that Barker's is the really revelatory instance. Only one deduction is possible, in the circumstances, as to the identity of the secret Mr. Pelman. Who is meticulous? Who is mindful of everything? Who has the most exact, if most tedious, memory in the world? Who combines with a fine tooth comb recollection a constant desire to make others more intensive and intense?

Some Aspirations of Russia

FOUR essays by as many writers have been brought together by Sir Paul Vinogradoff in a pamphlet whose content is fully indicated by its title, *The Reconstruction of Russia*. The first paper, by the editor, is devoted to *The Situation in Russia*, in which he makes a plea that the League of Nations treat Russia fairly, a Russia to which he looks forward as a people once again united and freed from autocracy, but not through Bolshevik agencies. N. Nordman, formerly of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, describes *Russia as an Economic Organism*.

Mr. Nordman agrees with the writer of the first essay that Russia must be united to be safe and advances the special plea

that whatever form the country's government takes it must "preserve the unity of the Russian economic organism, a unity indispensable for its further development." In the essay on the Russian Jews we are told that "Russian Jewry insists on its right to be considered a nationality, and like all the other nationalities of Russia to be entitled to a free expression of individuality. It looks upon itself not as a means, but as an end, and therefore claims its right to appeal to the League of Nations under the principles of the protection of minorities."

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF RUSSIA. Edited by SIR PAUL VINOGRADOFF. Oxford University Press. 75 cents.

WHAT HAPPENED TO EUROPE. By FRANK A. VANDERLIP. The Macmillan Company. \$1.25.

MR. DORAN'S ART EXHIBITION CONTINUED



From left to right these Book Jackets are: "Glenmornan," by Patrick MacGill; "The Eyes of the Blind," by Arthur Somers Roche, and "Wooden Spoil," by Victor Rousseau.