

## After the War--What?

### Every Warring Nation will be Worse than Bankrupt and May Drag Down Others.--They have Nothing but Corpses and Bonds to Offer us for Supplies.

The Kicker does not waste much space on the European war, for it is practically the same story from week to week--to horrible to relate. The only significant fact is that it indicates the braking-down of capitalism. It is estimated that over twelve million men and boys have been either killed, wounded or taken as prisoners by the warring nations. These men and boys had no part in bringing on this terrible slaughter. Not a ruler that helped to bring it on has received a scratch. All are reported as enjoying good health. They and their maidens even enjoy dancing parties and other festivities common among the "better class."

It is true that the press dispatches sometimes report "the Kaiser at the front," or "the Czar at the front." But that is only their press agent at work. These worthies are heavily guarded by their best troops, and never allow their precious hides to get anywhere near danger.

While I am not going to try to throw a little light on this "Christian" scrap that the "eminent divines" say is God's will, I am not interested in what is happening NOW, so much as in what WILL happen when it is all over.

However, President Wilson now has the center of the stage, and may be well to point out how we have been helping the allies and at the same time, pretending to help--just as we have been helping, and are still helping the robbers of Mexico while pretending to sympathize with the constitutionalists who are trying to rid their country of the robbers.

Saturday's papers contained a dispatch from London, England, concerning the president's note to Germany over the sinking of the Lusitania. Over this dispatch appeared these head-lines:

"British Want U. S. to Keep Out of War." Press Says. "America More Aid to Allies." Neutral Leaders in London Believe."

How does that sound when compared with the president's request that we should be very careful and temperate in our expressions and appear entirely neutral. In the body of the dispatch appears this paragraph:

"It is believed in high official circles here that Germany will not agree to reverse her submarine blockade policy and the conclusion is drawn that the U. S. will be compelled to sever diplomatic relations with her. The belief is freely expressed that the U. S. will not be drawn into war as it is considered by observers of the situation that she is of greater assistance to the allies as a neutral than she would be otherwise."

Did you catch it? We are of greater assistance to the allies as a neutral than we could be otherwise, according to the English opinion. But I am not so much concerned about that. An article by Covington Hall in the Appeal to Reason set me to thinking. We call attention to what every well informed person knows to be true, that every nation now at war is bankrupt.

farmers from this war commerce? For what has Europe to offer in exchange? Nothing but corpses and bonds. And what are the bonds of any nation in Europe worth today? Does any sane man believe that the nations now at war can or will ever be able to pay the interest on their present indebtedness, much less the principal thereof? If he looks at it only superficially, he knows they cannot, and they are running their indebtedness up daily and hourly by millions and billions of dollars. While we are spending their money every nation on earth, including the "land of the free," is now on a paper currency basis. Even little towns in France are issuing their own "money." Do you think they ever will pay it, or could pay it if they wanted to? Then, what are you grain farmers soon going to get in exchange for your products? You are going soon to be shipping real wealth to Europe and getting back through the bankers' fiat money of the very worst sort in exchange therefor, or bonds that can never be paid, either the principal or the interest thereon.

It is the concluding sentence about the bankers' fiat money that may seem puzzling. I will explain it as it appears to me. Until the present administration came into power bank notes could only be issued on government bonds. But the Democrats are now would be the greatest calamity that could befall the world. The building of the "Vorwarts" in Berlin, cost 6,000,000 marks. I mention these things as a few illustrations of the intellectual activities of German workmen.

"I have heard," I remarked, "that duty as a partial reward for labor is an element of the German laborer's concept of life and work."

"Yes," said Mr. Baumeister, "there is much truth in that. And I think it peculiar to the German character. A German workman works for wages, of course, and expects to get a just share of the wealth he creates. But, also, in doing his work he feels that he is doing his duty in building up industrial conditions for his fellow workers and those who shall come after him. There is always in the German mind a thought of the future, in his heart a feeling for the common welfare."

"I can understand," went on Mr. Baumeister, "that it will be difficult for non-Germans to grasp this, or perhaps to believe it. But it is true. The best single expression for the German workman's ideal of life and labor is the spirit of solidarity."

"The English do not even comprehend our German ideal of constant growth of the individual; the acquiring of more earning power by day; the mutual spirit of putting of duty into work and getting satisfaction from it, and all the other things from which flow our better methods, better work, and better living. Even if they did comprehend it, they would not be willing to adopt it. Yet without it they can not match us, so they have set out to crush us."

"But that might mean a long war," I suggested.

"Yes," answered Mr. Baumeister, "the war may last a long time. At first I thought it would last about a year. But now I think it will last longer."

"But will your workmen consent to so long a war?"

"Yes; and we shall go on to the last. We are ready to make any sacrifice. We are ready to give our lives, many of us have given life already."

"Who began this war--who do the workmen think began this war?"

"Russia began it; but the workmen believe that England is to blame. If England had not promised to help Russia, Russia would not have acted. And England had a real motive--to break down German industry."

"But Russia had no such motive?"

"No," answered Mr. Baumeister, "that was a mixture of motives that moved Russia: The Pan-Slavist propaganda, the rotten Grand Ducal party, Russia's justifiable desire to get to the sea, and another reason, which I shall mention in a moment. With any one of these motives absent, it is just possible that the others would not have been strong enough to have caused Russia to act as she did. For example, if Russia had been allowed to keep Constantinople at the end of the Turkish war, or Port Arthur, perhaps Russia might not have acted now. England was the moving force behind the scenes that kept Russia from the sea in both cases."

bert Baumeister, assistant secretary of the International Federation of Trades Unions. "We Socialists and trades unionists are in this war to the very end," said Mr. Baumeister emphatically.

"Dr. Suedekum is right when he says that with us Germans this is a workingman's war."

"The German workmen feel that England is responsible. She wishes to break down German trade. The English could not or would not meet us in fair competition. We have different methods of work, better organized, better education."

"Do these differences, I asked 'grow out of a different ideal of work and life?'"

"Yes," said Mr. Baumeister, "that is the origin of the difference. The German ideal is that a man has never finished; that he should go on growing and developing all the time. With the German, learning is a passion. Our continuation schools are examples of this. The trades union and Socialist schools are other examples. These are crowded with applicants that as yet we have been able to admit only officers of the unions and societies to learn English and French."

"Gray haired workmen of 60 may be seen in these schools mastering a foreign language. We have lectures by experts, paid for by the trades unions, on economics and social legislation. Every trades union has its own weekly journal. There are 47 of these unions, and their weeklies have a circulation of 3,000,000. The Socialist party has 94 daily newspapers in Germany, with 1,600,000 subscribers, printed in 65 of the buildings owned by the party. The building of the "Vorwarts" in Berlin, cost 6,000,000 marks."

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"What was the other motive which German workmen think induced Russia to act?"

"Liberalism in Russia," said the trades union secretary. "That

Read the unmissed Kicker.

### ABOUT RAILROADS.

By Carl D. Thompson.

Private ownership of railroads is the most gigantic system of plunder that ever existed. In the first place, the people of this nation, by excessive and sometimes fraudulent land grants, bonuses and bonds, gave the railroads enough to build the whole system entire. Then followed the construction frauds, watered stock frauds, mail frauds and a whole train of plundering processes known only to the masters of high finance.

Today the railroads plunder the workers by low wages; long hours and impossible burdens. They plunder the people by excessive rates. Every article of food we eat, or clothes we wear, and everything we use costs more because of the excessive railroad rates.

The railroads cost the people of this country \$3,171,000,000 every year. Which means \$158,500 of every family for the railroads alone--one-quarter of the entire cost of living of an average family.

And yet they are about to raise their rates. Not satisfied with their enormous profits, they still seek more. And they will get it. For fifty years our politicians and statesmen have told us that the railroad problem could be easily solved and would be solved by "regulation." Yet to this day not one problem has been solved by that method.

Meanwhile nearly every important nation has established public ownership of railroads and found it a very satisfactory solution of the problem. Of the 72 nations in the world today, all but nine own all or considerable proportion of their railroads. Twenty-three great nations own and operate over 95 per cent of their mileage.

And everywhere the results are the same--rates are reduced, the service is improved, labor is better treated, and the nations get the profit to use for the common good.

If the Socialists controlled Congress, the nation would very shortly own the railroads. The actual value of the railroads of the country, according to estimates based upon findings of the Interstate Commerce Commission, is about \$15,000,000,000. Now, it is not necessary that the government should take over the whole system at once. It could buy enough of the voting stock to get control. The rest would be easy.

But suppose we bought out the whole system. We would not need to borrow the whole amount since in our government banks, and through our income and inheritance taxes, we would already have a considerable proportion of the necessary funds. But suppose the government should borrow the whole \$15,000,000,000. The interest on the loan at 2 per cent would be \$300,000,000. But the railroads' net income over and above all expenses is \$737,667,000. (Interstate Commerce Commission Report of 1912, p. 42). So we could pay the interest on the loan and have \$437,667,000 left--every year.

So, under public ownership, we could raise wages. Raise them \$100 a year to every employe in the country, from the section hand to president of the road. Just as a "starter." That would only require \$100,000,000 per year. We would still have \$337,667,000 left.

Next we could reduce rates so as to reduce the cost of living. Let \$100,000,000 go for that. We would still have \$237,667,000 left.

Next let us set aside \$100,000,000 yearly as a sinking fund to pay off the original debt when it came due. We would still have \$137,667,000 left.

With that \$137,667,000 we could buy up the next utility; raise wages in that industry; shorten hours, improve conditions, reduce the cost of living; and use the remaining profits to buy the next utility.

And so the Socialist program would proceed from one utility to the next until the nation owned them all. Every step in the process would make the next one easier. And this socialization would go on steadily reducing the profits until there were no profits. It would go on until the profit system itself was gone--all unearned incomes were abolished--all exploitation and robbery were completely and finally at an end.

OVERLOOKED.

It takes money to conduct war. A statesman in Europe a century ago said it took three things to conduct war, namely, "Money, money and again money."--Jackson Items.

There is one other requirement in conducting war that the European statesman probably overlooked. It takes a whole lot of fools to stop the bullets.

"McAdoo says banks used U. S. as Tool," reads a head-line in a metropolitan paper. Nothing out of the ordinary about that. The surprising thing is that we have a secretary of the treasury with frankness enough to tell it. He is far ahead of the average statesman.

Send us one dollar and get five pounds of good coffee by parcel post delivered to your door. Send for Grocery price list. Farmers Co-Operative Exchange Co., 404, N. First St., St. Louis, Mo.

## IN THE SOUTHEAST.

### What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

Jackson Correspondent to Cape Republican.--Uncle Steve Summers, 89 years old, was in a retrospective mood today, and told a few things of times long ago. His grandfather came to the United States from Scotland when 3 years old, and settled in Kentucky. Later the family came to Missouri and settled in Cape Girardeau county on a farm about four miles south of Jackson. Uncle Steve remembers the time when Bob Morrison made the trip from Jackson to Baltimore in a stage coach, to bring merchandise to Jackson merchants. He also remembers when vehicles drawn by horses were a luxury, steers being the principal means of propelling wagons when he was a boy. Today, what a contrast! Uncle Steve was born right here in Cape county 89 years ago, and at that time the country round about was wild and woolly. Indeed, Indiana's glory everywhere, virgin forests all most impenetrable and untouched by the woodman's axe covered Cape Girardeau county from border to border. Only 23 years previously the Louisiana purchase had been perfected, and things were naturally in a chaotic state. Where paths then wound through the forests automobiles now scurry along well-kept highways, and where the foot of the swamp was the only sound to be heard at night, now reverberates the shriek of the Motor railroad engine. Where the berch-bark canoe of the aborigines plied the waters of the Mississippi, the gasoline launch now cuts the waves with dexterity and with speed. And all these things Steve Summers has seen and is here to tell the tale.

Vester Gregory, Emil Rogers and Sam Sullivan are in Charles county jail charged with night-riding. There is no rubbing it out; conditions among the work people are very bad, and while unlawful methods on their part can only make bad matters worse if possible, yet a normal man is apt to become desperate in the face of a suffering family and plenty. The story is familiar. As usual, threatening notes were left on the premises of parties in the Wyatt neighborhood of Mississippi county. Then detectives were sent out on the job who worked as hard as laborers and got into the confidence of others. Last week one of Walter Shiveley's home was dynamited. Nobody was hurt and I would be as ready to believe that the detectives did it as any one else. Strange nothing serious happens in such cases until after detectives are put on the job. A few years ago we heard of such troubles only in the mining and manufacturing districts. Now it is a right among us. What are we going to do about it? Putting men in jail and their families in the poor house will not remove the cause.

Jackson Items.--Considerable excitement was caused Monday evening that E. Steinhoff, an old citizen of this town had wandered off. In the absence of his wife the old gentleman who is 78 years old, hitched up the horse and took a drive out the Stevens Ferry road. Returning, he evidently became bewildered and drove down the western Gordonville road until he reached the neighborhood three miles south of town. There he inquired the way to Jackson and was told to turn right back, but at the John Kasten place he evidently turned south instead of north and next appeared in Tipton where he again inquired the way home. W. A. Penzel, who knew him and his condition, well, telephoned to Jackson and got ready to try and detain him until he could be gotten. Mr. Steinhoff had proceeded on his way, but a wire message caused August Nagel to be on the lookout and he persuaded the aged wanderer to come into the house. Shortly afterwards his sons arrived in an auto and brought their father home.

The Jimmie tells of a 20-car train of Federal troops passing through Lima. The train was being hauled on a 28 hour schedule between Texarkana and St. Louis and "was given the right of way over all other trains." Some rust, eh? And nobody seems to know what it was about. But since troops are only used to "keep labor in its place," perhaps it was the several strikes in progress in Chicago that caused the rush. But you can't say ways tell. Our news don't tell us what the troops are going to do until they have done gone and done it. And then they lie to us about the cause.

In going up a heavy grade a local freight train running out of Illinois came near being stalled. Investigation revealed that a tramp, who was stealing a ride, had set the brakes on nine cars. The tramp was arrested. This man evidently had a grouch at the railroad and had imbibed the Democratic idea of regulation. In fact, he accomplished more than all the regulators combined. He at least checked the speed of a train for a short time. But he got in jail. The other regulators are harmless and get into office.

Seven men were brought in justice court at Portageville, last week, on charge of venue, charged with night riding. It will be remembered that last winter negroes were chased out of New Madrid county in the neighborhood of Linda and Ruddle's Point. I am told that Matt Conran, who appears to be the political boss of that county, owns the land in that section. The sheriff filed the complaint and the witnesses were negroes. What appears unusual is that five of the seven prisoners were released. When Bob Vincent, one of the colored witnesses, was asked if he was not a boot-legger he answered, "Well, boss, I'll tell de truth; everybody over there are boot-leggers. The state took advantage of the ignorance of its own witness. He did not know he could refuse to answer the question because it incriminated him and he was arrested for bootlegging. That looks to me to be a little bit lower than night-riding."

Jackson Items.--Mrs. Mary J. Boeller celebrated her 90th birthday last Sunday at the home of her son, Chas. Englemann near Oak Ridge, at which occasion her four sons and two daughters and many other descendants were present. In fact of the fifty-one person present all were members of the family with one exception. The birthday fell on Thursday, but to give the children a chance to be present, the celebration was postponed until Sunday. Mrs. Boeller is a wonderful active old lady, last winter insisting on getting the fuel for her stove and even building her own fires, and is still a great reader. She came from Germany in 1852, since which time she resided in this county, with the exception of a few years spent with a daughter at Murphysboro. Five generations are living, a grand-daughter at Murphysboro herself being a grand-mother.

Shelf J. B. Kearby of Butler Co. was probably fatally shot by Wm. Wilson at Poplar Bluff Friday. Wilson was killed. Wilson was under sentence to hang at Cairo and escaped from jail about 12 months ago. He was convicted of killing Tom Logan, a railroad detective, at Mounds, Ill. Publication of the news was caused by the Cairo papers because the slain man was a nephew of the late Gen. John A. Logan. Sheriff Kearby was inspecting box cars for a negro wanted in Arkansas for a murder and was accompanied by deputies. They saw a man asleep near the tracks and woke him up to inquire his name and business. When Wilson saw that he was about to be taken he pulled a pistol and shot the sheriff. In turn Wilson was killed by the officers.

The reform wave seems to have spent itself very quickly in Jackson. Two months ago nearly everybody up there was on the road to glory, and Burke and Hobbs, the "evangelists" got by with one hundred dollars. Last week a saloon license for Jackson was granted without opposition. Even the Cash Book has lost some of its ginger. At this distance it appears that Burke and Hobbs were the only ones benefited by that "reform." In a year or so they can go back and repeat the dose.

Dexter Messenger.--The growing crop along the line of the Iron-Mountain railroad in Scott and Mississippi counties does not look good, and it gives promise of a poor yield. The dry weather of two or three weeks this spring and the Hessian fly has and will cut this crop short. This is one of the best wheat belts in the state.

Jackson Items.--Different farmers from various sections have told us that they have secured an exceptionally good stand of corn this spring, which was a pleasant surprise, as last fall fear was expressed that it would be difficult to get good seed corn. The drought seems to have had little effect on its germinating power.

Charleston Re-Ullean.--William Dickerson, aged 28 years, was found hanging in a cell of the county jail Thursday by Bill Babb a trustee. Dickerson was brought up from Samos Tuesday by officers and placed in jail for safe-keeping until the county court could pass on his sanity.

Bloomfield Vindicator.--Some people have peculiar ideas. Now, for instance, after over one hundred American citizens were killed they wish to rush into arms and possibly slaughter one hundred thousand more. We claim we are civilized, but what is war but barbarism.

On May 6 a storm in the Sugartree neighborhood of Stoddard county blew down several barns and out-houses, lifted several houses off their foundations, including the Sugartree church house. The storm was followed by a heavy rain.

There are not many people who will do without the Kicker.

If you want the tru he you must read the unmissed Kicker.