

Many Men of Many Minds

Philip Gibbs.—Apart from individual theorists of the "cranky" kind, the main body of intelligent opinion in England, as far as I know it, looks to the United States as the arbiters of the world's destiny, and the leaders of the world's democracy, on peaceful and idealistic lines. There is a conviction among many of us—not killed by the controversy over the Peace Treaty—that the spirit of the American people as a whole is guided by an innate sense free from antiquated spell-words, facing the facts of life, shrewdly and honestly, and leaning always to the side of personal liberty against all tyrannies of castes, dynasties and intolerance.

*Writer's View of
What England
Thinks of America*

Rudyard Kipling.—One understands and accepts the bitter scorn of the Dutch, and the hopeless anger of one's own race in South Africa is also part of the burden, but the Canadian's profound—sometimes humorous, always polite—contempt of the England of today cuts a little.

Professor Charles Cestre, Sorbonne, Paris.—France has enough nerve and grit for her own salvation. If she offers some signs of disquietude, no wonder, under the stress of present difficulties, without even a sense of security at her frontier. But the indecision will be only temporary. Her people are abstemious and thrifty, patient and tireless, cheerful withal, glad to enjoy the sunshine even on their ravaged lands and to sit in the family circle even under a tarred paper roof.

Mato Nagin, or Standing Bear, a chief of the Sioux Indians.—The Indian has always believed in heaven, but he never heard of hell until the white man told him about it. There was not much need for a hell in the red man's religion until after he began to drink the paleface's whisky and to adopt as a rule of life the white man's code of morals. Before the white man came, my forefathers lived not only a simple life, but a humble and religious one. They all believed in the Great Spirit, and each day offered up a prayer of thankfulness and a request for divine guidance. Among my people there was no crime; in my tribe there were no criminals. Our wants were simple, our lives were free, and the action of each individual was governed by his individual desires. We did the best we could, we lived and loved, dreamed of a happy hunting ground beyond the grave.

William E. Johnson.—Before the war, something like 1,300 babies, according to government statistics, were annually suffocated by "overlaying"; that is, these babies were smothered in bed by drunken mothers. The operations of the war restrictions, which were nothing but partial prohibition, reduced these to a little more than 500 a year. Because of the removal of the war restrictions, the slaughter of babies is now swiftly approaching the record made prior to 1914. The people endure it without much grousing, the newspapers are apathetic about it, and the clergy, except in isolated cases, do not concern themselves about the wanton slaughter.

*Drunken Mothers
Slaughter Babies
in British Isles*

Karlo Von Kugelgen.—Bolshevism, in its Russian form, has proved itself impossible in Western Europe by the example of Hungary. So far as we can see such a system will never be even experimented with in Germany or Austria. Quite true, the Spartacans, and even the Independent Socialists, may become as great a danger for Germany as the Bolsheviks are for Russia. The English labor movement may become more radical and attempt to revolutionize the economic machinery of that country. But it is doubtful whether the proletariat of Western Europe can now learn anything of value from Russian Bolshevism; and for that reason its infectious virulence is likely to grow less.

Henry P. Davison.—One of the most terrible tragedies in the history of the human race is being enacted within the broad belt of territory lying between the Baltic and the Black and Adriatic seas. Disease, bereavement and suffering are present in practically every household, while food and clothing are insufficient to make life tolerable. Men, women and children are dying by thousands, and over vast once-civilized areas there are to be found neither medical appliances nor medical skill sufficient to cope with the devastating plagues.

Charles F. Higham, M. P.—Newspapers, which should be the greatest educational influence in the world, are placed at a great disadvantage because usually their proprietors are seeking money or power, and they realize that the less the masses know the greater their power is. The trouble is that the people want to think and try to think, but they are given the wrong things.

Lady Astor.—Let us avoid talking cant about the League. The ideal is fine, but unless the peoples and nations are just toward each other the League is utterly useless.

Brander Matthews.—We need not be alarmed if, in this first quarter of the twentieth century, as in every quarter of every other century for now a thousand years or more, new words of all sorts and conditions are being added to the language, springing up spontaneously, often from seeds of doubtful origin. . . . In the past decade we have learned to use Pep and Jazz; we have been taught to feel a hostile contempt for profiteers and hyphenated citizens; and we have been told what manner of man a drug addict is, and what manner of thing a fabricated ship.

Pomeroy Burton.—There is, undoubtedly, a growing feeling on the part of the general public against profiteering, but it is directed against profiteering by Labor as well as profiteering by Capital. If radical labor leaders continue to push their demands beyond reason, as they have been doing of late, then the public will step in here precisely as it did in England, and force the radical leaders off the map, putting in their place true representatives of the great mass of sound-thinking workers who want right and justice to prevail, and who want a labor autocracy just as little as they want a capital autocracy.

*Labor as Well as
Capital Must
Beware of Public*

Senator William H. King.—It seems as though men in public life are afraid to deny the importunities of those who knock at the doors of Congress and demand appropriations and bounties and aid from the United States. I venture the assertion that it would be for the interest of the people if there were more men in public life who served their country with fidelity and observed with scrupulousness their oath of office. It seems as though public office makes cowards of men who sustained before entering public life reputations of possessing high moral courage.

Bernard Shaw.—If municipalities really want to raise the morals of a district, they must remember that the community consists very largely of young people growing up. At a certain period of their lives, when they begin to take a more general interest in human relations and before they can afford to get married, there is no use pursuing a policy of Puritanism—a policy of strict repression of their human impulse.

Dr. Frank Crane.—Trust the people, believe in the people, give the people a chance to get what they want—this is the only highway to the millennium. The idea that the people don't know what is good for them, that they need to be ruled, protected, managed, whether by a Solomon or a Trotzky, a landed gentry or a proletariat, leads to the ditch of monarchy, caste and eventual ruin.

Representative Joseph Fordney.—The trend of opinion toward tax revision is well defined, the so-called excess profits tax being apparently the cause of the most dissatisfaction. Complaints of business interests concerning its operation have been growing in frequency and urgency. To the excess profits are attributed the stifling of initiative, the encouragement of waste, and the prevention of expansion; and many government officials and others blame it for much of the high cost of living. In conversations and conferences between members of the Finance Committee of the Senate and the Ways and Means Committee of the House in regard to lessening certain tax burdens, much attention has been paid to proposals for placing a small general tax on retail sales. I am convinced that a tax of one per cent on all retail sales would produce more than one billion dollars annually.

*Leader of Ways and
Means Committee
Suggests a New Tax*

Edward N. Hurley.—It has been stated that before the war not more than 100 Americans had an international vision. Since the war that number has greatly increased, but as a whole we are still inclined to be concerned only with our home affairs. But, gentlemen, the future success of our country depends absolutely upon the men who are thinking internationally. Those American manufacturers and merchants who are not planning to sell at least 10 per cent of their products to foreign countries and to carry on advertising campaigns that will keep American products before the eyes of the world are not doing their parts as Americans. For otherwise we cannot realize the fullness of American prosperity.

Bainbridge Colby.—Possession implies stewardship. Power implies responsibility and there rests upon this great and powerful republic, blessed above all lands, fortunate beyond the dreams of the men who founded this country, there rests upon it a reciprocal duty to the world, a duty that we should undertake happily, soberly, responsibly, to administer our wealth, to apportion our power in great works of modest succor and relief to those who are less fortunate.

Franklin K. Lane.—To know America is to love it. For it is a thing of life; it is growing, struggling, climbing, stumbling. It is thinking through its problems, groping through them, living through them. Out of its wealth in things of the earth and its greater wealth in things of the spirit it is making a new society different from any that is or that has been.

Gray Silver, Washington representative of the Farm Bureau Federation.—It is regrettable that Congress adjourned without passing the needed pending agricultural legislation, which would have done much to encourage food production. Living costs will mount higher and higher, and unrest become greater and greater, until proper legislation gives the necessary facilities to increase and provide proper distribution of same. Pending legislation, which would provide farm credits, legalize co-operative marketing, insure a cheaper fertilizer supply, and keep open the world markets, would prove a material aid in encouraging farm crop production.

Senator Frederick M. Davenport.—There is a growing group of liberal capitalists in America. They regard themselves as trustees for the whole industry and not simply for the stockholders. They are as thoroughly opposed to labor running the business as are their more conservative confreres, but they have wiser plans for preventing it. . . . In the main this liberal group of capitalists seek so to conduct their own business for the good of the whole of it, labor included, that unionism becomes unnecessary and relatively unimportant. . . . They cut the ground from under the feet of radicalism by beating radicalism to it in the lessening of unnecessary and unjust inequalities.

*The New Group of
Capitalists in
the Business World*

Walker D. Hines.—A considerable part of the public was misled into thinking during the period of Federal control that the increased railroad costs were not due to new conditions growing out of the war which were affecting correspondingly all other business activities, but were merely due to Federal control of the railroads. The error in this view is strikingly shown by the proposals of the railroad executives for increased rates. The railroad executives represent that rates must be raised to produce one billion more dollars in revenue every twelve months. Yet the deficit during the entire twenty-six months of Federal control was only \$900,000,000.

John R. Rathom.—Are we to stand idly by with folded hands and see the torch of progress and advancement, the sanctity of the home, the real brotherhood of man, based on self-respect and mutual respect, our flag, our laws, our human sympathy, and our increasing passion for orderly methods of self-government, all these things shattered and smashed into the dirt of oblivion, because we have not the common courage to stand in the way of these crazy fanatics and block their path to destruction?