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Time For Action

THE war in Europe has now been raging two years. It has cost some millions of lives, millions more have been maimed; thousands in the red track of the war have starved and are starving, beautiful structures and works of art have been destroyed and the cost in money up to date is reckoned at \$55,000,000,000. And what has been accomplished of good to any nation or for mankind?

It is time that question should be asked by some potential voice. We do not think the neutral nations are doing their duty, we think that had they united in The Hague or some other tribunal months ago and gone to work in earnest, they would before now have accomplished something.

Most of the nations at war are today like a man who has caught the polls of a battery, completed the circuit and cannot let go. They would be glad to stop if they knew how. We think had the tribunal met and commenced the framing of a new international code, and as they agreed upon a section, have submitted it to all the powers now at war for approval or disapproval, they might by this time have completed some thing which all the warring powers might have been willing to accept as a basis of settlement.

It is foolishness to say that the belligerents are still too angry to consider any proposition of peace. Nations are like individuals; we have all seen two fighting men who were crazy to get at each other and declaring that they would never cease their efforts until that thing was accomplished.

We have all seen one of them suddenly quit when told that his wife or child was looking for him, while it required a night behind the bars of a jail to cool the other one and make him reasonable.

Each of the belligerents might reject a proposition for peace, if it came from the other side, but if the proposition was incorporated as a rule to govern all nations in war or peace, it might be accepted. And the duty of neutral nations is to be formulating such rules right now. No one can estimate what power such a peaceable convention would have. It would be backed by the nations at peace and by the prelate upon whom most of the nations at war look upon as God's Vicegerent on earth.

Then suppose a proposition should be advanced, which if accepted, would become a law binding alike on all nations and should be accepted by one side in this war and rejected by the other, in what position would it place those rejecting it? Would it not at once array the whole world in sentiment against those who rejected it? That would be an isolation which the strongest could not bear.

Meanwhile the bravest and best of all those nations are dying in field and trench and hospital; women and little children are starving, and the wreck and the mourning are increasing every day. Who says the neutral nations that are looking calmly on and making no move to stop the horrors are doing their duty? And how is our country with all its people and power and

with its flag of freedom advanced, acquitting itself? Is it giving any sign of its real majesty and its solicitude for the world's peace? Have we as a people reached the point when we can consistently say: "It is not our concernment, let them fight it out!"

Have we with our millions reached a point when in the world's estimation our country counts for nothing?

Our thought is that those in power should call the world's attention to the fact that the destruction going on should cease, and to begin to formulate a code which all the world would accept.

Mr. Hughes' Acceptance

IT was what was expected. It expressed exactly the sentiments of millions of men in this country. He may be charged with a lacking in courtesy to the present chief magistrate, but that gentleman is running for a second election on his record and that record has to be considered that the people may decide whether or not they desire a second edition of it. Moreover, Mr. Wilson's friends loudly applaud it, and then Mr. Wilson will have ample time to discuss it between now and November. And Mr. Wilson does not hesitate to express his opinion of those who oppose him. On more than one public occasion of late he has expressed the opinion that to use a biblical form of speech, said plainly enough, that were the Democratic party to cease to exist, wisdom would perish from the earth.

If his methods toward both Great Britain and Germany show any either practical or political sagacity, a good many of us are too opaque to see it; if his handling of Mexican affairs has been that of a statesman, then a great many millions of people need to have their dictionaries revised. The same may be said of his treatment of the question of a merchant marine. And this should be considered in direct connection with his own promises before his election, while his treatment of the tariff has been Bourbon from the beginning—Bourbon in the sense of never forgetting anything or ever learning anything.

The acceptance has a practical, decisive, business-like ring. There is no dramatic display, no playing to the galleries. Nothing that reminds us of Dead sea apples, or a drum major on parade, or the boast of killing of seven men in buckram when it was so fearfully dark that no man could distinguish the color of the uniform. It sounded the real opening of the campaign and the ring of it is business all through.

Lane On Mexico

IT is very touching to read what Secretary of the Interior Lane has to say of the sorrow of the poor peons of Mexico and what must be done to bring to them justice and enlightenment. We do not give the secretary credit for believing what he says, for he is sharp as a steel trap, but he is out to defend Mr. Wilson's policy, and like a gifted lawyer, is trying to make the worse appear the better cause.

But as secretary of the interior he is at least ex-officio the patron saint of the Indians. Now, to make a parallel for his dissertations on Mexico,

let us suppose that some enemy of the administration should make a report on conditions on the Navajo Indian reservation down in New Mexico, and that it should read about as follows:

"The situation here is most pitiable. The masses of the people live in what are called wickiups, that contain not one modern comfort, to say nothing of luxuries. In them all I did not see one bath tub; or cooking range, or refrigerator, or French bedstead. There is not a library. The children are but half clothed. I did not see a physician's sign in the place. Exercising the old brutal law of might, the men compel the women to do all the work. Some of these women are real artists. They weave a most substantial and beautiful blanket which the men sell for high prices and I am told as a rule gamble off the money. There is but one miserable school-house and no church.

"The government has taken from them their great tracts of lands, paying them but a pitiable price.

"I see but one hope for these poor people, and that is to shake off the tyranny of the United States, and for them to begin the redemption of their country from within themselves."

The foregoing would be just as sensible as are Mr. Lane's lamentations over the peons of Mexico. That is not all, Secretary Lane knows it, and our belief is that when in private he reads one of his own interviews about Mexican peones, he tosses a penny in the air to see whether he ought to cry or laugh over it.

Blackmail And Blackmailers

WILLIAM J. BURNS of New York declares that the great crime of the age is blackmailing. That millions of dollars were collected by it last year in New York City. That it is carried on mostly by elegantly dressed and accomplished men and women, but it is of all grades down to the Italian bomb-thrower; that the Mann white slave act, intended for a good purpose, was at once seized upon by the accomplished blackmailers of both sexes because of the opportunities it opened to them. There has been a marked increase to the ranks of these birds of prey since the war in Europe began, as so many who were formerly of the class these creatures loved to work upon are in the trenches, and the governments across the sea have a way of making it unpleasant for those who seek to interfere with their soldiers. Burns gives the classes these devils most love to work upon in their order.

- (1) The wealthy married woman comes first.
- (2) Wealthy, very respectable men with strong social and church connections.
- (3) College or school boys with money in their own right or with wealthy parents.
- (4) The daughters of wealthy families.
- (5) Married men who go out for "a good time"—especially when away from home.
- (6) Wealthy people with family skeletons.

Burns describes their methods of procedure, many of which are liable to catch and involve almost all vain men and silly women. These creatures of the higher class of both sexes live at fashionable hotels, keep automobiles, are often accomplished singers and dancers. And they can