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That Second Note

WE think the president's second note to Germany does not compare with the first in either its style or tone. True, the original demands are reiterated, but it gives the impression that the demands are not made as they would be to such a power as, say Spain. Somehow the demand for justice is made in a form that gives the impression that there is as much begging and demanding in it. Probably that was wise. Certainly our country is big enough and strong enough, not to indulge in anything that looks like an attempt to bully another power, but reading the note the average American cannot avoid thinking that it is too long; that a few terse sentences declaring that there are offenses which cannot be submitted to arbitration, such as the violation of laws, which the nations of the earth have acknowledged as binding for a century, and adding the belief of the government of the United States that Germany is too generous and great to persist in justifying a crime, would have been sufficient. But no matter, through all the politeness of the reply, the original demands are reiterated and that is sufficient, and in that the president has the backing of ninety-nine millions of the one hundred millions of his countrymen.

And Germany will comply unless the blood-lust that seems to have taken possession of her rulers, has made them utterly insane.

Legislation That Is Worse Than War

ABOUT forty years ago some eighty Chinamen, going in a body through Idaho to do some work which had been contracted for by the company to which their services belonged, met a band of Indians who at the time were on the war path. The Chinese were armed, but when they met the red devils they smilingly gave up their arms to them. The savages took their arms and then massacred the whole bunch.

On a big scale Japan has been dealing the same way with China, the only difference being that the Japs have contented themselves by taking China's resources and trade into her own hands and has to all intents and purposes made China a subject nation. The reason is that, long ago, the rulers of China, through the hardships to which the masses of the people were subjected, permitted the military spirit to wither and die within them. They were given, through excessive and never-ending toil, merely a bare living, and the germs which, when quickened, make soldiers, died in their breasts.

Old Rome, starting with but a little band of men, conquered the then civilized world and for seven hundred years ruled supreme. But in the third century, after the Christian era, through

the hardships and poverty which had come upon her people, they had so lost the ancient military spirit that their country was overrun by barbarians, and their leaders at length were forced to engage one race of barbarians to fight the others. People wonder why the enlistments are so slow in England in these days of peril. One reason is because out upon the lands of England, since the importation of food from America and Argentine began, no money has been made from the lands, for the government would give them no protection, and the thought that England is worth dying for has withered in the breasts of her sons. This began to be apparent in the Boer war. It required six months of energetic drilling to make them take on the attributes of efficient soldiers, for nothing like extreme poverty, especially when suffered where another class by their side steadily grows rich, will in a brief time so cow and embitter men, that when a call upon their patriotism is made there is no response. The thought, spoken or unspoken is, "What worse can our lot be whatever comes?"

That was why Napoleon was able to slash, unchecked, over Europe for twenty years.

The people were so hopelessly poor that their military spirit had died. When a people live on the verge of starvation long enough, they cease to care what may come; the thought being: "It cannot be any worse."

The wholesale smashing of the tariff last year, imitating the aristocratic government of Great Britain, was a mistake so grave that measured by its effects, it was almost or quite a crime. It was adopting a measure which had its conception in the brains of men who never toiled, who believed a servile race should do a country's hard work with no compensation save the simplest food and only rough clothing enough to cover their nakedness.

With such people the world's long experience counts for nothing but in truth the legislation which aims its blows at the industries of a country, closes the factories and wounds its agriculture and fills its highways and cities with men who cannot find honest employment is criminal legislation, and is a direct blow at the patriotism of a people, and continued long enough makes them a subject race to any enterprising foe that attacks them.

Make a Call For Peace

THE peace movement if pressed ought to begin to have an effect very soon now. The war has been raging ten months with nothing really gained anywhere except that the Germans have been able to maintain the integrity of their country.

We read every day of the fighting along all the fronts and the fact shines out clear in the dispatches that all the armies engaged are tired to the limit of exhaustion except that of Italy and when that has a few onsets with the combined Austrian and German armies it, too, will be tired. It lacks but three days of the longest day in the year; after another month the days will begin to sensibly shorten; nothing is gained anywhere and the awful sacrifices of life and property have not

a thing to show for them except devastated fields, ruined cities and the tears of women and children. Let the most sanguine believer in the success of one side or the other take a map and, beginning at Calais, push his finger along the battle line clear to Constantinople, and then let him determine where he can rest his finger on a spot where, at the present time, a hope of success rests!

Is it not about time for reason to begin to assert itself?

When the war began President Wilson tendered the good offices of our government to help adjust the differences that set the nations to cutting each other's throats.

Is it not time for him to make another tender? When an irresistible wave strikes an immovable rock, only shattered spray is seen.

That is about all that is seen where the tired armies are waging war now. Is it not time for the neutral nations to assert themselves and make a united appeal for peace? The Palace of Peace stands vacant at The Hague. Is it not time for a gathering there and a call for peace?

It is whispered that in all the southeastern armies there are thousands of sick soldiers, and that the sanitary precautions grow fewer and fewer. It will soon be time to gather the harvest; not long until the advance guard of winter will be trumpeting his coming.

Unless the rulers in Europe have lost their reason, they ought by this time to listen to an appeal for peace.

The Showing We Make

IN his speech in Mobile a few weeks ago, President Wilson referred to our want of a merchant marine and expressed the idea that if private enterprise does not soon find a means to restore it, the government will have to take it in hand.

So we suspect that on the meeting of congress, the president will renew his recommendation to buy merchant ships and run them on government account.

That would be better than nothing, but it is not the business of the government of a republic like ours to engage in private business which can be much better done by private individuals. Ours is a great productive nation. It has advanced so far that its business on land is closely intertwined with its commerce on the sea. This has been most strikingly shown since the mad men in Europe rushed into war last August.

It has crippled our business on land, and made clear how we for half a century have been dependant upon outside nations to do our work on the sea.

The ships that have done our work have not been government owned, but every one of them has been helped by the government of its own country. The examples of those countries should be worth something to us.

England has paid out in subsidies to her ships \$450,000,000 in the past fifty years. Up to the close of the Franco-Prussian war, Germany had no merchant marine, and her people were flocking to other lands. Then she made a new departure. She said to her people: Build ships and