

for mercy for the impetuous ones that have made the trouble at home. Cruelty under the name of the law will but intensify the hate there. Forbearance and mercy would make another rebellion impossible.

Call For A Truce

WE have an impression that a truce will be called in the next two months to the combatants beyond the sea.

Not from anything that is being done along the different battle fronts, not from any words spoken behind the hostile lines, but from the knowledge which they all must have of the helpless condition of the people to meet another winter's privations. Certainly civilized people will hardly pursue much longer a course which they know will culminate in the destruction of thousands, perhaps millions of women, children and aged persons through hunger and cold. Unless the nations have all gone stark mad, they are about ready to listen to a call for a halt.

President Wilson loves to be in the limelight as much as does Colonel Roosevelt. The war between Russia and Japan was not nearly so desperate as is the present war when President Roosevelt in the name of the Great Republic and backed by its majesty, appealed to both those powers to try to get together and make peace, at the same time tendering to them a city in which to hold their negotiations. The offer was accepted and the peace compact was framed.

Why does not President Wilson make a like proffer?

And as nearly all Europe is Catholic in faith, either Roman or Greek, why not ask the pope to join in the appeal?

It would be perfectly proper to make the appeal and it would be likewise proper in making the appeal to call attention to the fact that during the past full year, despite the drain of treasure and the sacrifice of so many lives, neither combatant can claim any advance toward victory, and in solemn tones remind the belligerents that to pursue a war after hope of success has vanished, is but murder.

We believe those belligerents are right now waiting for such a call.

One Result Of Demonetization

NO fact in our country's history is better known than that the interest-gatherers of the great eastern cities, more particularly New York, brought on the panic of '93 in order to supply Mr. Cleveland with an excuse for calling congress in extra session, and to help him bulldoze through that congress the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law. Some of us remember keenly the prostration that followed. One effect was the throwing of three-fourths of the railroads of the country into the hands of receivers where they lay in most part prone and helpless until the reinforcement of gold that came to us because of the famine which smote all the outside world in 1895-'96 and '97, in which there came to us, in great part for food, more than 2,000 millions in gold. The gold gravitated directly to the money centers, into the coffers of the gold power. The effect of the incoming of the gold in the country was the planting and harvesting of great crops. Then the gold power bent its energies to the revival of the railroads. It picked up one after another and doubling its bonds and stocks floated them on the market. When men in the country made any money they sent it to the big cities for investment and the railroads were described as most desirable investments. Then heavy charges had to be made to meet interest and operating expenses. The great central power got out from one after another as fast as it could unload, and the strain on railroad managers increased. This caused all the railroad troubles fifteen years ago. Made necessary the creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission and so

hurt railroad credit that the men conducting most of them could not obtain the funds to keep them in repair.

Nothing ever so crippled the prosperity of the masses of the people as the demonetization of silver.

The Bird's Convention

THE birds held a great reform convention not long ago, the object, as stated in the call, being to readjust the methods through which the government of the birds has been carried on of late.

An old wise owl called the meeting to order and in her opening address explained that while the birds claimed to live under a free republican form of government, many abuses had, under the guise of law, crept into the state, giving superior privileges to the few and working unbelievable hardships upon the many, and that these innovations on the original form of government which was proclaimed as giving equal opportunities to all, were threatening to undermine the very fabric of government and to make the few rulers and the many slaves; and stated that it had been deemed advisable to first obtain a general expression of opinion on the best lines to proceed to bring around the needed changes.

The owl looked so wise that the general consensus of the convention was that hers had been a great speech, though one envious old raven was heard to declare in a low tone that the speech was altogether commonplace, that there was not one new idea in it all.

This offended a mud-hen, who was the owl's private secretary, who declared that the owl had locked her door the previous night and had spent the night in preparing the speech.

To this the raven cynically replied that just as she was retiring the previous evening she had seen the owl steal off on an all-night raid after field-mice or a scandalous clandestine meeting with a prairie-dog.

The first regular speaker was the nightingale. Her voice was lovely and her appearance most graceful. She said she had been singing for the world all the night long for many nights, only to come home in the morning to no breakfast, and declared that if there could not soon be relief she would be forced to give up her art and come down to common drudgery, or starve.

That excited the wrath of the yellowhammer, who said that most of the modern-day troubles were due to the weakness of mothers who never taught their children how to do anything useful except to sing and look pretty to try to catch for husbands birds that had been taught to work and who had laid up something to support a family on.

She further explained that she had been taught to get up at 3 a. m. in summer and autumn and to lay up enough to meet the demands of winter.

As for the nightingale, she sang only the old songs, declared she had not learned a new song for years, and for her part she would be glad if she would stay at home nights and let working birds sleep.

The peacock then came forward and tried to sing a solo, but made a dismal failure out of it. However, she was not at all embarrassed, but explained that at an immense salary she had been engaged so closely of late in posing for moving picture shows, she had been obliged to neglect her voice, whereupon she spread her tail and retired.

An old heron came forward next. Her idea was that the modern curriculum in the schools was too scattering, that there should be a more thorough training on a few lines, and explained that her old mother taught her to fish and the result was that she had enjoyed a fine fish breakfast every morning of her life.

Then a chicken-hawk took the stand and by

instinct the defenseless small birds hid their heads. The hawk ascribed all the trouble to faulty methods of instruction in the public schools; declared that all the struggle was to improve the brains of pupils and no care was bestowed in instructing pupils to use their beaks and talons and to bring their wings and muscles into perfect form to be able to stand off the world's abuses.

The robin stated that while she and the lark were both up in the early morning light, to arouse men, that while after the morning songs, she had only tarried long enough to obtain a few worms for breakfast, on returning home she found a bevy of sparrows had taken possession of her house, fixed it over, making the door too small for her to enter, and were in the tree all around her and in an outlandish chatter were declaring that they were the original builders of the nest.

A scrubby old sparrow, in reply to this, denied the indictment out and out, said she was but a poor, uneducated bird at best; that summer and winter she had to get out with the first light of the dawn and take to the street for a living, while the robin never worked at all, but spent her time in primping and painting her bosom, under the delusion that she was beautiful, and that from away back she had stolen all the food she ate; that she had known the robin's mother, a silly old fool that had taught her child that it was degrading to work; that a robin's place was to steal her food and look out in décolleté dress for an eligible mate.

A solemn old crow, dressed all in black, took the stand and thought that if mothers would not instill into the breasts of their children a love for fine clothes and for dainty food, most of the trouble would disappear, if they would teach them less music and impress upon them the necessity of hustling for hash a great many hours would be saved.

A bald-headed old eagle then arose. The burden of his argument was that if in the public schools pupils were only taught to use to the utmost the gifts that had been given them, all trouble would cease, but his speech was cut short, every bird had fled out of the open windows.

A Gloomy Outlook

THE report a week ago was that the inhabitants of Metz were evacuating that city. The natural conclusion is that the Germans are preparing, if this last drive fails, to withdraw their forces from around Verdun to occupy the works of Metz in anticipation of a concentrated drive upon the battlements around Metz. Should that prove true, then the situation that has ruled at Verdun for weeks will be reversed; the allies will be trying to break the German front, the Germans will by wholesale be mowing down the allies. Is there no great-brained and great-hearted man who can propose a means of settlement which will induce those infuriated nations to stop and consider? The war has become a horror to the civilized world.

That Pan-American Railroad

SECRETARY McAdoo, who has just rounded the continent, says the southern republics are anxious for the building of the Pan-American railway—a railroad to connect Central and South America.

There is nothing that requires more practical sense than the wise building of a railroad. They are costly institutions, railways are.

Central America, including the state of Panama, can wait a while yet for railways. Its trade does not justify it, as does perhaps one across Honduras.

Then see what has happened to the companies that have built railroads down through Mexico!

But could a railroad be started on the southern shore of the Caribbean sea, or better still, at the head of navigation on the Atrato river, which empties into the Gulf of Darien in Colombia, run then southeasterly down the Andes to Buenos