'WAR SHORN OF PROFITS'

Harry Stilwell Edwards Is Author of Article That Has Met With Considerable Attention

(By Harry Stilwell Edwards)

The author of the following article, which is reprinted from the Atlanta (Ga.) Journal, is one of the most distinguished of southern journalists. His literary work, especially several volumes of short stories, has won him national recognition. In 1904 Mr. Edwards was delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention and seconded, on behalf of the south, the nomination for President of Theodore Roosevelt.

A lone horseman in khaki arrived on the hill above my creek in June, 1917, surveyed the peaceful valley, the long stretch of woodland, and the broad fields, green with growing crops, made notes in a little book and rode away. A few days later the sun was shining on a little village of tents on the slope below, and the sound of a bugle mingled with the drowsy clatter of the water wheel, and the age-old melody of the birds. And, finally, with a great burst of life and activity; with the roar of trains, the tattoo of myriad hammers, with motors and artillery and horses and 26,000 men—with band music, the voice of cannon, the rattle of machine guns, and thunder of mighty camions—war, the greatest war of history, came down my creek.

I am not going to tell here the history of the war at Camp Wheeler for nearly three years; of the passing of the birds, and squirrels, and the shy sweet wild flowers; of the death of noble trees, of hillsides and gullied fields; nor even of human suffering in bitterly cold winters, when organization failed somewhere; and the tragedy of poorly-equipped hospitals; and the destruction of human health repeated over and over through the long months. The story has been told elsewhere in detail; it is in the records—a story of war 3000 miles from any battlefield; an illustration of what war can do to the hearts and the souls of innocent people, without the firing of a gun, a shell.

For war, legalized crime, is the ugliest thing in God's universe. Twenty-eight camps like Wheeler marked the footsteps of war in this country. The birds and squirrels and shy flowers will come back, and nature efface her scars from field and hillside, but the scars of the soul will not disappear in generations. War releases every destructive emotion of which the human heart is capable, and undoes the work of centuries. These camps carry their lessons of cruelty, forgetfulness, greed, graft, lying, stealing, perjury, covetousness, extortion, and left sores in the body politic that ate their way to the core. They carry, too, the memory of heroic sacrifice, and of patriotic endeavor, but at last the best that can be said for them is, that they might have been worse, and, bad as they were, the money cost was well sacrificed if this great Nation of the West takes their lessons to heart, and with a clear vision of the evil, strikes the blow that will slay the monster War.

* * *

What I should like to do here, what I am sure all of us who have viewed the sadness and disgrace of war would like to do, is to hold up the hands of those who seem to be leading toward the ideal peace. Of these there are many, but the clearest vision seems to be with The Christian Science Monitor. Its single line, "war shorn of all profit will lose its noisiest and most powerful advocates," carries in its thought the chief cause of war and suggests a remedy for all. The Monitor calls profit what from time immemorial the human race has known as plunder. There never was a war that did not have its inception in aggression—the desire for the wealth or opportunities or trade of others. In brief, plunder. It was the promise of plunder that moved armies in days of old. Ravished plains and sacked cities were the temptations dangled before the eyes of men. Today the same old covetousness and ruthlessness are at the base of every war, but handled more skilfully. The plunderers stay at home, and with the genius of the orator and selfishness of the politician, and the money of the capitalist, make war popular and use the opportunity to plunder. It is at this system the Monitor struck when eight months ago it proposed one more amendment to the national Constitution in these words:

"In the event of a declaration of war, the property, equally with the persons, lives, and liberties of all citizens shall be subject to conscription for the defense of the Nation, and it shall be the duty of the President to propose and of Congress to enact the legislation necessary to give effect to this amendment."

In support of its peace plan the Monitor sets forth abundant argument in the following terse lines: "In accordance with this constitutional requirement, legislation would be enacted by which at a stroke the whole Nation would be set to work to attain national victory. All possibility of personal profit would be eliminated. The hardy youth would still be subject, as now, to conscription for military service. But no longer would a fortunate class of persons employed in 'essential industries' exist. The riveter in the shipyard, the munitions maker in the factory, would not, as in 1917, make preposterous wages in safety, while his brother suffered and died in the trenches for a pittance.

* * *

"Labor would be conscripted equally with military service. But mere labor would not be working for the ordinary soldiers' pay in order that employers and investors of capital might reap golden profits. For profits equally with service would be conscripted. Capital, equally with Labor, would be subject to the imperative demand of the state. The revolting theory that the state might command the lives of its youths, but that the money of the prosperous should be sacred, would be repudiated.

"Nor would the farmer or the miner be immune from the call to service. Food would be raised, but taken by the state at a price which would eliminate all profit, neither the digger of iron, the smelter, the puddler, nor the millionaire magnate who controlled the operation at all, should be allowed as the fruit of his labor during the continuance of the war more than what the boy in the trenches would be getting—namely, a bare livelihood. The profiteer would be eliminated. There would be no more 'dollar-a-year' men serving the nation, nor would there be, as during the last war, a horde of employes at Washington paid four and five times what the soldiers in the trenches received; nor a host of speculative hangers-on greatly enriching themselves at the expense of the Government.

"It is perfectly apparent, too, that if in war times those engaged in essential industries should be denied the right to make personal profit, this right should equally be denied to all other manufacturers or distributors. In fact, during the period of war, under the provisions of this constitutional amendment, the whole Nation would be militarized—or socialized, if you prefer—enrolled in one common effort for the performance of all functions engaged even in the most remote way with the national defense."

The Monitor's plan has received an overwhelming indorsement from press and pulpit, as well as from leaders of public thought in all departments of American life. There is agreement everywhere that if the Government has the right to draft life in defense of the country, or for the prosecution of war when declared, it has the moral right also to draft not only property, but all property, all service. Popular indorsement is now asked through a ballot system, and 1,800,000 ballots are being sent out by the Monitor to its subscribers for distribution.

He Tamed Wild Birds

Nathan Leopold, teen in the days when he was making a great name for himself in scientific circles by his amazing studies of bird life. This photograph shows the Chicago boy, now involved in one of the cruelest crimes of the age, winning to friendship the wild Kirtland, or Jack Pine warbler, the rarest of American songbirds and the hardest to tame. The bird had flown from all who approached, but ate from Leopold's hand and, thus, science was able to get good film studies for the first time.

Japan Plans Wireless To Reach Whole World

TOKIO, (AP). — A national radio system, affording communication with all parts of the Japanese empire and the principal countries of Europe and America, will be completed by Japan in 1925 when the new $4,500,000 station near Nagoya for communication with Europe is finished. The system will comprise four main divisions:

The trans-Pacific division, for communication with America by the Iwaki wireless station, already in operation for three years and co-operating with the Radio Corporation of America;

The trans-Asiatic or European division, communicating with Nauen in Germany and the Eiffel Tower in Paris, by the new Nagoya station;

The inter-colonial division thru the Hirano station near Osaka for messages to and from all parts of the empire from Formosa to Korea and Sakhalien.

The domestic division, employing a number of minor stations.

ARCTIC LAND IS INSPIRING

NENANA, Alaska (AP).—The unknown Arctic region between the Colville and Porcupine rivers, where Dr. Philip S. Smith has led a party of the United States geological survey on a perilous mission of exploration, is the locale of strange tales, spread among fur traders and gold hunters by the native Eskimos and Indians.

The territory which the Smith party has gone to investigate and chart appears on the maps largely as a blank space. Certain rivers, like the Colville, never have been traced to their headwaters, and what in the way of topography and resources lies within an area of 25,000 square miles has been a matter of conjecture.

Reports have trickled out of the Polar Basin that great lakes of oil were to be found in this wilderness. But the Eskimos and Indians tell stranger stories. They say the land is haunted by weird beasts, some of such immense stature that they leave tracks as large as dinner plates. It is said that no Indian can be persuaded to penetrate the region, even though tempted by the promise of abundant fur. The lore has it that there are great areas of hot springs, where the snow never falls and the streams never freeze.

Some of the more credulous of the white men, linking the tales with their scientific reading, contend that there still may lurk in the far north remnants of the mastadon herds that have left their bones and ivory in almost every stream bordering the lower Yukon river.

Men haven't destroyed civilization, but they have hurt its reputation like thunder.

Whales Enter Harbor.

MARSHALFIELD, Ore.—Two whales came into the harbor at Bandon last week, and their presence brought out a large crowd of spectators, who watched them as they went up the channel to the milk condensary, and there turned back to sea, leaving the port soon after their entrance. A popular visit was made to Coos bay a year ago when three whales came into the bay and proceeded 13 miles from the ocean to the vicinity of the port dock, between North Bend and Marshfield.

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