

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT PREDICTS THE WORLD'S WORST WAR

THE following "message to the people of the United States" by ex-President Taft was printed in the Independent of this week. "As I write Germany is reported to have declared war against Russia and France, and the participation of England on one side and Italy on the other seems imminent. Nothing like it has occurred since the great Napoleonic wars, and with modern armaments and larger populations nothing has occurred like it since the world began.

"It is a cataclysm. It is a retrograde step in Christian civilization. It will be difficult to keep the various countries of the Balkans out of the war, and Greece and Turkey may take part in it. All Europe is to be a battleground. It is reported that the neutrality of Holland has already been ignored, and Belgium offers such opportunities in the campaign certain to follow that her territory too will be the scene of struggle.

"Private property and commercial shipping under an enemy's flag are subject to capture and appropriation by prize proceedings, and with the formidable navies of England, France, Germany, Russia and Italy active the great carrying trade of the world will be in large part suspended or destroyed or will be burdened with such heavy insurance as greatly to curtail it.

"The commerce of the world makes much for the prosperity of the countries with whom it is conducted, and its interruption means great inconvenience and economic suffering among all people, whether at peace or war. The capital which the European people have invested by the billions in the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa and in the Orient must be withdrawn to fill the war chests of the nations engaged in a death grapple, and the enterprises which that capital made possible are likely to be greatly crippled while the hope of any further expansion must be definitely given up.

"This general European war will give a feverish activity in a number of branches of our industry, but on the whole we shall suffer with the rest of the world, except that we shall not be destroying or blowing up our existing wealth or sacrificing the lives of our best young men and youth.

"It is hard to prophesy the scope of a war like this because history offers no precedent. It is impossible to foresee the limits of a war of any proportions when confined only to two countries. In our own small Spanish war we began it to free Cuba and when the war closed we found ourselves 10,000 miles away with the Philippines on our hands.

"The immense waste of life and treasure in a modern war makes the loss to the conqueror only less, if indeed it be less, than the loss to the conquered.

"With a high patriotic spirit people enter upon war with confidence and with the thought of martial glory and success. The sacrifices they have to make, the suffering they have to undergo are generally such that if victory does rest upon their banners they seek a scapegoat for that which they themselves have brought on in the head of the state, and the king or emperor who begins a war or allows one to begin puts at stake not only the prestige of his nation but also the stability and integrity of his dynasty.

"One thing I think we can reasonably count on is that with the prostration of industry, with the blows to prosperity, with the state of flux that is likely to follow this titanic struggle, there will be every opportunity for common sense to resume its sway; and after the horrible expenditure of the blood of the best and the savings of the rich and the poor, the opportunity and motive for a reduction of armament and the taking away of the temptation of further war will be greatly enhanced.

"It is an awful remedy, but in the end it may be worth what it costs, if it makes this the last great war. The influence of America can be thrown most effectively for peace when peace is possible and for minimum armaments when disaster and exhaustion shall make the contending peoples and their rulers see things as they are.

"Manor Richelieu, Quebec."

DELAYED WAR BULLETINS

Germany Denies Rumors Concerning Huntington III Treatment.
 (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)
 WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 15.—Archer M. Huntington and family were not arrested but have been enjoying the fullest liberty at Nuremberg, Germany, according to message to the State Department from the German foreign office.

The German government explained that the automobile owned by the Huntington family had been requisitioned and that the chauffeur, a British subject, had been held a short time, but was released.

4500 AMERICANS LEFT.
 (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)
 LIVERPOOL, Aug. 15.—The sailing from here today of the St. Louis, Campania and Minnewaska for New York and the Megantic for Montreal reduced the number of Americans who are stranded in England by 4500.

PASSENGER SHIP DESTROYED.
 (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)
 LONDON, Aug. 15.—About 150 of the passengers and crew were killed when the Austrian Lloyd steamer Baron Gautsch was blown up yesterday by a mine off the island of Lusitania on the Dalmatian coast. She carried 300 passengers and crew.

RUSSIA MOBILIZES ON FRONTIER.
 (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)
 LONDON, Aug. 15.—According to reliable information from St. Petersburg Russia has mobilized two million men on the German and Austrian frontiers, while three million more are held in reserve.

GERMANS LOST HEAVILY.
 (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)
 LONDON, Aug. 15.—The German army investing Liege underestimated the fighting qualities of the Belgians and paid a terrible penalty for their daring, according to American vice-consul Duras, who was an eye-witness of the first two days of the siege.

AMERICANS LEAVE GERMANY.
 (By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)
 BERLIN, Aug. 15.—A special train carrying 300 Americans for Holland left here last night.

PRESERVING TIMBER.

FIGURES recently compiled by the Department of Agriculture show that the policy of forest conservation is supplemented by marked progress in the art of preserving timber already in use. There are now in this country 117 pressure plants where timber is treated with creosote or zinc chloride to prevent decay. These plants treated 153,000,000 cubic feet of timber during the last year, an increase of twenty-three per cent over 1912. In spite of this, however, use of the preserving process is far from being general. Less than thirty per cent of the millions of railroad ties used annually are treated. Use of the process on telegraph poles has barely begun. In view of the generally satisfactory results obtained by improved methods, it would seem that railroads and other large users of timber would find it profitable to employ the process more extensively.

ONE VISION OF PEACE.

I think that some time, when the year is young,
 And April steals along the leaf-hung ways,
 I shall shut down the windows and put by
 The pleadings and reports, lock fast the doors,
 And quit my desk, with its long-piled-up heaps
 Of legal rubbish—not as one who leaves
 His dwelling in the morn, to come again
 Candle-light, but rather like to one
 Who takes his staff and goes a pilgrimage
 (Not looking backward even in his thoughts)
 Unto a holy city. The dreary streets
 Shall call to me no longer. Night and noon,
 Dew-fall and afternoon, shall be but steps
 In my long wandering that leads to Peace.

Once more I shall behold the bubbling brooks
 Beneath their banks of fern, or where they run
 By furrowed fields, and hear the quiet winds
 Aloof from earth, that move the towering clouds
 And whisper solemn secrets to the pines

Once more my hands
 Shall guide the plowshare through the yielding earth,
 And I shall watch the gleaming counter turn
 The fragrant furrows. I shall swing the scythe
 Among the blossomy grass, and see the dew,
 Sun-smitten to a flame of rainbow-glints,
 Fall, at each scythe-stroke, with the stricken grass
 That whispers as it falls; and I shall smell
 The spirit-lulling scent of sun-cured hay
 Bedamped with evening rains.

And when the dusk
 Brings back the cricket's immemorial life,
 Then I shall stand beside the gathered ricks
 And see the friendly evening star lean low
 Above the furrows. So my life shall flow,
 As doth the slow procession of the days,
 With thoughts of standing and of garnered crops,
 And sheep and goats and fig and scuppernon
 And peas and melons. And the world may pass
 With gibes and bickerings, and I shall not heed.

—VICTOR STARBUCK.

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