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THE COURAGE OF STATESMEN.

A little while ago people looking hopefully and yet fearfully to the Versailles conference were asking whether the statesmen assembled there would have the courage to make a genuinely honest settlement of the war and such provision for future peace as would accord with the moral sense of mankind.

"We have used great words, all of us," he said. "We have used the words 'right' and 'justice.' And now we are to prove whether or not we understood those words, and how far they are to be applied to the particular settlements which must conclude the war. And we must not only understand them, but must have the courage to act upon their understanding.

ROYAL DEMOCRACY.

If the ceremonial banquet given to President Wilson in the royal banquet hall of Buckingham palace was such as to have appalled the democratic spirit of an Andrew Jackson or a Thomas Jefferson, there was another side to it. President Wilson seems to have evened things up pretty well with his host. Treated as a king, he treated George as a democrat.

It was observed with amazement that the president addressed the king simply as "sir." Not once in his formal speech acknowledging the king's welcome did he refer to King George as "your majesty."

And King George was not offended. He seemed to like it immensely. Stranger still, that brilliant assemblage of British guests—nobles and civilians both—liked it, when once they recovered from their surprise. There is no question that it made a hit with the British public.

It was simply a common-sense recognition of fact. Great Britain is in reality a democracy, about as much so as the United States. The king, in President Wilson's words, simply presides over the nation. He does not govern, in any sense. He is something like our vice-president. The so-called British Empire is a federation of democracies, bound together somewhat more loosely than our own states.

Now that the old conventions are smashed, and a new precedent is established, the two countries ought to get along together nicely. If only the president would carry things to the extent of slapping the king on the back and calling him "George," and the king would retaliate by calling him "Woodrow" or "old acout," the democratic entente would be complete, consummate and perfect.

There can be little question of the accuracy of this statement, in the mind of anyone who has closely followed the "moral tide" of public opinion during these last few weeks. There is no more doubt as to what the great masses of people want, in all the allied countries. They want peace, which will be such a provocative of new wars as previous peace settlements have been. And they want such provision made for the future that the disturbance of the world's peace will be made virtually impossible.

They will be brave men indeed who resist those demands. If there is any such diplomatic jugglery as prevailed at the Congress of Vienna and other international conferences of unpleasant memory, what statesman will dare to face his people when he returns?

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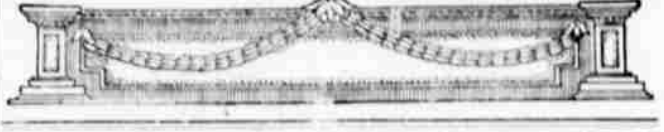
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