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CONSTRUCTIVE MORAL FORCE NEEDED TO SAVE CIVILIZATION

What shall we say prompted the plea by the Belgian commissioner that the Stars and Stripes, guarded by a mere handful of American soldiers, be allowed to remain on the Rhine when the remnant of the United States army was withdrawn? The flag, thus protected, could not represent, much less personify a dominating military force. But it could, as was insisted, represent and typify a tremendous moral force, an influence of which, it may reasonably be concluded, the world, and especially the struggling countries of Europe, now stands in direst need. "That flag withdrawn," the Belgian official said, "the people will believe that America has lost faith in us and given us up."

More eloquent and convincing than might have been the plea for American support when the allies were massing their thinning and discouraged armies on the western front in 1916 and 1917 and the need was declared to be for men and munitions, comes in unison today the recognition of the need of a great constructive moral force as the only thing that can save civilization from threatened disaster. The silencing of the great guns has not silenced the cry of hatred engendered by greed, fear and the memory of past wrongs. Can more fighting, more bloodshed and more destruction of property bring the peace which the world says is so greatly desired?

There are convincing and gratifying indications that the thoughts of people everywhere are being turned toward a realization that there are surer paths to peace than across the battlefield and through the swamp of despair. Economic and political policies, recommended, tried, applied and discarded, have failed, up to the present moment, in restoring or in establishing that brotherhood among men and nations which is the only insurer and protector of peace. Discussing the failure recently, Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard university, wrote in part as follows:

My own belief is that the present chaos in Europe and the near east cannot be remedied by any policies which are merely economic or political. The successful policy must have moral and spiritual motives, free from selfish or materialistic considerations.

Now nothing is more certain than the fact that any policy prompted and inspired by moral and spiritual motives does not induce war. The absence of such a defined policy, due to the inability to formulate and support it, induces just such world conditions as are turning the thoughts of all civilized peoples once more toward war. Does the United States stand in the position which the Belgian commissioner so generously gives it? If the presence of the Stars and Stripes on the Rhine, or anywhere else in Europe, is regarded as exemplifying and personifying America's faith and good will, surely there should be none in the United States who will say that wisdom or prudence, or even self-interest can excuse or justify adherence to a policy of isolation.

In an address delivered in New York recently, former Governor Lowden of Illinois took occasion to tell his auditors what America's present policy is costing its people in losses in trade and commerce and in markets for their surplus products. Mr. Lowden insisted that no amount of reiteration could establish the claim that the United States is not involved in world affairs, and he quite pertinently inquired, since it is so involved, whether it is going to do something to avoid war, or if it is going to wait until it becomes involved in another world war. He doubted if America's so-called isolation is worth the price which it would be necessary to pay.

On the same day that Mr. Lowden spoke in New York, Frank A. Vanderlip addressed a gathering in Detroit, speaking on the subject of world peace. Strangely enough perhaps, this speaker followed somewhat closely the thought expressed by President Eliot. "Only the moral intervention of the United States can save the decadent civilization of the old countries from utter ruin," he said, declaring that the key to European peace is spiritual, rather than political or economic. Surveying present European conditions, he summed up the findings thus:

Those troubles are a state of the mind. Political and economic factors are involved but politicians and economists cannot cure the conditions that have developed. Only a spiritual fellowship, an application of the Golden Rule, can prevent the absolute breakdown threatening the civilization of Europe.

Europe needs only a simple moral guidance for its salvation, and we as a nation should be giving it. The United States today is facing as momentous a decision as when we were debating our entry into the world war. But the debating now is on our part in peace, and we are lacking decision while the world waits for us. I believe we are weak morally, as a nation, and in the eyes of the world we are losing respect.

Thus there are aligned in support, not of a policy of domination, aggression or armed force, but of a constructive, quickening and regenerating program, ethical if you will, but moral, sane and demonstrable, three representative leaders of American thought, one speaking for the idealistic, one for the political and one for the industrial and financial. There is a marked and striking unanimity among them. Can it be true that the view which they have gained of the situation, either by observation or experience, is entirely wrong? No, they have made no mis-

take. Millions of people in the United States know that the views expressed correctly represent their own convictions. There must be something less selfish than national isolation, and this broader view, symptomatic of human brotherhood, must be expressed otherwise than in a willingness to take up arms. There is a conscious realization of the existence of a potent force greater than machine guns or battleships, and more effective in smoothing the rough places in international interchanges than the most adroit and astute diplomacy.—Christian Science Monitor.

IRRIGON

Mrs. Lena S. Smith, county school superintendent, and Mrs. Lulu Johnson, county nurse, visited the school Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Berry of Umatilla spent Sunday at the McCoy home. Mrs. Charles Deuprey, who has been suffering with erysipelas, was placed under the doctor's care Friday at Hermiston. She returned home Sunday somewhat improved.

The Mentso brothers from Idaho are making their home on the Farmer State acreage.

On these cold frosty days skating is good on the slough and Rand pond. Many of the young people are taking advantage of the ice and having skating parties.

William Van Winkle, his small son and Russell McCoy have the mumps.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Graybeal spent Sunday at the home of his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Graybeal.

A party composed of Winifred Steward, Margaret Seaman, Emma Hendrick and Lyle Seaman accompanied Farmer Smith to Umatilla Sunday evening. From there Mr. Smith took the train for Portland.

Delbert Knight was in Umatilla on Saturday attending to business.

Miss Blanche Powell, a teacher in the Boardman school, spent the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Suddarth.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Markham and daughter, Marion Joy, are visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Markham.

Beecher Lewis is signal maintainer here in the absence of Mr. J. E. McCoy, who is spending some time in Portland.

The Melon Growers association held a business meeting at the school house Monday evening.

Miss Inez Benefiel and brother, Elmer, were in Umatilla Sunday evening. While there they attended a show.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Brooks of Pendleton were visiting with relatives in Irrigon Sunday.

Miss Doris Lane made a trip to Hermiston Saturday and while there consulted the dentist.

Arthur Thompson of Hermiston was a visitor at the home of Frank Markham last week.

Merrill Doble and family have moved into town from their home on the farm and will live with his father, L. A. Doble.

Ray Shurtle and Wm. Heisler were in Irrigon Thursday night. Mr. Grover was returning from Umatilla when he found them on the road having car trouble and towed their car into town for them. They remained over night at the Irrigon inn and the next day returned to Heppner.

After the ball game Friday evening a number of young people remained at the old school house where they played games and danced.

FEDERATED CHURCH

J. R. L. Haslam, Pastor.

Sunday School 9:45 a. m.
 Service 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.
 Christian Endeavor 6:30 p. m.

The Men's Gospel Team went to Morgan Sunday afternoon, taking charge of the afternoon service, and many turned out to hear them. These men are banded together for real service and have many meetings planned in various school houses where they will conduct services. Every christian man is invited to line up with these men who are standing for high ideals. The men will meet Wednesday night at 7:30 in the basement of the church to work out further plans. If you are interested, come.

We are praying for a real revival born of the Holy Spirit and ask every christian to join with us in this petition. There will be special meetings announced soon.

The special music in the Sunday services is being enjoyed and we invite you to partake of these things, also.

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