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Hints at an impending smash on the western front "which will show the Allies what Germany is capable of" and Emperor Wilhelm's message to the Teuton soldiers that the army of Huns is an instrument in the hands of God to bring peace back to the German world after her enemies had broken the quiet of forty years, indicate the situation in Germany at the beginning of this new year, of this fourth year of war for the world.

It shows us that the kaiser is staking all on a successful blow in France so that, posing as a conqueror, he may demand an advantageous peace and, at the same time, satisfy the credulous public mind of Germany with the fearful havoc he has wrought. Peace is the new keynote of German intrigue, the new weapon, as insidious and dangerous as poison gas, with which the central powers will try to undermine the strength of the allies during the coming year. Not only will the German government do its best to persuade her peoples that she is truly fighting to bring back peace, bolstering her faltering morale, but she will dangle before the tired eyes of France and England, and the selfish eyes of the discontented in all allied nations the prospect of a conclusion of hostilities. Undoubtedly the most strenuous campaign the allies will make in 1918 will be their campaign against the German propaganda for a false peace.

Outside of an official denial of any intention upon the part of the allies to enter into peace negotiations until Germany has been conquered, until the kaiser steps down and the German peoples themselves assume control of their own destinies, America has started the year with no public campaign against this intrigue. She has chosen to answer the German cry for peace, which is the murderer's cry for quarter, by enhancing her preparations to send against the enemies of democracy her full strength. To the kaiser's subtle suggestion that all the valiant efforts of the last three years be without fruition, America has answered by hurrying new thousands of her citizen army into the training camps. America and her allies also begin the year of 1918 with peace as their goal, but it shall be peace through victory.

THE EDITOR

(Collier's Weekly)

One day last month two newspaper editors divided the attention of the whole world. That is a good deal to say about any two individuals, but in this case it is true. In France the president of the republic summoned Georges Clemenceau, editor of "L'Homme Enchaîné" (now again "L'Homme Libre"), to form a cabinet in place of one composed of French imitators of Daniels and Redfield. In England Editor Alfred Harmsworth, who has been slightly disguised for some years under the title of Lord Northcliffe, scornfully rejected an offer of a place in the ministry and seized the opportunity to strike a powerful blow at the soft and talkative gentlemen who surrounded Lloyd George.

The fact is instructive to this hypnotized or awed press of America because both men gained their eminence—one as premier of France and the other as the most powerful public man in Great Britain—by being good editors, by exercising fearlessly for what they thought the good of the country their influence as journalists.

Clemenceau is a poor man with one little journal printed on coarse paper. ("L'Homme Enchaîné" looks

as if it might have been run off on a Washington hand press in a Kansas town before the war.) Northcliffe is very rich; he owns perhaps a dozen of publications. The owners of "The Man in Chains" and the London "Times" succeeded in like degree through different mediums because both possess those qualities of courage, honesty, and intelligence—especially courage—which people always follow when they find them combined in an individual in public life. Clemenceau's first paper was called "The Freeman." When the government bothered him and closed his print shop he changed the name to "The Man in Chains" and went on keeping the censor busy and flaying incompetency, ignorance, and graft in office. When Northcliffe attacked the government for not supplying the army with high-explosive shells, the stockbrokers of London made bonfires of his papers and government officials threatened—but threatened very softly—to suppress them. But he went on hammering the business-after-the-port statesmen until they sent the army the right shells to shoot at the concrete and barbed wire of the Germans. Eventually he drove these muddled politicians out; and so he'll do with Lloyd George, too, unless that rhetorical gentleman learns that a country in peril wants more than fine phrases from its leaders.

Perhaps such editors as Clemenceau and Northcliffe are not wanted or needed in America. Perhaps polite acquiescence is the journalistic virtue most necessary at this time. But we can imagine what the earlier race of editors would have done to the curtain of secrecy which is hung over doings at Washington. Wouldn't it be funny to see Charles A. Dana receiving his editorial opinion from Josephus Daniels, or Joseph Pulitzer standing in Jackson Place with his hat in his hand waiting for George Creel to hand him copy for the pages of the "World."

The Guns In Sussex

Light green of grass and richer green of bush
Slope upwards to the darkest green of fir;
How still! How deathly still; and yet the hush
Shivers and trembles with some subtle stir,
Some far-off throbbing, like a muffled drum,
Beaten in broken rhythm oversea,
To play the last funeral march of some
Who die today that Europe may be free.

The deep-blue heaven, curving from the green,
Spans with its shimmering arch the flowery zone;
In all God's earth there is no greater scene,
And yet I hear that awesome monotone;
Above the circling midge's piping shrill,
And the long droning of the questing bee,
Above all sultry summer sounds, it still
Mutters its ceaseless menaces to me.

And as I listen, all the garden fair
Darkens to plains of misery and death,
And looking past the roses I see there
Those sordid furrows, with the rising breath
Of all things foul and black. My heart is hot
Within me as I view it, and I cry:
"Better the misery of these men's lot
Than all the peace that comes to such as I!"

And strange that in the pauses of the sound,
I hear the children's laughter as they roam,
And then their mother calls, and all around
Rise up the gentle murmurs of a home.
But still I gaze afar, and at the sight
My whole soul softens to its heart-felt prayer:
"Spirit of Justice, thou for whom they fight,
Oh, turn, in mercy to our lads out there!"
—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the London Times.

A BRACE OF ORPHEUM ACTS—WEDNESDAY

Roland Travers does a few magicians' stunts and Paul McCarthy and Elsie Faye, favorites in vaudeville, appear in a musical travesty called "Suicide Garden," where the only thing which dies hard is the lingering harmonies, and the desire of the audience for more.—Los Angeles Examiner.—Adv.

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