

Leger . . .

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problems presently confronting all nations. Truly mankind today is not only witnessing the most crucial period in the world's history, but mankind is also witnessing the most intensely interesting period of all civilization. In view of the significant present day events it doesn't seem an exaggeration to say that civilization is soon to reach its greatest turning point.

During the past decade we have seen utter disregard by one group of men for another. Stories of axis atrocities committed against certain political, military and social groups are certainly the most dastardly crimes ever committed by any social order. There is no need to reiterate these atrocities, for they are common knowledge to all of us. Rather, it is our concern to speculate what the future holds for all races of the earth. Our hope is that from this chaotic decay of European society there shall never again be the villainous rule and domination which has so corrupted and degenerated certain European countries. From this crumbled ruins it falls the responsibility of the victor nations to rebuild not only the material possessions, but also the minds, bodies and spirits of these defeated countries.

Already we are glimpsing total victory in the not too distant future. When V-day comes we shall have arrived at the greatest turning point yet to confront the nations of the earth.

Peace-loving nations must call upon every accessible resource to bring about a structure of world society which will stand impervious to the influences of those small groups whose every intent and energy is focused upon bringing nations to arms against one another. Without a constant vigilance peace cannot endure. Nations were sure of peace after the last war. Does it not seem logical then that complacency toward peace after this war could result in another great conflict sometime in the years to follow? It will be well to remember that the times when we are most sure of anything are the times when we are most vulnerable to opposition. Over the entrance to our state capitol is the inscription—"The watchfulness of the citizen is the salvation of the state." How symbolically this applies to nations in maintaining world peace.

Permanent Peace.

The question is being asked, "How shall we create a world society conducive to permanent peace?" The answer to that question is presently being sought at the peace table of the historic

San Francisco conference. As yet man has not succeeded in creating permanent peace.

Many ideas and theories have been tried and failed, or perhaps they have not been tried long enough, but the test of peace is not in the years immediately following war, those years are easy because those who participated have been instilled with a keen vigilance and determination arises, a generation that knows nothing of the trials and tribulations of war, then what? Here is where the real test begins. If the next generation and the generations to follow are to be as desirous and vigilant to the cause of everlasting peace, as we are now, then they must be educated to that purpose and that education must begin now.

At the present time there is a great need for engineers, scientific engineers of all kinds, yes, but our greatest need is for human engineers. Industry spends millions in research which will benefit the products of industry, but the figure which we spend for the benefit of individuals in the proper education is comparatively low when considering the significance and importance of each of these fields.

In our anxiety over mass production of material things and mass education of people we have momentarily lost an essential factor necessary to the welfare of society. We have lost the sense of value of a person. It is shameful admission, but true, that during the present world struggle human life has become cheap, and not until victory is won will human life again assume its true value. But when victory is ours then it is time once again to con-

cern ourselves with the individual and his place in society. It is time that we see that the individual is prepared to fulfill his responsibilities to society. Yes, we need human engineers. Upon our teachers, clergymen and government leaders rests a great responsibility. But let us make no mistake, the responsibility does not rest with them alone. If individuals are to be given their rightful station in society, then it is up to each of us as individuals to assume our share of the responsibility.

Indifference is Degeneration.

Leaders Meet.

In San Francisco the leaders of the nations of the world are meeting to formulate a plan for permanent world peace. We are anxious that those leaders met together in so great a cause shall succeed. Inasmuch as mankind has not yet created a permanent peace we must face the fact that all peace attempts before have failed. Some persons are even now inclined to believe that permanent peace is not possible. World War I was considered the war to end wars, and people were complacent that peace was permanent. Whereas this assuredness proved fatal; skepticism after this war may be a much healthier state of mind. Surely we have learned that no war can end all war. Neither can the men at the San Francisco conference legislate a world peace. If peace could be legislated, nations would have succeeded long ago. The success or failure of peace lies in the heart and mind of all mankind.

Let us hope that all nations have learned the lesson that the democracies have learned long

ago—that we must accept a man for what he is and allow him the freedom of function of the enduring principles of democratic government. This rule applied to nations in their combined endeavor for permanent peace will lend great assurance to the ultimate realization of that peace.

Victory

As all countries are looking forward to V-day, we in America are looking forward to victory and post war reconversion. We hear talk of the quantity and quality of industrial commodities which will be produced, for civilian consumption. The American household is looking toward easier management and added luxuries. Yes, we have become very concerned about reconversion and material things. But what about community and family relations. At present there is a glaring need for reconversion in the American home and community. This need has not resulted necessarily because of negligence on the part of parents or

children, but has been caused by the fact that homelife has been shoved into the background while family members have directed their energies to the prosecution of war.

Just as the home has been the backbone of America through peace and war let us first be concerned with the reestablishment of this vital institution when the war is won, then let industry supply the market with all the commodities that we are so eager to consume.

One other vital factor necessary to everlasting peace comes to mind if we closely examine our American currency. That factor lies in a four word inscription which has been America's lifeblood since America was born. May that enduring principle ever be the guide of American and all nations. "In God We Trust."

Maj. Harold R. Bookstrom, university graduate of 1939, has been liberated from a German prisoner of war camp.

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