

America's invasion. But they tell us that if it is not the Germans from Europe who are going to invade us, it is certain to be the Japanese.

The Japanese are one of the heaviest taxed peoples in the world. They are still under the burden of the debt left by their war with Russia. More than thirty-five per cent of Japan's foreign trade, by which alone she is able to keep alive, is with America. The moment she declares war on America that large proportion of her income immediately ceases. With what Japan has recently done to Germany's Oriental possessions still rankling in German hearts, and with the Kaiser's remark, "That Germany never forgets" cherished by his people as a profound piece of statesmanship, in less than forty-eight hours after Japan strikes at us it will occur to the Germans that such will be a good time to settle old scores with the island empire.

If Germany emerges from this war victorious and able to fight anybody, and determined to fight somebody, all tremendous "ifs," she will, in all probability, first try smaller and more accessible nations close at home. The moment she started for the United States she would not only have on her hands the most powerful nation in the world in potential resources, but all of her present enemies besides.

America today has not only the protection of her navy upon which she has spent billions of dollars; of her virtually unlimited power as a fighting nation were she attacked by a trans-oceanic enemy; has not only the protection of vast seas about her, across which no nation could bring an invading army without enormous risks, but in addition to all these, because she has kept out of the present world insanity, she has half the world arrayed against the other half, each side ready to attack the other that first takes us on as an enemy. Our guns, our power, our distance from the base of the attacker's supplies our vast potential resources, already enormously increased into actual resources by our engagement in the manufacture of ammunition for the present European war, plus all the resources of either side in Europe which does not attack us, is not after all such a deplorable defense as our military men who, for public consumption, dream nightmares day and night and profess to see the land swarming with victorious conquerors, would have us believe.

EVERY DAY THAT THE WAR LASTS EUROPE GROWS RELATIVELY WEAKER

There is something else radically wrong with the reasoning powers of those who are howling for more guns. They overlook the fact that while Germany has spent forty years in preparing for this war, that every day she engages in war she is not only shattering her enemy's guns and supplies, she is using up her own supply of all that constitutes her fighting efficiency. There have been single battles around a single city in which during one hour two hundred thousand high explosives have been discharged from German guns alone. And the fronts where the fighting is always going on with more or less intensity, stretch over a distance of many hundreds of miles. The life of all vast guns which it takes months to manufacture, is limited. A certain number of discharges and the hellish things rack themselves to pieces so that they are no longer accurate. Our own Hudson Maxim has recently shown that modern warfare is so exhausting on ordinary rifles that each soldier must be supplied with four in order to be certain that one shall always be ready for action. Let this war go on for months and months, as in all human probability it will go on—possibly for years—and German preparedness which our people are being so sedulously taught to fear, will be a thing greatly decimated and attenuated compared to what it was when the war began, not only in men and money, as I shall presently show, but also in all the ordinances of war itself. Every day that this war lasts, in all that constitutes ultimate force efficiency, Europe is growing rapidly weaker and we relatively stronger. The proud Europe that began this war will in no wise resemble the Europe that emerges from it, any more than a cripple who has been bled within an inch of his life resembles an athlete in perfect health. It will be a Europe covered with from five to ten millions of new-made graves in which will lie the very pick and flower of its military manhood. Do you know what that means? Allowing for each body two feet by six, so that literally corpse would be touching corpse, to bury five million men would take a trench forty-two feet wide that would stretch from Chicago to St. Louis—two hundred and seventy-five miles—forty-two feet wide of

solid dead bodies of the picked physical manhood of Europe, each one of them a year and a half ago a living man with all the loves and hopes and joys of life that belong to you and me. Would that these dead bodies could be gathered together in one vast open grave where they might lie in all their hideous mutilation, ghastliness and stench, while around it were gathered all the Kaisers and war-lords, Bernhardis and Homer Leas, and the whole military tribe who try to hide the horrors of war under the high-sounding names of glory and valor—would that all such could be forced to march around that grave and look and look; while their ears were pierced by the wails of millions of women and children robbed of their loved ones, until these defenders of war were cured of their mental and moral insanity that war is a necessary part of every nation's life, that would make and keep "a place in the sun."

CAN NOT BURY MILLIONS OF SOLDIERS AND STILL BE PREPARED

Do not tell me that Europe can bury five or ten millions of her best trained soldiers and still be prepared for conquest. But that is not all. Besides these five or ten millions of dead men, taken out of the world at just that period when they are best fitted to pay back some equivalent for the infinite pains of their rearing, Europe will have to provide for the care and support of an equal number of millions of living cripples—poor, handless, armless, legless, maimed, blind and mentally deranged (no war in history has produced anything like the insanity as this one) creatures who have been rendered absolutely unfit for military services and economically inefficient for life by the fires of hell through which they have been passed. These helpless men Europe must provide for. Allowing one dollar per day as the average earning power of these five millions of men who were slain, and fifty cents a day as the earning power of the cripples, in the next thirty years Europe will be just ninety billions of dollars poorer for having slaughtered and maimed these victims.

But that is not all. Besides these hosts of dead and cripples, there will be the millions of widows left to be the sole support of from five to ten millions of helpless little half orphan children who are to struggle for a bare existence in an economic order swamped in debt and more frightfully disarranged than any that complex modern civilization has ever witnessed. The war itself is inconceivably horrible; but the reconstruction period is to witness for years to come, a silent human misery which will rival in its torments the fiercest of the battlefields.

To one with Christian sympathies and imagination, the condition of Europe's poor, even before this holocaust, was little less than tragic. What will this be for the survivors of this deluge of blood? The soldiers died amid the excitement of battle and their agonies were soon over. But what human mind can conceive the bitterness of life to these millions of widows and children pinched by slow but certain starvation, as they cry for bread, and finally lie down to die in festering heaps amid the universal ruin wrought by war? Men who measure the after-effects of this war by other wars of the past, forget that the last half century has witnessed the enormous growth of city life, and complex industrial interdependence. After other wars most of the people were on the soil where they could dig at least a subsistence out of the ground. But today a vast part of Europe's population is in great industrial centers where literally the daily bread depends upon the uninterrupted play of industrial and economic forces. Only those of us who have witnessed at close hand the misery of large elements in the industrial workers of a great city during the time of a panic can begin to conceive of the unutterable horrors which are before the laboring people of a continent which has destroyed its bread winners, wiped out billions of its productive property and spent all its free capital for the work of murder. But what we have seen of human misery for the laboring people in our great American cities in time of non-employment was but a gentle zephyr to a cyclone, compared to the inevitable miseries and agonies which are going to fall like mountains upon the city population of Europe's industrial centers during the first years of reconstruction following this continual suicide. Here is a part of that infinite madness which beggars all calculation. As certain as tomorrow's sun shines, out of this struggle of the common people who are left in Europe there are going to grow revolutions on such a scale and so irresistible that the minds still haunted, after this war is

over, with insane dreams of military ambition, will be kept busy at home for a long time to come.

The world will have never seen such suffering and want to be ministered unto in the name of the merciful God, as will be found in Europe during the first decade following the close of the present war. If that is true, and the words of Jesus Christ concerning human brotherhood mean anything whatever to us, we are forced to the conclusion that if there ever was a time when it was not only unnecessary and unwise, but positively criminal for a great nation to be thinking supremely of arms, and talking preparedness, such is the time with America today.

What an indictment of the feebleness and littleness of our own Christian spirit lies in this awful fact, that at a time when all the people from whose loins we sprung, and from whom we have received our religion, our art and all the great constructive ideas of our civilization, all that has made us what we are—when these to whom we are close akin in blood and ideals and religion are dying by the millions and being plunged irresistibly forward into vast hells of universal misery and death, that the mind of America should be excited over nothing but getting ready to fight those who are left. Surely if there is a father in Heaven, who in any degree resembles the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, He sorrows not more over Europe's tragedy than He does over America's threatened apostasy, when, in such an hour as this in the world, markets and stocks and trade, and battleships and guns and soldiers and "preparedness" interest us a thousand times more than anything that Jesus Christ ever said. Call me a lunatic if you will, a fool, a freak, a molly-coddle, a coward, a knave, I can not but hold that Jesus Christ's ideal of the Kingdom of a God on earth among men where men bear to one another brotherly relations, is something as much more worth dying for than a nation, as the British Empire is vaster than an African tribe. And if it is good and heroic and right for men to spend all, even life itself for patriotism; it is infinitely more good and righteous for Christians to risk something, yes, all, in the effort to establish some sort of a world-order in which men of different nations may not be set to blowing off each other's heads every time some intriguing fool upon a throne can get his hand on a hair trigger.

SHOULD PREPARE TO MINISTER TO THE DISTRESSES OF EUROPE

Would that America today were not under the domination of minds who see nothing in human nature but that which is responsive to fear! Would that we really were a Christian people. Would that once again we could believe in the common people as our fore-fathers believed when they founded a republic which was "of the people, for the people and by the people." Would that at this hour in the light of the world's misery, our nation could be led as one people, not by the priests of Baal, but by the mind of Christ, and the God in whom we profess to trust, to do for once in the world a great Christian thing. If America has two billions of dollars to take from productive industry in the next decade, let her not put it into things which will inevitably be used by the military minds of all other nations as an excuse, and as a self-evident reason why they too, should proceed to get more heavily prepared; let her not put it into things which must, in the very nature of things, be used to help blow the fires of hate and fear and suspicion around the whole earth; into things which thereby may bring on other wars, or, if no wars come, can do no human being any earthly good. If we were a Christian people at this very hour, congress, instead of being beseeched by a great daily press and by thousands of excited citizens over the question of billions for preparedness, would be pressed by millions of Americans demanding that as a nation we be prepared to minister generously to all the distress of the European world. The money spent to help the Belgians in their hour of supreme need has more completely disarmed Belgian animosity towards us than all the power of German arms could ever do.

While this generation lasts, the man in Belgium who would propose evil for America would be looked upon by his countrymen as nothing less than a moral monster. What has done this wonderful thing? Christian kindness, charity and a living sense of human brotherhood. By the time this war has ended all Europe will be in a state of ruin and misery, want and exhaustion rivaling that of Belgium. If we could take that

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