

### BRITAIN'S LABOR, POWER DRUNKEN, HAS RUN AMUCK

Nation, in Distress Over War, Had to Call on the Masses

ANSWER WAS A SNARL

Now, After Bribe, Government Has to Curb Follies of Newly Rich

"It suddenly dawned upon the nation that these uncouth, unlettered people were the very ones upon whom the country depended for winning the fight. It was a rude awakening for England. . . . The sudden sense of power, also, was too much for the dock laborers, munition workers and miners. . . . Bribery was the only solution. . . . Bribery let the masses see the value of their hand, and immediately they demanded more and more. . . . It is astonishing to note the present affluence of the lowest classes. . . . These working people spent their unaccustomed wealth on luxuries, and it reached such a pitch that legal restrictions had to be made on the purchasing of pianos and other unnecessary."—Ellen Adair.

By ELLEN ADAIR

Written especially for the Evening Ledger. LONDON, February 22.—All over the world there has been tremendous condemnation of the "unpatriotic" British miners, dockyard laborer and munition worker, who chose the time of their country's greatest need to go on strike and demand more money.

Reasons of this unpatriotic action lay in certain conditions which existed long before the war. In England a vast section of the working classes were congregated in certain industrial areas, badly housed, unclean, mentally and often morally stunted. Thousands of them lived like pigs, and a visit to some of these colliery towns reminded one of Dickens' "Old Curiosity Shop" with its lurid pictures of the discomforts of the lower working classes in great industrial centers. I can imagine nothing more appalling than the lives of these people—before the war. Half-clad children rolled in the mud that surrounded the dreadful cottages where the rain dripped through various holes in the roofs. Wild-looking women in tattered clothes hurled imprecations at their own offspring. Drunken men had continuous brawls, and even the women would fight furiously with each other, maddened with drink and often lost to all sense of womanhood. The poverty was terrible.

UNEXPECTED CALL. In this great section of the community the middle and upper classes took very little interest. For their vindication it must be said that the miners and dock laborers did not encourage interference. Sporadic philanthropy achieved but little. Nor was there any organized attempt to better their condition. A dreary state of things, indeed!

On the outbreak of war it suddenly dawned upon the nation that these uncouth, unlettered people were the very ones upon whom the country depended for winning the fight, and the nation promptly shrieked "Patriotism!" at them. In the past, however, the country had never given them anything to be patriotic for. The nation as a whole had never said, "This great section of the community is not being properly treated." Ignorant of the beauty of the country, these great laboring classes knew only the squalor of their own homes. Culture and opportunity and the ordinary comforts of life were beyond them.

Now this despised section suddenly held the trump cards of the game—a life-and-death game. In their unwilling hands lay the outcome of the Great War. PATRIOTISM UNKNOWN. It was a rude awakening for England. Too late she realized it was futile to appeal to a sense of patriotism in a class of people who could not comprehend that their country deserved patriotism at their hands. These people were furious, too, at the profits their masters were making, and demanded a share. The sudden sense of power also was too much for the dock laborers, munition workers and miners. It might possibly have intoxicated even more educated people than they. How much more, then, in the case of ignorant beings who for long had had grievances against the Government.

Appeal to patriotism was futile. Imprisonment? Impossible! That would have meant rioting all over the country, big strikes—and how can hundreds of thousands be quickly imprisoned? It would have necessitated the recalling of an immense army of soldiers from the front to battle with them. The British nation never has tolerated and never would tolerate coercion.

BRIBERY AS SOLUTION. There was no time to educate the masses up to patriotism, and bribery was the only solution. In a case such as this it only requires

liberty to let the masses see the value of their hand, and immediately they demanded more and more.

The Government therefore instituted along with the bribes a variety of rules and restrictions, promptly made law, to combine coercion with bribery. In connection with dockyard laborers, for instance, it was made illegal for any man employed in a dockyard in Government work to leave that dockyard and apply elsewhere for a similar job at a higher salary. The British working man is slow at understanding a situation. Nor did he understand this one at first. Very gently it was put into operation. But when Lloyd-George, Minister of Munitions, held his big meeting in a certain great northern town the men had to be paid full-time wages before they would attend, and the Cabinet Minister was severely "heckled." "We are slaves; you have made slaves of us!" were the shouts that greeted him.

MAKING MILLIONS. Fifty per cent. of war profits of all kinds have been taken from the owner, the man who makes the profit. This seems a fair adjustment of things. Shipyard owners, mill owners, manufacturers, have yielded up immense sums. From Glasgow alone this tax is calculated to produce in the first year a sum of \$250,000,000.

Who would not be a ship owner in these times? Freight charges are tremendous. Coal valued at \$2 a ton and shipped from England to Rome cost \$30 a ton to Italian buyers! Although the ship owner certainly had to pay a heavy insurance policy, his profit was enormous. The commanding of merchant ships for naval purposes and the sinking of scores of others by the Germans puts an immense premium on the small number left.

The Government has decided that in order to keep big freights down ships shall be forbidden to carry luxuries. Gasoline and petrol for pleasure automobiles is barred, and I understand that shortly no American cars will be allowed into England. The present taxation is probably only the first step to complete exclusion.

BUYING PIANOS GALORE

In big industrial centers it is astonishing to note the present affluence of the lowest classes. In most instances they still cling to their slum-cottages, believing that after all there's no place like home, even though it's a hovel unfit for habitation and the rain drips from the leaky roof onto the grand piano they have just purchased with the profits of munition making!

A piano dealer in a dirty northern mining town informed me that he had got so many orders from these working people that he could not possibly cope with them all. "The other day a woman came in here," he said, "and ordered a \$500 piano. She could neither read nor write, and her appearance betokened great poverty. So I hinted that cash payment would be necessary. Immediately she counted out the full sum in notes, and ordered that the piano should be delivered as soon as possible at her home."

I found that the place was a regular hovel, with practically no furniture and miserably dirty. It seemed, however, that all the family were employed in making munitions at a high salary, and though not a member could play a note, they had all yearned for a piano.

A VEXING PROBLEM.

"Instead of investing their money in war loan, as all good patriots should do, they were also saving up for the rainy day, which is assuredly coming for everybody after the war is over, these working people spent their unaccustomed wealth on luxuries, and it reached such a pitch that legal restrictions had to be made on the purchasing of pianos and other unnecessary."

The British Government, then, is up against a difficult proposition in dealing with a certain large section of the British laboring classes, and those who are likely to ensure both sides as 'stupid' and 'muddle-headed,' should carefully study the difficulties of the case.

### CROWN PRINCE SMASHES LINE ALONG MEUSE

Continued from Page One

In the Champagne region which had been taken by the Germans on Monday is reported by the French War Office this afternoon. In the Verdun region, the communique states, there was no change in the situation during the night. The Germans continued their bombardment on the west bank of the Meuse without attempting any infantry attacks. The text of the communique follows: "In the Champagne region, to the east of Malons de Champagne, we launched an attack which again placed us in possession of trench sections captured by the enemy on March 6. In the course of this action we took 85 prisoners, of whom three were officers, and captured a machine gun. "A counter-attack launched by the enemy shortly afterward against the positions which we held was repulsed.

SHELL AUTO TRANSPORTS.

"In the Argonne our artillery shelled roads in the region of Montfaucou on which automobile transports were reported. "In the region to the north of Verdun no change was reported during the night. The Germans have continued their bombardment of our front to the west of the Meuse without attempting any infantry attacks. Our batteries have responded energetically to the enemy's fire in that sector, as well as to the east of the Meuse, where the bombardment has been intermittent.

"In the Woëvre region there was a very violent artillery duel. We bom-

### DEVELOPMENTS AROUND VERDUN



Apparently abandoning their frontal attacks on the forest guarding Verdun on the north, the Germans are feeling out the French strength on the northwest, taking the village of Regneville, on the west bank of the Meuse, and on the southeast, where they captured the town of Fresnes, on the Woëvre plain about seven miles from Verdun.

berded Blanzac, Grimaucourt and the other outskirts of Fresnes. An attack by the enemy upon our railways and the Manheulles road was shattered by our curtains of fire from the artillery and our infantry fire. "The capture of Hill 265, south of Forges on the west bank of the Meuse, cost the Germans 20,000 men, including many officers. It was estimated today. A whole division was decimated, and among the officers of high rank killed was Lieutenant General Von Graf, who fell while leading a charge of Bavarians. "The artillery fire of the Teutons is described as "unprecedented" and "murderous."

The win-or-die spirit of the Crown Prince was strikingly shown yesterday by the unusual circumstance that many officers of the highest rank boldly advanced at the head of their men, setting an example for bravery. "Writing in the Petit Journal, General Berthaut points out that the Crown Prince now seeks to sweep the French guns from the west bank of the Meuse, where the French positions now dominate Poivre Hill, the resting point of the German right flank. "The Teuton line now rests just north of Goose Hill," says General Berthaut. "In order to drive us from our dominant

ing flank positions the Crown Prince's army must advance between three and four miles and capture our powerful defensive works in Bourras Wood. One of the forts defending Verdun upon the northwest lies at the edge of this wood. Not until this wood and its fort have been taken will the Crown Prince be in a position to fling his legions against the fortress without being raked by our crossfire. "It is evident that the German advance yesterday is only a prelude to an immense offensive which is pending." "The war expert of the Echo de Paris says that the battle may now be expected to extend beyond the narrow sector of yesterday, which was between Bethincourt and the Meuse River. Continuing, he says: "The unprecedented, murderous activity of the enemy's artillery, which is unceasingly hurling shells of all calibres into our advanced lines, shows the great strength of his accumulated war stores. In spite of this storm of steel our men have been able to hold nearly all their positions. It is true that the taking of Corbeaux wood puts Goose Hill in danger, but even if it falls we have stronger positions to the rear. The battle of Verdun ought to reach its culminating point on Friday or Saturday."

### ITALY STRENGTHENS FORCES AT VALONA

Prepares to Meet Expected Plunge of Austrians in Albania

ROME, March 8. Italian military forces at Valona have been strengthened to resist the attack by Austro-Hungarian troops that is expected to develop in the near future. The War Office announced today that Lieutenant General Settimo Piacentini had been appointed commander of the Italian expeditionary corps in Albania, which will defend Valona. He is regarded as one of the ablest officers in the Italian army. When the war began he was commander of the 19th division of territorial troops at Naples. Supporters of the Government were jubilant today over the victory won in the Chamber when the Socialist resolution declaring a lack of confidence in the Salandra Cabinet was defeated by a vote of 241 to 235. They declared that the work of Parliament would now be quickly concluded.

### MEETS GAY PARTY, LOSES MOTHER'S \$12,000 JEWELS

New Yorker in Chicago Falls Down on Job

CHICAGO, March 8.—Jack Sherill, of New York, arrived here Monday with his mother's jewels valued at \$12,000. He was to have taken them to a Michigan Boulevard shop for setting and resetting. But he didn't, for he lost them. "I fell down on my job," he said, telling about his loss. "Fact of the matter, there was a party and some wine, and I forgot all about the jewels. I had lunch at the College Inn and later went to see 'Chin Chin.' Then we had supper and some wine. I don't see how it happened. Not at all. But when I got home I found the charms bag with the jewels gone. "I think I must have lost the jiggers somewhere between the Sherman Hotel and the Congress. Oh, no, the girls in our party weren't theatrical in the least. I had quite a little to drink, but I usually manage to keep my head."

### Wilson Commutes Slayer's Sentence

WASHINGTON, March 8.—President Wilson today, on recommendation of Attorney General Gregory, commuted the death sentence of Arthur Jones, negro, to life imprisonment. Jones was to die March 17 for the murder of two negroes.

### ARMED SHIPS VICTORY MAY MEAN CONGRESS WILL STAY 'HANDS OFF'

President and Friends Believe Success in House Gives Free Rein in Foreign Crisis

### WILSON IS GRATIFIED

WASHINGTON, March 8.—President Wilson and his friends are satisfied today that the tabling by the House last night of the McLemore resolution warning Americans off armed ships of the belligerents means that Congress will not repeat its attempt to meddle with the management of foreign affairs.

The President's gratification over the outcome of the spectacular parliamentary fight was described by those in close touch with him as being intense. Among the Administration officials who have to do with the conduct of foreign affairs there is a general feeling of elation.

The summary rejection of the resolution clears the legislative slates in both Houses of all resolutions relating to the foreign situation except that introduced by Republican Senator McCumber, which is similar in purport to the Gore resolution, discarded by the Senate last Friday. There is little hope of the McCumber resolution receiving serious consideration.

### RELIEF IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES

With the action of the House, President Wilson and his Administration will be permitted to proceed with their diplomatic negotiations with other countries over issues now pending with Germany and Great Britain.

Consequently, there is a feeling of relief in both executive and congressional circles. It is generally admitted, even by the friends of the obstructive measures voted against by the Senate and the House, that the agitation which led up to the introduction of the sensational fight over them have wrought injury abroad to American interests.

### THE FINAL VOTE

The congressional revolt against the President ended at 6:43 o'clock last night, when the House, by a vote of 276

Henry C. Emery, Professor of Political Economy at Yale and chairman of Taft's Tariff Board, writes a sane consideration of "After the War—What?" for this week's

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to 142, swept from its calendar the McLemore resolution. This measure was supported by some of the congressional followers of William Jennings Bryan, German-American and Irish-American propagandists and a few Congressmen who favored its provision requesting the President to warn all American citizens to refrain from traveling on the ships of European nations now at war. The vote by which the disturbing resolution was laid on the table, from which there is little chance of its ever being taken, carried with it, in effect, a vote of confidence in the President, and a rebuke to dissenting members of the two parties who would take from his hands the management of the foreign affairs of the country.

Corner of 45th and Baltimore Seld. Louis Davidson has conveyed to Zess Kurnick premises at the southwest corner of Baltimore avenue and 45th street, lot 45 by 195 feet, for a price not disclosed. The grantee has given to J. H. Wilson a mortgage of \$12,000 on the premises.

### Llanerch Constable's Arm Broken

Constable William F. Thompson, of Llanerch, was cracking his automobile when the engine back-fired and the Constable's arm was broken.



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