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EDITORIALS

The following from the Seattle P.-I. is also true of conditions in Canada:

"The war in Europe has sobered and strengthened the American character and reflected a degree of self-reliance and an American policy of social welfare and municipal administration that constitutes a notable advance for the people of this nation. This is the conclusion of Clinton Rogers Woodruff, of Philadelphia, a member of the National Municipal League, set forth in the current issue of the Popular Science Monthly.

"Mr. Woodruff finds that the shock of war, the unsettlement of the machinery of international life and of civilization induced a general conservatism heretofore lacking in American life. People were in doubt as to the outcome of the war and they held fast to that which they had. More than that, they strengthened the finances of cities, gave closer attention to matters of detail and engaged in a national house-cleaning that should be helpful. Public and private business alike have been more conservatively conducted. Less money is wasted and more is in bank than at any previous period of our history.

"Expressions from various editors about the country indicate that municipal affairs have gone forward with no evil results from war's confusion. A notable effect has been the disinclination of citizens to vote bonds for public purposes unless emergently necessary. Complaint is made that many city bonds have been sold below par. War seems to have had no effect on local politics, the figures of the November elections showing an average vote in all parts of this country.

"An effect of war that will prove of great value ultimately is in the loosening from the leading strings of European thought and experience. It has made Americans more self-reliant. We are thrown upon our own resources, and our problems are hereafter to be solved by our own methods. We have now the opportunity to show what we can do when compelled to depend upon our own resources. America has already shown the world advances in mechanical methods and inventions beyond the best European methods. Perhaps there are also other departments of human industry in which America will be perfectly capable of developing the best results."

PROHIBITION DEMAND IS SWEEPING BRITAIN

London, April 8.—The intimation of Lloyd George that the government is considering the total prohibition of the sale of alcohol throughout the country during the war has received surprising support. Everyone admits that further drastic regulation and restriction of the drink trade is necessary. Journals usually opposing restrictive legislation are now sympathetic. Thus the Daily Telegraph says: "No fault can be found with the spirit of Lloyd George's speech." While believing the evil is not universal, it admits "special cases require special treatment, though this may well stop short of total prohibition."

The Daily Graphic, another Unionist paper, says Lloyd George was clearly sympathetic toward the prohibition proposal that will certainly be the general attitude of the country.

Liquor Men Will Quit.

The Morning Advertiser, the organ of the liquor sellers, declares the trade is confronted by the gravest crisis ever experienced, but in these days of national ordeal everything must be subservient to the necessity of bringing the war to a successful issue, and adds: "The licensing trade's desire is to do its duty to the nation. The trade is ready to fulfill its patriotic duty."

The Daily News urges early drastic action.

The Express voices the other side, denouncing prohibition as unnecessary and tyrannical, and calculated to do quite as much harm as good.

The Pall Mall Gazette maintains that the case for drastic action is quite unanswerable, saying: "The work urgently necessary to war is being sacrificed to intoxication. The slaughter and the suffering of the struggle are being prolonged by defaulters in the workshops, by men of weak character, by the drinking by our soldiers and sailors into the grave."

It urges complete prohibition, applying not alone to public houses, but also to clubs and other licensed premises. Great and complete sacrifice, it declares, is easier than partial curtailment because of the exhilarating sense of its dignity and achievement. The whole moral instinct of the country will respond to the government if they have the courage to call upon it for a grand exercise of self-denial worthy in its character and patriotic vision.

The Manchester Guardian says: "Kitchener is well known to be in favor of further drastic restrictions, though through pressure of more urgent business he has not had time to make a crusade of it. There is no doubt, however, of his personal opinions and wishes. We quite believe the country is fully prepared to submit to any demands that the needs of the war may demand. We are, indeed, not sure that greater sacrifice would not be accepted more readily than less."

These are specimens of the comments. Many others reveal strikingly that a change has passed over the public opinion on the drink question.

UNPUBLISHED WORK OF TOLSTOY AND ITS INTERESTING ORIGIN

PRODUCED ARTICLE UPON THE REQUEST OF KAISER WILHELM AND KING OF ENGLAND—MADE THROUGH CZAR NICHOLAS.

One of the most remarkable articles published for a considerable period is the "Prophecy and Last Message From Tolstoy," embodying the message of the famous Russian writer to the Czar, the Kaiser and the King of England, and given to the world by Countess Nastasia Tolstoy, grand niece of the author, at the beginning of the present war. The message, according to the Countess, was obtained by her at the request of the Czar, and it has special interest today from the fact that it foretold in a most remarkable manner the Balkan war and the present acute European situation. The article itself is as follows:

In the autumn of 1910, the Czarina invited me to visit her at the Summer Palace at Peterhoff to have an informal talk with her family. This was a very unusual favor and, feeling much flattered, I arrived at the appointed hour at the railway station that served the picturesque royal summer resort. A special coach took me directly to the palace, where the chamberlain's secretary told me that the imperial family was on the veranda, drinking tea. It was there the Czarina wished to receive me.

Her Majesty was still suffering from her long nervous breakdown, and she looked pale and weak. We talked for a short while about her health and exchanged items of court gossip. She then remarked confidentially that the Czar had expressed a wish to see me, and of course such an expression was a command. His Majesty was playing chess with his daughters and the governess, when the Czarina invited him to tell me what he wanted.

"Countess," began the Czar, in a simple and direct way, "I have a very peculiar confidential mission for you. But I call upon you reluctantly."

He became suddenly silent and looked at me as if doubting my readiness to serve him. I bowed politely, murmuring:

"Your Majesty, I shall be only too happy to hear about it."

"Well," he drawled, "the German Kaiser and the King of England have put me into an unpleasant position with their requests. They are curious to get a direct message from our old Count Leo Nicholevitch Tolstoy—a very strange notion—and naturally I could not decline to humor them. I did not know how to go about the delicate matter; as, frankly, I do not care for much of the old man's writings and preachings, as you know. But then, the Czarina told me that she knows you very well and that you know him personally. I suppose he is related to you? Very well, then—I would be greatly obliged if you could take the old man an oral message from me that if he would in a friendly way send a message through you to me I would send it on to the King of England and the Kaiser of Germany. It has to be something

that he has not published before, and that he will never publish himself."

"Your Majesty, I am gratified at this mark of your exceptional favor," I replied. "I shall pay the count a visit without delay."

"And as soon as you have returned with his message, drop a line to the minister of the court and I shall arrange to see you immediately," said the Czar, extending his hand to me.

A week later, I was a guest at the country estate of my grand uncle, and explained to him briefly the object of my call. He listened to me curiously and replied:

"Very strange. I would be glad to send a message to royalty, but the trouble with me is that I have written all my life messages for the mob. I am not accustomed to the convention of court dictation. However, I will think the matter over."

"Leo Nicolaevitch, don't you have any visions of a political nature, or any prophecies on a large international scale?" I asked.

"A good idea!" he exclaimed. "I have had some really strange experiences which I could not publish as fiction. There is something that has haunted me for the past two years. I don't know how to explain the nature of it to you. I can't call it a dream, because I have seen it often while I have been sitting at my writing table. On other occasions it has appeared to me at twilight, before my dinner hour. I am not a believer in ghosts, nor in the spiritualistic explanations of phenomena; but I admit that I can not account for this mysterious affair."

"Is it a vision?" I interrupted. "Something of that order, but very clear. So clear that I could draw a distinct picture of all that transpires. Furthermore, I can call up the vision at will. I am almost sure I could do it while you are here. The only difficulty is, that I am not able to write anything during the time of the manifestation. My hands are absolutely paralyzed."

"I shall be happy to write down what you dictate," I urged.

"Very good. That settles the matter," he replied. "I shall try for something immediately. There on the table are paper and pencil. Or use a pen—whatever you want."

In a few minutes I was waiting for the great moment, pencil and paper in hand. My aged host leaned back in his chair, covered his eyes with his hand and relapsed into apparent comatose condition. For ten minutes he remained absolutely motionless. Then straightened up like one in a trance, he began in a low voice:

"This is a revelation of events of a universal character, which must shortly come to pass. Their spiritual outlines are now before my eyes. I see floating upon the surface of the sea of human fate the huge silhouette of a nude woman. It has to be something

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Anyone who is not registered and who is six months in the province should apply before April 4, when the new Court of Revision will be held. This will enable him to vote in June if the Federal election is held then.

Apply to L. W. Patmore, G. R. Naden, Williams & Manson, or any other commissioner.

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