

Germans is the prelude to a debacle. If the German armies have failed already surely it should be evident to the Kaiser and his advisers that with the coming in of America a prolonged struggle must be all in favor of the Allies. That looks clear from our point of view: the difficulty is that ours is not the German point of view, and censorship being the illumined institution it is our point of view is of necessity a one-sided affair.

The Case of Monsignor Gerlach

The Roman police profess to have discovered a huge plot to detach Italy from the Entente, or failing in that, to promote a revolution. The censorship is so strict that only certain Orange papers pretend to a knowledge of the details. According to one of these scholarly sheets Mgr. Gerlach is at present hiding in the South of Ireland!—Among the Bandon Orangemen no doubt. That this prelate abused his position in order to promote the cause of the Central Powers appears certain. However, as the French papers, which although anti-Catholic differ from the Orange organs in being directed by reasonable human beings, warn us, we must make allowance for misrepresentation of Mgr. Gerlach in the absence of reliable information. The *Temps* says that the discovery of the treachery of this ecclesiastic overwhelmed the Pope with sorrow. According to *Current Opinion* "the particular business of Mgr. Gerlach was to spread throughout Rome and in the Italian press an impression of the might of military Germany and of the weakness of the western Powers. Facts, figures, confidential documents and State secrets were all set forth by Mgr. Gerlach, so convincingly too, that Roman society, Roman political circles, and Roman newspapers imbibed bit by bit the idea that the Central Powers were carrying all before them." The Paris journal, the *Debats*, says that but for the stupid censorship of London and Paris the matter could never have assumed much importance. Now in view of the campaign of lies against Catholics at present existing in this Dominion, we assure our readers that the Vatican was no more responsible for the treachery of this prelate than the twelve Apostles were for that of Judas, or, to come to later events, than it was for the fact that a few decades ago certain Englishmen abused their position in Rome to misrepresent Ireland and Irish affairs. Italian and French newspapers are agreed that the relations between the Vatican and the Quirinal have been in no way strained by the episode. The *Temps* and the *Debats* say that everything that was possible was done by the Cardinal Secretary of State to enlighten the Italian authorities on the case. We call attention to this because a correspondent has sent us a paper published in this Dominion full of lies and misrepresentations regarding the matter. We take no direct notice of the paper in question. Its best refutation is that it is in keeping with the nightmares of Howard Elliott and others of that ilk. It also publishes what professes to be a Jesuit oath. Such an oath never existed, but it is a fair summary of the atrocious deeds done in reality by the Orangemen in Wexford. From their own experience in crime they were able to attribute such enormities to the poor Jesuits.

Peace Movements

In June the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates sent a long statement to the socialist parties and federations of trade unions of the world again appealing to all people to unite in resolute action in favor of peace. Its programme is "Peace without annexation or indemnities on the basis of the Rights of Nations to decide their own Destiny." It calls on all the workers of the world to unite their efforts in a stubborn fight against the universal slaughter, and declares that "the first important step in that direction is the summoning of an international conference, the main object of which should be to arrive at an agreement between the representatives of the Socialist proletariat in regard to the termination of the 'party

truce" with imperialistic Governments which makes nugatory the real struggle for peace, as well as to carry this endeavor into practical effect. An international agreement upon such a policy is the main preliminary condition for placing the struggle for peace upon a broad international footing. This road is indicated to the proletariat by all its international treaties." In his opening address to the *Reichsrat* the Emperor Charles of Austria declared that he was ready to welcome peace proposals based on mutual recognition that the positions on both sides have been gloriously defended. The *New York Sun* reports that more than 1500 delegates from Labor and Socialistic organisations met at Leeds on June 3 and passed resolutions in favor of peace without indemnity or annexation. The meeting also formed a council of workmen and soldiers similar to that of Russia. Robert Smillie, the chairman, said that the meeting wished to consult the will of the people all over the country regarding peace. "We believe," he said, "that if there is to be no peace until a knock-out blow is delivered the war may last forty years. A lasting peace can never be brought about by kings or by the military but by the common people." Mr. Snowden said: "For three years we have appealed to the Government to state its peace terms and none have been forthcoming. Let us tell the Government our peace terms—THAT ALL PEOPLES, INCLUDING IRELAND, EGYPT, AND INDIA, HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THEIR OWN DESTINY." Many speakers denounced the tyranny of the Government. One declared that seventy-four British subjects had been interned and never brought to trial.

At a mass meeting held in Madison Square Gardens twenty thousand Americans assembled to demand a statement of America's actual aims in the war and to insist that the President shall say in "terms that every man can understand what the nation is fighting for and upon what terms the United States will make peace." In a powerful speech Dr. Magnes said: "The President has said that we have gone to war because the world must be made safe for democracy. What particular part of the world then do we refer to, and what degree of safety do we require, and what degree of democracy will satisfy us? Does a world made safe for democracy refer to Germany alone, or does it refer to Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, with whom we are not yet at war? Does it also refer to some of our Allies—and to some of the possessions held or dominated by our Allies—IRELAND, INDIA, MOROCCO, OR PERSIA, for instance?" "A nation which can not account for its own actions," says an American paper, "is lost: it cannot expect to be listened to by others, much less pretend to be a leader in the Council to represent nations."

In all these countries we read evident signs of weariness of the slaughter. The people who have to fight now and pay afterwards, and who will never benefit by the war, are impatient. They want peace. And as long as the Allies refuse to state clearly their terms the impatience will grow. It is remarkable that coupled with the demand for peace, in Russia, in England, and in America there is also a taunt thrown at England for the mockery of its pleas for small nations in the light of the oppression of Ireland. If the Carsons and Lloyd Georges were less bent on exterminating a small nation there would be more respect for England in the councils of the world to-day. At present a plea from Britain on behalf of small nations only raises a smile of contempt for John Bull. Had Lloyd George done justice to Ireland instead of tearing up the scrap of paper it is very likely the war would now be over. England's own statesmen are her direst enemies.

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