

dazzling star burst like a rocket, and set fire to everything, until all countries were in ruins, and all cities burned down."

Then Old Fritz expressed the conviction that his dream was a portentous one, and that some remarkable event would doubtless happen during that night. Strange to say, Napoleon was born on that very night, and at about the same hour that this dream is said to have occurred; and some thirty odd years later, when told of the incident upon his celebrated visit to Sans-Souci, the great Frenchman quite naturally assumed that the dream presaged his coming and pictured the destruction that he had wrought upon the world.

But this thought comes: If one will substitute Berlin for Elba, and an early day in August, 1914, for the 15th day of August, 1769, and Kaiser Wilhelm II for the first Napoleon, then may be seen the actual consummation of Old Fritz's strange dream. And since the present head of the house of Hohenzollern claims to have been in close communion with his illustrious forebear all his life, may one not in all fairness assume that he gained much of his inspiration from that dream? But the dream is said to have sorely troubled Old Fritz; the glory of German arms no longer impressed him; he was fearful of the future, and prayed that his people might have peace. Perhaps it was given him to see how some time later a madman of his own lineage would, throwing all counsels and caution to the winds, essay the role of the fallen star himself and set out on the vainglorious expedition of attempting to either rule or ruin the world.

And so, as the German people today commemorate the achievements of their beloved Frederick, they will do well to forget the splendor of his military exploits, and recall, instead, the example he set and the admonishments he uttered in his after years. If they can but contrast this melancholy old man, who forsook the armed camps for the peaceful fireside at Sans-Souci, and preferred the soft strains of his flute to the triumphant swell of martial music, with the blood-thirsty brute who now holds them under his iron heel, perhaps in their contemplations the memory of the better side of Old Fritz's nature will prevail and impress them with the futility of prolonging the hopeless struggle. To make of the day an occasion for pledging anew their allegiance to the mad military program of Kaiser Wilhelm II, would be but to defame the memory of the great Frederick.

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#### UNCALLED-FOR CRITICISM.

WE wonder whether it was just a slip of the tongue or studied sarcasm that prompted Mr. McAdoo to say in a public address a short time ago: "Because some quitter goes to Wall Street and sells his Liberty Bonds at below par, does that make your investment worth less? No, my friends, Uncle Sam's bond is still at par." But whatever the cause, it was a most regrettable remark.

We can well appreciate how it is the Secretary's chief concern to hold Liberty Bonds at par, as it is the concernment of all good citizens. Also, it is his manifest duty to do everything in his power to discourage the sale of these bonds at a discount, or at any price, and to urge the original purchasers to hold them at least until the end of the war. But surely Mr. McAdoo can't possibly hope to accomplish this by calling some of his unfortunate fellow citizens hard names. If he can avail himself of no better argument in the premises, then he ought to resign, for he isn't fit for the high position he now occupies.

As we recall the circumstances, when those in charge of the several campaigns urged the people to buy Liberty Bonds, there was no intimation that the owner of such bonds would be branded as a "quitter," in case he later found it necessary to sell them. On the other hand, the solicitors were most profuse in their assurances that the bonds were worth one hundred cents on the dollar, and that this price could be obtained for them at any time and in any market. And as a further guarantee, was it not Secretary McAdoo himself who proposed to set aside a sinking fund for the immediate redemption of Liberty Bonds at par, for the relief of bond holders who might happen to find themselves in needy circumstances?

In view of such pretensions, surely it doesn't become the Secretary to go about the country scolding the unfortunate individuals who are obliged to sell their bonds now for what they can get. In our

opinion, such as these are gamesters instead of "quitters." And it would seem that the proper way to meet the situation would be to bolster the market instead of abusing the poor devil who gets the short end of the bargain.

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#### THE SOLDIER'S VIEWPOINT.

SO the vociferous Frank Walsh, chairman of the War Labor Board, would march United States troops into California to force the pardon of the notorious Tom Mooney! Thus, in the name of the federal government, would he intimidate a sovereign state and level all its bulwarks of law and order. But we hardly think that the President can be induced to go quite that far, although he appears to be almost as anxious to have Mooney pardoned as are the anarchists themselves.

Then one is forced to wonder what the soldiers would have to say about such a move against the very institutions which they are now baring their breasts to defend. Word comes across the sea that our soldiers in France are not feeling any too kindly towards the labor agitators at home, and that they are eagerly awaiting the day when they can come back home and take a hand in the controversy themselves—not as soldiers, unless necessary, but as citizens who stand for law and order and vested rights. Our Americans abroad fail to sense the justification of any labor strike nowadays, unless its object be to obtain a decent living wage. All other issues such as recognition of unions, sympathy strikes, shorter hours, and the like, are looked upon with contempt by the man in uniform. As he sees it, labor has way the best of him, and has no more moral right to strike and tie up war work than he has to desert the ranks. As one of the boys in France tersely observed, "This is a hell of a time to strike," and that just about expressed the unanimous sentiments of some three million Americans who are now with the colors.

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#### ANOTHER MASTER SHIPBUILDER.

IT is all very well for the country to congratulate Messrs. Schwab, Hurley and associates for the splendid progress they are making in the launching of sorely-needed ships, and for the Administration to assume all the credit due for this remarkable achievement, but it should be remembered that this is not the first time this government has had to build ships in a hurry. The outbreak of the Civil War found the North sadly short of the ships needed to maintain the blockade against the Southern States. The Confederacy had just as many, if not more boats to begin with, and this, together with the pronounced friendship of England, gave it a distinct advantage over the Union in the early years of the war. But it is to be believed that Americans were just as enterprising then as they are now, and in Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress" the following story of their achievements is found:

"By the end of the year 1863 the government had six hundred vessels of war, which were increased to seven hundred before the rebellion was subdued. Of the total number at least seventy-five were ironclads. It may be instanced with laudable pride that one engineering man, honorably distinguished as a scientific engineer, constructed in less than one hundred days an armored squadron of eight ships, in the aggregate of 5,000 tons burden, capable of steaming nine knots an hour, and destined for effective service upon the rivers of the Southwest. When the contractor, James B. Eads of St. Louis, agreed to furnish these steamers to the government, the timber from which they were to be built was still standing in the forest and the machinery with which the armor was to be rolled was not constructed."

Which narrative prompts the thought that American ingenuity and dauntless spirit assayed just about as high in the old days as now. Are we really a better race of men than our grandfathers who stayed the Rebellion, all present-day advantages considered, or have we still something to achieve before we can even equal their enterprise and spirit?

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Speaking of faint praise, Jimham Lewis refers to Woodrow Wilson as "the greatest benefactor of humanity New Jersey ever sent to mankind."—Buffalo Express.