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CURRENT COMMENT

I DON'T believe patriotism is decadent in any of our manhood. I mean by patriotism, love of country. But I do believe that love for government is quite decadent, because of the iniquities of government. These are hard days for governments all over the earth. But they have made it hard for themselves. Now if men seem to love America less than they did, there is a reason for it. It is to be found in the spirit of tolerance and charity that has permeated all our thought of life of late years. We have been preaching and writing and talking about a world federation for a number of years now. And the people have begun to think in these terms.

"He is not an American at all who wants liberty but will not give it. In fact the best patriotic American is he who thinks fearlessly for his country's good and speaks his convictions, even against his government. The real traitor is he who will allow himself to be smothered into silence by anyone, even those in authority.

"Every man who preached against war before we went into it and for charity among nations and then backslid, is responsible with us for the lax interest in the present war. We cannot now change our minds even though we are commanded to do so. There is not less patriotism than formerly. We do not love ourselves less, but we love others more.

"It is hopeful that patriotism thinks today. It is promising that patriotism refuses to wear shackles any longer. It is a splendid thing that men will not longer be owned and heralded like so many cattle. It means a freer and better America.

"It means America will be free at home. It means that America will afford every man a chance to help her, and a chance to develop his best as a part of her greatness. Patriotism was never saner and surer than now. Governments may endeavor to control the people for their own ends, but the people will have the last say. Our government, along with every other, is impotent before the people. The people are beginning to realize this, and they are taking their own way of doing things and adopting their own plans for the country's good, regardless of what the government may plan for them.

"Let us remember that America is not the government; it is the country. Let us remember that the country is for the common good and that the government is the servant, not the master of that common good, and that it deserves its life only so long as it serves that common good well."—By Rev. Ernest F. Weise in Bridgeport Life.

THOSE rich fellows, munitions makers and others, who brought on the war, according to the pacifists,—what fools they are! They might have sat tight and continued to make money off the warring nations by selling them supplies. They might have continued to loan those nations money and collect the interest. But they forced us into war and now they have to pay heavy income and profit and other taxes. And as the war goes on the taxes will become heavier, while their capital will be diminished in value. Moreover, while we were not at war we might have gone on building up our foreign trade with countries not at war. The interests that promoted the war appear to have been hoist on their own petard. They were getting theirs nicely while we were out of war, but now they are getting theirs in quite the opposite sense. Of course if the allies lost the war we might have lost the money we loaned them to carry it on, but now that we are in the war our capitalists have to risk ten or twenty times what they stood to lose before.

It is a too common saying that we are in the war to make money. Europe was saying a while back that we stayed out of the war to make money. I don't see how we are going to make money out of the war to any extent. We cannot collect any indemnity from anyone; at least we will not. We have got to pay for our share in the war and for the shares of others, too. The profiteers will be increasingly relieved of their profits as those profits are revealed. Five years of war will destroy industry at the present rate of cost of war. Taxes will be so heavy that industry will not be able to bear up under it. When the tax upon work and production reaches the stage of intolerability, perhaps we shall begin to tax the wealth that is produced by everybody and engrossed by the few.

The country is going to lose money directly by going into the war. We shall have a debt in many billions to pay. Who will pay it? Not the producers, when the war shall have opened their eyes. There will be but one way to restore industry, by opening up all natural resources to use, by destroying all mon-



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