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LLOYD GEORGE GIVES ADVICE TO WORKMEN

Says Britain Must Give World Example of Civilization as It Has Done Before.

"I will say to the employers that they might get temporary advantage which might end in their ruination. It has got beyond merely getting temporary triumphs. If they want the whole fabric of society to endure they must look at the long run; they must see that the foundation of the social structure is secure. They are not. There is a great deal of what is rotten beneath them. They have to underpin the foundation of the state."

This was the admonition which Premier Lloyd George gave to the Joint Industrial Committee which was recently elected at the National Industrial Conference held in London earlier in the month. He stated that he was about to attend the peace congress which he hoped would settle satisfactorily the peace of the world.

"On the other hand," he continued, "let me say a word to the workers. What has happened in Russia, and what may happen in Germany shows they are the class whom anarchy suits the least, because they are suffering inconceivable horrors in these countries, where they appear for the moment to be triumphant. A small section may be doing well, but the vast multitude of the working classes there are suffering unimaginable distress. Therefore, what is needed is a prosperous community, with a prosperity ensured for all. See that the stream of prosperity irrigates the whole land, and that there are not barren, storm-swept passages where nothing grows, and where life withers, but something that irrigates the land and enriches it for everybody. That is a state of society where we can all live and enjoy life, with a knowledge that everybody else is participating in the enjoyment of life."

"I am not going into the various problems before you, the problems of wages and the problem of hours of labor. It is a mistake to keep men working longer than is absolutely necessary for an efficient discharge of the duties of the trade. On the other hand, we must have to deal with foreign competition, but we have to produce an adequate supply for distribution amongst the whole of a great community of 45,000,000 people. There must be a limit both ways, and what you want is to find exactly where the legitimate boundary is."

Must Increase Productivity.
"I should like to say another thing, if the workmen will allow me, and I know it is a very delicate task because they are conscious of it, and they are suspicious for good reasons. The employers can help to remove that cause of suspicion. I am convinced that the future success and prosperity of this country depend upon increasing its productivity. You have got to do it. Of course, there is a great deal of waste in the organization of industry. I saw enough of that in the organization of the ministry of munitions to know; at any rate that there was a good deal of unnecessary waste. When we had to put pressure on, and everybody did his best, and all manufacturers were pulling together as they did somehow or other, we were able to get a bigger output. Well, I am sure it is possible by scientific methods, by better organization, by having a complete understanding with the working people, and making them feel that where they will get their fair share of it, to increase the prosperity of the country."

An Enormous Debt.
"Where the charges have gone up, and the charges on the state have gone up—we have a debt of £8,000,000,000—and the wages have gone up, the cost of living has gone up, and that is an increased charge. Where the charges have gone up they must be met somehow, either by saving or by increased productivity. I should like some sort of dead level of talk—if you will allow the phrase—between workmen and employers upon that topic. Let each of them tell the other exactly what their views are, and do not take offence so readily. It is better that the employers should speak out quite plainly what is in

their minds. I am perfectly certain that no workman would resent that, and I am equally certain that if the workmen say exactly what is in their minds the employers would rather hear it. (Hear, hear.)

"The world is in a state of convulsion and unrest and I would not like to predict what will happen in the next year or two. Russia has gone to pieces and the reports we are getting from there are reports of inconceivable suffering. We are getting appeals not so much for arms as for food, because the people are dying by hundreds of thousands. I am sorry to say the symptoms are that Germany is going to pieces also. There is a lack of cohesion; there is a lack of definite, clear indication of the way in which that country is going to march and the suffering is there and is beginning to be very acute and it is spreading."

Will Save Civilization.
"I should not be a bit surprised if this old country, not for the first time, will be the land that will save civilization in more senses than one—(hear, hear)—and I should like you to do it, but it will only save civilization if all classes feel that civilization here is on the basis of justice and fair play to all. There must be a sense of confidence in the minds of all classes that they are getting what is right and what is just from the community, and the appeal I am going to make to you here today is this: You are really a peace congress, you are settling the future of this country, but you may be doing more than that; you may be settling the future of civilization; you may be making a model for civilization upon which all lands will turn to you and say, 'Let us follow Britain.'"

"It is not the first time that Britain has given the principles upon which liberty and democratic government have been settled in other lands. I want you to do something here, so that all lands in their despair will turn once more to Britain and say, 'See how they have settled things there. They have settled things in such a way that justice has been done to all classes; all classes are contented. Grievances have been removed, wrongs have been redressed, and a new country has been built up. Let us follow the example of that little island in the sea once more.'"

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