

Peace by Negotiation

Is this Possible and Desirable? Many eminent statesmen of all political parties say "YES."

If that is so, why not try?

Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Bonar Law all say:

"It would be a crime against humanity to prolong the war by one day longer than is necessary to attain our just aims."

The spokesmen of the Central Powers have several times invited the Allies to engage in negotiations.

They did so in December, 1916. They agreed to adjourn the negotiations with Russia at Brest-Litovsk for ten days to give all the Allies the chance to join.

Who can doubt that Russia would have obtained far different terms if she had been supported at the negotiations by the Allies?

The German Chancellor has accepted President Wilson's four principles as the fundamental conditions of peace negotiations.

President Wilson in suggesting these four principles to the German Chancellor said that the acceptance of them would be the simple and obvious test of whether it is possible to go any further, and that a general peace erected on such foundations can be discussed. The acceptance of President Wilson's conditions opens the way to further negotiations.

The "Fight-to-a-Finishers" say that the acceptance of President Wilson's conditions by Count Hertling is insincere.

But there is no way of proving that except by testing it.

Lord Lansdowne, Lord Loreburn, Lord Buckmaster, Earl Beauchamp, Mr. Runciman—all ex-Cabinet Ministers—and a vast number of other eminent public men think we ought to try negotiations—that is, try to find out if we can get our just aims without fighting to the bitter end.

Lord Lansdowne says:—

"Can we do more now than lay down in advance the principles upon which the Peace Congress would deal with them, the President has

Runciman says:—

would give almost anything to get the statesmen of the
countries talking—no harm could be done by it
I should say that the greatest contribution which would be
made to the peace of the world at the present time would
be for those who represent opinion in their respective
countries to have some chance of drawing closer together
and exchanging views, however antagonistic they may be,
because by discussion they may be brought more nearly to
understand the position.” (House of Commons, Feb. 13th.)

Lord Loreburn, ex-Lord Chancellor, says:—

“When Count Hertling accepts the Wilson basis and
offers to meet and discuss details the proper course would
be to say ‘As you have accepted the basis we will discuss
the details.’ A refusal to do this is just what enables the
German Government to appeal to the patriotism of their
own people It may be that we can get what we want
without further fighting.” (March 1st.)

Lord Buckmaster, ex-Lord Chancellor, writing upon the
German offer of negotiations, says:—

“It is of course possible to treat the whole utterance as
untrustworthy and insincere But if every overture is
met with this answer peace can never be attained at all, and
Europe will be engulfed in ruin because statesmanship is
so barren in expedient that no means can be devised of
putting the value of words to some actual test. No greater
responsibility can rest on any statesman than that incurred
by leaving these proposals unregarded or unread. Though
the words had been spoken by the Prince of Falsehood
they would none the less be true that ‘the blood of the
fallen, the agony of the mutilated, all the distress and all the
suffering of the nations will fall on the heads of those who
obstinately refuse to lend an ear to the voices of reason
and humanity.’ ” (Feb. 28th.)

If you agree with these eminent statesmen that “we
should try to find out” if we can get our just aims by
negotiation write to the Prime Minister, to Lord Lans-
downe, to Mr. Asquith, and to your M.P. and say so.

**Negotiations must begin sometime. The
sooner they begin the more likely are**
_____ we to get a _____

Just a Lasting Peace