

THE PERIL TO MISSIONARY AFRICA

TO WRECK all that missionaries have accomplished in Africa would be the result of allowing Germany to resume the control of the colonies now freed from her sway. This is pointed out in the New York *Tribune* by the Rev. William S. Rainsford, the former rector of St. George's Church, New York, and "a mighty hunter before the Lord," having spent nearly three years in Africa in the pursuit of big game. If one questions his knowledge of the Dark Continent one has but to read his book on "The Land of the Lion"; and the German menace that he sees there is in her ambition to create "an exact counterpart of her plan for Middle Europe." We read:

"She aims to establish a solid belt of country between the Indian Ocean and the southern Atlantic. By doing so she would cut the continent in two. She would again divide her enemies and rivals, she would keep them divided.

"In Africa, as a colonizer, Germany's policy has been as clear as the day. She has beaten to the earth all native tribes; she has prepared herself 'to rush' her neighbors' territory. Yet these are not her chief offense against the peace of the great African land and against those who have chosen it for their home. That offense lies in her deliberate and declared intention to do in Africa what Englishman, Boer, Frenchman, Belgian, and Portuguese have so far not only refrained from doing, but have pledged themselves for Africa's advantage never to do, and that is this: Germany has proved her intention of building up in Central Africa a military state. If such a crime against humanity were to be allowed, then must we bid good-bye to peace and progress and quiet in that unfortunate and blood-soaked land. The work of countless missionaries and civil servants would be undone, and the savage instincts of tribes who are just beginning to know the blessings of peaceful industry would be stirred and stimulated."

Dr. Rainsford does not pretend that, apart from the German sphere of influence, the condition of native races in equatorial Africa is wholly idyllic. "Belgian rule in the Kongo has been bad, Portuguese rule of the large and potentially rich possessions of that country has been unintelligent and selfish." But all the same—

"No one who has traveled in the country (and I have spent the best part of three years in it, lived among its tribes, and marched, with their assistance, several thousand miles) can be for a moment doubtful of the immense advance made and the good already done, largely owing to England's peaceable policy of occupation and civil rule. There has been little trace of militarism in England's rule. Up to 1914 she had, for instance, in all her immense East-African territory just two battalions of native infantry and one battery of artillery. She was wholly unprepared for war. Her colonization was absolutely pacific. Where climatic conditions were favorable to European settlement the country was being rapidly taken up. Where the climate was unfavorable, as in the rich Uganda region, the tribes were encouraged to practise better agricultural work by capable civil servants and by a large number of missionaries (several of them American, by the way), men and women as devoted, and not only devoted, but as wise and far-seeing in their methods as any who ever left home and comfort to live lonely lives of hardship for the sake of their fellow men.

"Such men and such measures soon worked wonders among the natives. Slavery stopt. (And, be it remembered, the slave trade had flourished in East Africa since Solomon's time or before.) Intertribal war came almost to an end. Cattle-stealing and throat-cutting became unpopular. The settlers were finding out very quickly that if they were to succeed in maintaining themselves they could only do so by engaging the friendly cooperation of the black people living at their door. Their tragedies that too often have marked the entrance of the white man into an unoccupied or half-occupied region have in British territory been almost unknown.

"I may seem to be drawing too rosy a picture, but I know well that the men of the African Inland Mission (its headquarters are in Philadelphia) would indorse every word I say. I admit that in Portuguese and Belgian territories native labor has been forced and the natives at times very cruelly treated, but there can be no doubt that England, setting as she has a fine

example of fairness and humanity, was lifting to a higher plane the whole standard of native administration on the continent."

Germany's avowed purpose to create a military colony out of her East-African tribes holds for her the lure of a splendid war-weapon, but for the tribesmen only a sure retrogression. Dr. Rainsford makes this clear:

"In those regions the black man has only lately met the white man. He has not yet learned to distinguish between men of the white nations. The white man, to him, is just the great white *Bwana* (master), armed with irresistible power, charged with life and death. He bows to him without question. To him he seems a god. He knows no other god.

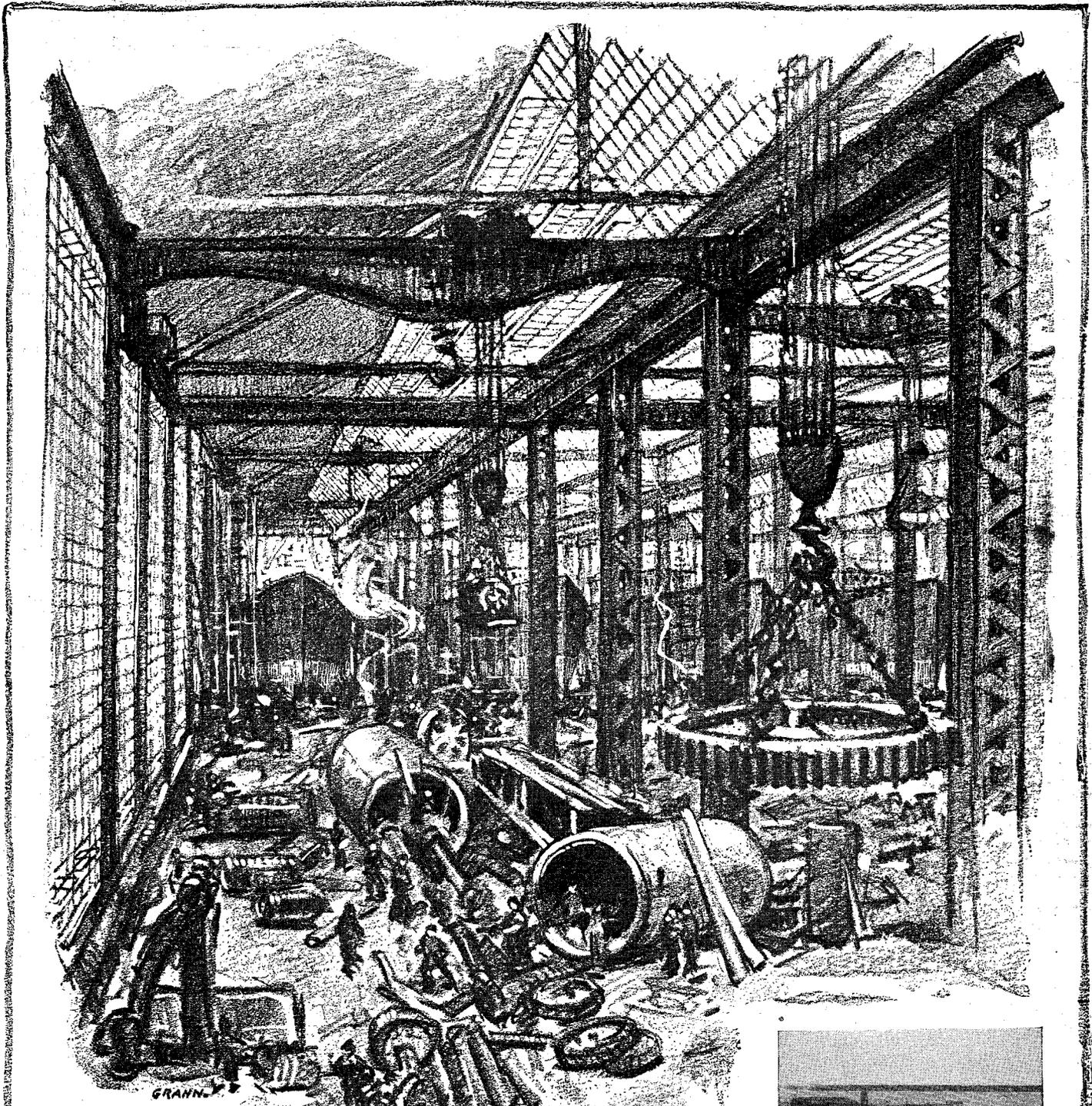
"Yes, Germany could do what she liked with these poor children of a dark land—bind them to her will, discipline them, and make them terrible in battle. And if her will were conquest and mastery—as, alas! all the world knows it to be to-day—then adieu! a long adieu! to all peaceful advancement in the largest and most backward of the quarters of the earth."

LANDS OFF THE CHILDREN

TO CONSCRIPT THE CHILDREN would be the last offense of our necessitous times. It is for them we fight, says *The Commercial and Financial Chronicle* (New York), and, says this great organ of business, "we should preserve their souls as well as their strength." The attitude of the Administration toward the child-labor laws in admitting no relaxation calls out this journal's hearty commendation. Tho the demands of the war are exacting, and place new duties and burdens upon citizens in every walk of life, "the children may well be spared." If the exploitation of child-labor in factories has always been wrong, it is argued that such practise is now more wrong than ever, "when greed may strive to make an excuse of alleged necessity." The hope of the nation are "entitled, in their own right, to that life and development which inures to them by reason of birth and being." We read:

"By no fault or permission of its own the child of to-day comes suddenly upon a heritage of wo—the war! All the fruits of ordinary labor are consumed in its conduct. To require a child to work at any of the industrial agencies which feed this huge anomaly of civilization would be doubly a crime. How shall it learn to know that labor is a privilege, not a penalty, when all its ends are destructive? How shall it perceive the ministration of production and exchange, the soul of things physical, when the whole world is distorted with a colossal retrogression to savagery? How shall it imbibe the beneficence of democracy when on every hand it finds its elders and teachers utilizing restrictive powers over the processes of life to accomplish death and destruction? To force it to dry up the founts of its own life, to contribute its puny portion of real toil to this end would be sacrilege—and it would destroy the high estate which a 'war for democracy' hopes to bequeath to the world, for the child of to-day must be the man or woman of to-morrow. As 'tis intended to give a new and better world to mankind through this struggle, so should the embryo citizen be preserved a worthy inheritor of a worthy legacy. Let the child be still a child. Show forth the promised land of good works worthily bestowed, but let not the devil of war whisper of possessions through the worship of war and not of the nobler and finer purposes of war.

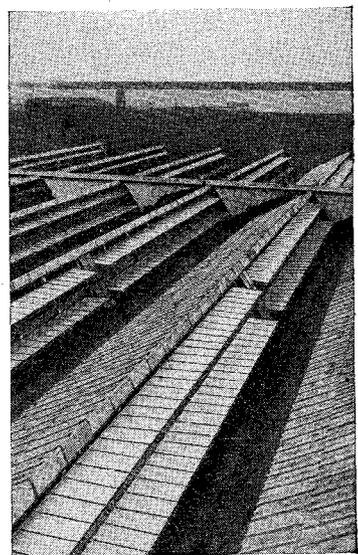
"We write these thoughts because in our absorption we are apt to consider of minor importance matters that affect powerfully our civilization, if not our 'cause.' Seemingly it is necessary for the Government to assume a paternalistic attitude toward the people. But let us not, in fact or in spirit, conscript the children. All that the world shall be rests at last in them. For them we fight. We should preserve their souls, as well as their strength. We should demand no tribute from their labor. But, pursuing their lives, as nearly as may be in the old way, let them labor as an expression of love, as a token of freedom, as an earnest of that good time coming when the world shall be filled with presence and peace. As for women, they are asking for rights and privileges that can never be fully enjoyed unless they work, either in the home or the mart. And they now have their choice."



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