

I Have No Time

I have no time for World Peace groups;
I am a mother.
My days are spent with cod-liver oil
and baths in the sun--
So my son's sturdy limbs will better adorn
A barbed barricade
Somewhere afar, years to come, slain
By a lad like himself.

I have no time to write Congressmen
Urging neutrality,
Indeed no! I am too busy cooking dried
prunes--
So the blood from his young brown chest
Will redder and richer run
Where he drops lifeless in some foreign
land
Protecting investments.

I have no time to study why wars are;
I am raising a son,
Cleaning, polishing, ironing white rompers--
Then, hypnotized by fife and drum,
Stabbing with madness,
Ripping out hearts with a bright bayonet,
He will slaughter his brothers.
I have no time!

Margaret Tuesdale Gibbs.
(Oakland Tribune--6-9-38)

Some years ago Herman Hagadorn put into the mouth of a soldier of the first World War, called "The Boy in Armor," words addressed to careless, indifferent civilians:

"Because you would not think we had to die....
We died. And there you stand no step advanced."

"The Boy" was right. There we stood. We refused to think adequately, and now the boys of another generation have had to die.

What shall we do this time?

Have you time to read the enclosed folder NOW?
And will you take the simple and very short step of sending in your membership NOW and so encouraging us to go on?

The Syracuse Peace Council will not stop wars; but it will help all who associate themselves with it TO THINK. This is our first responsibility to "the Boys" who have been and who are to be.

Will You Take Time Now?

How doth the city sit sorrowful that was full of people?

Mine eyes do fail with tears....because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city.

The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets....the tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst; the young children ask bread and no man breaketh it unto them;....their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick.

They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger

They hunt our steps that we can not go in our streets...Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of heaven; they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

Remember, O Lord, what has come upon us: Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens. We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers are widows....we labor and have no rest.

Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine....

By the rivers of Babylon....we wept;--how shall we sing in a strange land?

We have thought of dispersals and exiles as experiences of a primitive past that had to do somehow with a vaguely familiar "old testament" history. Beside current reports of the forced migrations going on today those ancient "captivities" pale into insignificance. The motives and the methods; political power exercised through military force, remain the same; and the consequences are the same. The lamentations of Jeremiah voice perfectly the anguish of millions of victims of war in Europe and Asia today. "13,000,000 doomed to starve before winter" in Germany alone, is one headline; another sober report announces the "inevitable" starvation of 7,000,000 in Japan this winter.

Eyewitness reports of people living in the rubble of cellars in bombed Italian villages and in the cities of Germany; of people huddled in abandoned packing cases and old car bodies against the rigors of winter in Finnish Lapland are increasingly frequent. Bertha Bracey, English Friend and authority on what are comfortably called "displaced persons", has described the pitiful thousands who daily tramp through Berlin as they are forcibly expelled from one political unit and driven on to another and yet another with literally no place to lay their heads and no place for the foot to rest on. She told of the refugee children who wake themselves with crying in the night and of the older people who can not sleep because of their own cries of fear.

The LONDON TIMES warns of chaos in Germany unless, saying: "Germany faces this winter the prospect of famine, and probably also of pestilence, on a scale experienced by no European country for several hundred years."

Jane Addams long ago pointed out the basic relationship between Peace and Bread. We can do little to bind up . . . wounds, to care for the widow and orphan in their affliction. But there is an enormous spiritual reward in doing that little and it is a first step in peace-building.

Through the courtesy of our neighbors we have been given the temporary use of an extra room to accommodate our clothing depot. We can still use unlimited quantities of new or good used clothing that is clean and in repair. This will be distributed by the American Friends Service Committee. (See Supplement)

No arrangements have yet been made for the large scale collection and shipment of food but food packages can be sent to individuals. The Syracuse Friends Meeting has been asked to "adopt" and assume the care of a number of families in Europe. The Peace Council office will serve as a collection and shipping center. Canned vegetables, grain foods and other bulky items are not needed, but condensed soups, preserved meats, chocolate, cheese, sugar, candy, soap, and fats will be gratefully received. Whenever possible a contribution to cover shipping costs should accompany gifts, but inability to give cash should not hinder gifts of food or clothing. No useful item is too small to be welcome. Call 2-5316 for additional information.

Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

ATOMIC DILEMMA That power corrupts and is not to be trusted in the best of hands is evidenced by the widespread questioning as to the necessity for the use of the atomic bomb in bringing the war to a close. The NEW YORK TIMES reports Admiral Nimitz as saying "the end would have been the same with or without the atomic bomb and the Russian invasion." Major General Le May, who commanded the B-29 raids against Japan, told the Associated Press "the atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all."

The failure of the Council of Foreign Ministers in London (for which Russia is not alone to blame); a recent headline "U.S. Experts Declare Potsdam Unworkable," the admitted strain and tension between the "Great Powers", are no surprise to readers who have understood realistically that peace can neither be made nor kept by military alliance. And the world has not been willing, yet, to organize for peace as it does for war. We face, therefore, as William Henry Chamberlin predicted, the international anarchy of 1913. In such a world situation our gravest problem is that of atomic power. Vernon Nash is right: the use of atomic bombs can not be successfully outlawed as long as nations have the power to make war. This is the dilemma of the Age of the Atom. Partial measures only deceive and threaten us. It is impossible to keep the secret of atomic energy. To place it in the hands of any group of nations, however 'United', is still to fail to keep the secret and to divide the world with fear. Only completely free publication of all scientific knowledge accessible to all peoples can make us free. The truth shall make you free! Are we ready for that? Can we get ready? In time?

Henry L. Stimson, retiring from the Cabinet, after participation in three great wars, translated this belief into political terms: "I am convinced that a full and frank attitude of trust (toward all nations) by our government will strongly tend to lead to a like attitude on the part of all members of the brotherhood of nations."