

it is 6*f.* to 7*f.* The rise is attributed to the drought, but a leading Milan paper says, on expert authority, that chilled meat might be sold for 3*f.* 50*c.* to 4*f.* per kilogramme. Apparently, however, any great reduction in the prices of meat, cereals, and sugar must depend on the amount of tonnage available for imports. And, of course, Italy will suffer very heavily, both in production and transport, from the impending rise in the price of British coal. Some millions of tons are due from Germany as reparation under the Treaty of Peace, but it is not easy to see how it can begin to reach Italy in adequate quantities in time to mitigate the present need. But the Prime Minister's recent speech in the Chamber was boldly optimistic. He promised a reduction in the cost of living, a graduated tax on war profits, a luxury tax, the electrification of some 3,750 miles of railway (about a third of the total), development of the mercantile marine, and immediate electoral reform.

ON Peace Day, General Pershing was entertained at luncheon at the Mansion by the Lord Mayor. Mr. Winston Churchill made the following speech:

'We are all delighted to see General Pershing and his gallant Americans over here. We hope that they will carry away very pleasant memories of their all too brief visit to England. We were very much struck after the entry of the United States into the war with a characteristic in their method, of which some of us in this country were not aware. Many of us thought that the Americans, when they undertook anything, went at it with an extraordinary degree of verve, of haste, desirous at all costs of getting a task completed in a minimum of time. But when we saw the American mentality, exposed as the mentality of a great people can only be exposed, under the supreme trials of history, we saw that their conception of a national task of this scale was to make absolutely sure of every step taken and absolutely sure of the final result. And thus restraining every feeling of impatience, which their soldiers and nation felt, they began to lay broad, deep, and wide plans and organization of a victorious campaign, as it certainly would

have been, of 1919 or 1920. Great docks, mighty railways, enormous storehouses of every kind, were set on foot adequate to the scale of the armies they designed to employ, and certainly equal to any strain or any task.

'However, when March 21 came along, although they were carrying out their plans, their scientific plans, which alone gave an absolute certainty of victory for all, we saw that the passion of the American nation and the American Army broke loose from the scientific policy which they were logically following out, and we have heard read to-day, by the City Chamberlain, that fine contribution to eloquence in the English language, that fine, simple, manly statement which I venture to think will take its place beside the famous words which Abraham Lincoln used on the field of Gettysburg, the statement in which General Pershing offered the whole of his resources, his men, everything that the American Army could command, to Marshal Foch, to be thrown in anyhow, as the emergency might need, into the struggle of the great battle.

'The mighty struggle which was thrown into the struggle terminated, in the mercy of God, last year, and it was inevitable that the struggle should terminate victoriously for freedom from the moment that the United States entered the war. Until then the fearful equipoise of the conflict gave no certainty that even if every effort was made a decisive victory would be attained.

'Almost everything in the world that can be said has been said about Anglo-American friendship. I defy anyone, however ingenious he may be, to think of phrases or sentiments happier than those which have been used, and used so often that they have become the cherished commonplaces of our daily life. "Hands across the seas." "Blood is thicker than water." These are texts from the Anglo-Saxon Bible which we all know as well as we know the most familiar and most revered sentiments.

'But here is the duty which lies with everyone of us, whatever station we may occupy, soldiers or sailors, politicians or diplomatists, general or privates, or workmen. During this war we have all rubbed

up against our opposite members in the United States. We have all come across some American or some few Americans with whom we have had intimate relations in the prosecution of a common struggle. Never let us allow those ties to be broken. It is for us a solemn responsibility that each of us in his own way should keep in individual touch and *liaison*, to use a military term, with those with whom we have been brought in contact, in the course of this immense struggle, and this great movement of world destiny, which we see carrying our peoples forward together, will be reinforced by our own individual efforts, and will be accelerated and brought nearer to its consummation.'

BRITISH press criticism of the proposal to try the ex-Kaiser in fulfillment of the terms of the Peace Treaty, and the speeches in condemnation of the plan made by public men in England, are freely quoted in the Dutch press, and the opposition there to any possible demand for his surrender is apparently stiffening. Thus the *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* (July 11), seizes on a remark of *Het Volk* (July 10), to the effect that, while of the opinion that the former Emperor will have to be given up, it must be frankly stated that the Entente treatment of Holland is offensive, and 'we only give in to it because we are the weaker of the two.' There can be no question of weakness or of strength on one side or the other. If the extradition of the ex-Kaiser has to be refused, either on the ground of existing international regulations with regard to the law of extradition, or on that of our own national legislation, or even on the ground that the procedure at London offers no guaranty for an impartial investigation of the case or for an honest trial of the fallen Emperor, there will be an end of the matter. It is absurd to be uneasy as to the consequences of such a refusal. Attempts at compulsion or reprisal are alike impossible. The London mob, which will have been done out of a sensational exhibition, will sulk for a few weeks; a few London papers will waste seas of ink in venting their spite against Holland, and eventually the whole thing will be forgotten. There is nothing to be afraid of: on the contrary, the num-

ber of those who refuse to be governed by hate and passion is daily growing, and when once more the world has settled down they will be grateful to the Dutch for upholding their standpoint and saving England the shame down through history of having subjected the grandson of Queen Victoria to a simulacrum of a tribunal and a travesty of a trial devised merely for the satisfaction of thoughtless pledges given for electioneering purposes.

The *Haagsche Post*, quoted by the *Gazette de Hollande* (July 14), laments the fact that the presence of the ex-Kaiser and the ex-Crown Prince in Holland has caused that country nothing but trouble and promises to cause her further embarrassment, and states that it would be a great relief if they could be got rid of 'in an honorable manner.' The writer proceeds to explain the meaning he attaches to these words. Were the Dutch Government either to extradite or to expel these refugees, they would have to be satisfied that the trial would be by an impartial court. Every accused, however deeply he may have transgressed either written or unwritten law, has an inalienable right to such a trial, the Kaiser and his son as much as anyone else. No allied and associated judges, however, will ever be able to pronounce a sentence that will be accepted as fair by all mankind and that will not, some day, be repudiated by history, no matter how honest they may be or how impartial they may endeavor to be. No one would object to the public prosecutor being supplied by Great Britain and the defense by Germany, but the judges must be chosen from among the neutrals and the trial must take place in a neutral country. It is to be regretted, however, that the Emperor and the Crown Prince have not the courage to leave of their own free will, as they would if they had a vestige of honor or of self-respect left. After ruining their own great nation, they prefer to let a small people with whom they have nothing to do pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them. A more ignominious fall has rarely been chronicled.

Finally, the *Gazette de Hollande* itself (July 14), whose proprietor and editor, Mr. O. Van Beresteijn, died suddenly a few days