

The Survival of Liberty

By STEPHEN BELL

Few men, I imagine, have criticized and denounced more severely than I have the post-war policies of the nations which have at last, as I incessantly predicted, resulted in this second and more terrible World War.

Now that this most dreadful of all wars is nearing the end of its third year and threatening the overthrow of what we have regarded as civilization, shall I or any other Georgist disavow the uncomplimentary things said and written aforetime about the policies of his country in order to qualify as staunch upholders and defenders of the cause of freedom and democracy? I see no reason why we should. If the things I wrote in *Commerce and Finance* during a score or more of years were true when I wrote them, they remain true now.

It is true that among the "Democracies" there is and has been too much of lip-service and even hypocrisy in our professed devotion to the cause of human freedom, but even in this we show how important, how necessary, is our victory in this "war for survival." We at least "assume a virtue though we have it not," whereas our enemies proudly and vehemently flout the very name of Freedom, denouncing it as an evil principle leading to human retrogression and decadence.

Indeed, from their side of the shield, and from their experience with the spurious "freedom" the nations generally have been practicing, there may be some reason for their seeing "freedom" in that light.

However, that there may be any hope for a civilization based on human freedom that the world may cherish, depends on the utter and crushing defeat of the powers arrayed against the principle of Liberty, to whose broken light we owe all the real civilization we have ever had. The present leaders of Germany and Italy repudiate and spit upon her. The Japanese never knew her. She cannot live if their principles triumph. Their only chance of survival to guide man onward and upward to a civilization worthy of the name depends upon the triumph of those who at least profess to be devoted to her.

There has been no time, from the signing of the armistice that ended the first world war to the attack on Poland which desecrated the centenary of the birth of Henry George, when the nations, or any one of the greater nations of the earth, could not have led mankind into real and permanent peace had it learned from Henry George the knowledge and understanding necessary for the job.

It is now our job, in this war for survival, to do all that we humanly can to insure the survival of Liberty, even strait-jacketed as she is, and at the same time enlighten the nations as to her true value, showing that the awful tribulations through which we are passing are due to our neglect of her.

Truly it is written "The kingdom of heaven is not taken by storm," but it is also written "Ye shall know the Truth, and The Truth shall make you free!"

Take
that,
Zalles.