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AT
"The Dispatch" Office

"Never Again,"—Battle Cry of the
Allies, Lloyd George's Warn-
ing to Neutrals

(London Times, Weekly Edition.)
In the following article Mr. Row
W. Howard, president of the Unit-
ed Press of America, describes an
interview he has had with Mr.
Lloyd George:

There is no end of the war in
sight. Any step at this time by
the United States, the Vatican, or
any other neutral in the direction
of peace would be construed by
England as an unneutral, pro-Ger-
man move.

The United Press is able to make
these statements on no less an
authority than the British man-of-
the-hour, the Right Hon. D. Lloyd
George, Secretary of State for
War.

"Britain has only begun to fight.
The British Empire has invested
thousands of its best lives to pur-
chase future immunity for civili-
zation. This investment is too
great to be thrown away"—was
the Welch statesman's size-up of
the situation.

More than at any time since the
beginning of the war there is evi-
denced throughout England a pop-
ular suspicion of America, suspicion
which did not exist a year ago.

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This feeling appears to be directly
attributable to a notion, generally
entertained by the man in the
street, that President Wilson, who
had refused to "butt-in" and make
war with Mexico, might be induc-
ed to "butt-in" for the purpose of
stopping the European war. A
similar suspicion of Spain and the
Vatican is also manifest.

Lloyd George was asked to give
the United Press, in the simplest
possible language, the British atti-
tude toward the recent peace talk.
"Simple language," he queried,
with a half-smile, then thought a
moment.

"Sporting terms are pretty well
understood whatever English is
spoken," he said. "I am quite
sure they are understood in Amer-
ica. Well then. The British sol-
dier is a good sportman. He en-

listed in this war in a sporting
spirit—in the best sense of that
term. He went in to see fair play
to a small nation trampled upon
by a bully. He is fighting for fair
play. He has fought as a good
sportman. He has never asked
anything more than a sporting
chance. He has not always had
that. When he couldn't get it,
he didn't quit. He played the
game, he didn't squeal, and he has
certainly never asked anyone to
squeal for him."

The Secretary for War, who
looks and acts and talks more like
an American business man than
any other Englishman in public
life, was now speaking real United
States. There was scarcely a trace
of the usual British intonation or
accent in his voice.

"Under the circumstances," he
continued, "the British, now that
the fortunes of the game have
turned a bit, are not disposed to
stop, because of the squealing done
by Germans or done for Germans
by probably well-meaning but mis-
guided sympathizers and humani-
tarians.

"For two years the British sol-
dier had a bad time—no one
knows so well as he what a bad
time. He was sadly inferior in
equipment. The vast majority of
the British-soldiers were inferior
in training. He saw the Allied
causes beaten all about the ring.
But he didn't appeal either to
spectators or referee to stop the
fight on the ground that it was
brutal. Nor did he ask that the
rules be changed. He took his
punishment, even when beaten like
a dog. He was a game dog. When
forced to take refuge in a trench,
when too badly used up to carry
the fight to his enemy, he hung
on without winning. He fought
off every attack. He bided his
time. He endured without win-
cing." He worked without flag-
ging."

Lloyd George's eyes snapped as,
sitting at his desk in the big room
in Whitehall, he tilted back in his
chair and studied the ceiling as if
seeing there a picture of Tommy's
game fight in the early stages of
the contest.

"And at this time and under
these conditions what was the win-
ning German doings?" he asked.
'Was he worrying over the ter-
rible slaughter? No, he was talk-
ing of annexing Belgium and Po-
land as a result of his victory.'
And while he was remarking the
map of Europe without the slight-
est regard to the wishes of its
people the British people were
preparing to pay the price we
knew must be paid for time to get
an army ready. It is one thing

to look back on the pounding the
British soldier took in the first
two years of the war; but it was a
different thing to look forward as
he did and know that beating could
not be avoided.

During these months, when it
seemed the finish of the British ar-
my might come quickly, Germany
elected to make this a fight to a
finish with England. The British
soldier was ridiculed and held in
contempt. Now we intend to see
that Germany has her way. The
fight must be to a finish—to a
knockout"

Dropping colloquialisms, the
half-smile fading from his face,
Lloyd George continued in a more
serious vein: "The whole world
—including neutrals of the highest
purpose and humanitarians with
the best motives—must know that
there can be no out-side interference
at this stage. Britain asked no in-
tervention when she was unprepar-
ed to fight. She will tolerate none
now that she is prepared until the
Prussian military despotism is
broken beyond repair.

"There is no regret voiced in
Germany over the useless slaugh-
ter, and no tears shed by German
sympathizer a few months ago
when a few thousand British citi-
zens who had never expected to be
soldiers, and whose military educa-
tion had been started only a few
months previously, went out to be
battered and bombed and gassed;
to receive 10 shells for every one
they could fire; went out and tought
and died like sportsmen with-
out even a grumble. I repeat there
was no whimpering then, and the
people who are now moved to tears
at the thought of what is to come,
watched the early rounds of the un-
equal contest dry-eyed.

"None of the carnage and suff-
ering which is to come can be
worse than the sufferings of those
of the Allied dead who stood the
full shock of the Prussian war ma-
chine before it began to falter.

"But in the British determination
to carry the fight to a decisive fin-
ish there is something more than
the natural demand for vengeance.
The inhumanity and the pitiless-
ness of the fighting that must
come before a lasting peace is pos-
sible is not comparable with the
cruelty that would be involved in
stopping the war while there re-
mains the possibility of civiliz-
ation again being menaced from the
same quarter. Peace now or at
any time before the final and com-
plete elimination of this menace is
unthinkable. No man or no nat-

ion with the slightest understand-
ing of the temper of the citizen
army of Britons, which took its
terrible hammering without a
whine or a grumble, will attempt
to call a halt now."

"But how long do you figure
this can and must go on?"

"There is neither clock nor cal-
endar in the British army to-day,"
was the quick reply. "Time is the
least vital factor. Only the result
counts—not the time consumed in
achieving it. It took England 20
years to defeat Napoleon, and the
first 15 of those years were black
with British defeat. It will not
take 20 years to win this war, but
whatever time is required it will
be done.

"And I say this recognizing that
we have only begun to win. There
is no disposition on our side to fix
the hour of ultimate victory after
the first success. We have no de-
sire that the war is nearing an
end. We have not the slightest
doubt as to how it is to end."

"But what of France?" I asked.
"Is there the same determination
there to stick to the end; the same
idea of fighting until peace terms
can be dictated by Germany's ene-
mies?"

At this question the War Secre-
tary carefully matched each finger
of one hand with each finger of the
other, and as he turned his chair
slowly to gaze out over the khaki-
dotted throng in Whitehall it seem-
ed that the interruption had dam-
ned the flow of his conversation.
There was a full moment's pause,
and as the chair swung round
again the reply came in a voice
and in a manner impressively
grave.

"The world at large has not yet
begun to appreciate the magnif-
cence, the nobility, the wonder of
France," he said. "I have the an-
swer to your inquiry given me a
few days ago by a noble French-
woman. This woman had given
four sons—she had one left to give
to France. In the course of my
talk with her I asked if she did
not think the struggle had gone
far enough. Her reply, without a
moment's hesitation, was:

"The fight will never have
gone far enough until it shall have
made a repetition of this horror
impossible." The mother was voi-
cing the spirit of France. Yes,
France will stick to the end.

"I suppose that America's con-
ception of France and of the French
soldier before the war was as
erroneous as the British idea. I

suppose that you, too, regarded
the French soldier as excitable,
brilliant in attack, but lacking in
doggedness and staying qualities.
Nothing was more unwarranted
than the popular idea of the French-
woman as a poor defensive fig-
hter. History never justified this
idea. But there will be a new ap-
praisal and a new appreciation,
when the real heroism, loyalty,
and genius of the defence of Ver-
dun are fully understood.

"France has fought the longest
wars of any nation of Europe, and
her history is of itself assurance
enough that she will hold to the
end. With the British it will be
the sporting spirit that will ani-
mate the army to the last. Fair
play the motive—a fair fight the
method. With the French it will
be that fiercely burning patriotism
that will sustain the army to the
end regardless of when that end
may come."

"And Russia?"



"Will go through to the death,"
interrupted Lloyd George to an-
swer the inquiry. "Russia has
been slow to arouse, but she will
be equally slow to quiet. The re-
sentment of the Russian against
having been forced into the war is
deep, and he has neither forgotten
or forgiven the fact that this hap-
pened at a time when he was ill-
prepared and unsuspecting.

"No! There are, and there will
be, no quitters among the Allies.
'Never again' has become our bat-
tle cry. At home the suffering
and the sorrow is great and is
growing. As to the war zone its
terrors are indescribable. I have
just visited the battlefields of
France. I stood, as it were, at
the door of Hell, and saw myri-
ads marching into the furnace.
I saw some coming out of it
scorched and mutilated. This
ghastliness must never again be
re enacted on this earth, and one
method at least of ensuring that
end is the infliction of such pun-
ishment upon the perpetrators of
this outrage against humanity
that the temptation to emulate
their exploits will be eliminated
from the hearts of the evil-mind-
ed amongst the rulers of men.
That is the meaning of Britain's
resolve."

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