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**DECEMBER
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A monthly publication devoted to the interests of the 23,000 employes
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VOL. XII

DECEMBER, 1918

No. 12

Defeated, Germany Surrenders to Foch

Nation Now Humbled in the Dust.

The great war has come to an end. The Kaiser and his precious son are fugitives in Holland. The Socialists have seized the government and the Red Flag is everywhere in evidence. As in Russia on a similar occasion all industry has come to a halt. Republics have been proclaimed. Schleswig-Holstein has declared independence. The minor kings and princelings are abdicating or going out under pressure. Germany is in dissolution. As in Russia at first, so now in Germany, there has been very little bloodshed; but the workmen's and soldiers' councils are in control of the governments and it remains to be seen in what respect the Germans will act differently from the Russians in the twentieth and the French in the eighteenth century. The crime of the ages has been committed. The real criminals slink away like nasty curs to a neutral state to escape the penalty of their barbarities. They must not escape. Their accomplices have begun in misery to serve their sentences.

History has value only as it interprets the principles of human nature, which for Burke, "a scientific statesman and therefore a seer," constituted those sound principles of politics to which he habitually referred. As human nature does not change, although its manifestations are protean, Burke at least found it not impossible, by reverting to his "sound principles," to forecast with much accuracy what men would do under given

conditions. Similar conditions have now arisen in Germany; but wise men seldom commit themselves to forecasts of the world's history. Forecast of what shall happen to business and industry in this country, now that the war is at an end, might be less difficult, perhaps, could one predicate a return of substantially pre-war conditions in the great industrial nations; for, economically speaking, the world has traveled very much in a circle; because whatever has happened the principal thing in the life of man is getting a living. As that necessity goes on forever and appeals to men in substantially the same way in all times and places, the history of the world has been in the main shaped by economic forces somewhat modified by religious influences. In Europe at this moment there are premonitions of the same sort of disaster to society and industry that followed the first French revolution and the surrender at Sedan—the political and economic excesses of peoples plunged into the perplexity of a sudden revolution, excited by revolutionary dogmas. At such times the very worst class of demagogues come to the surface like the dross in a melting pot, and, as did Lenine and Trotsky, obtain power by following obvious lines of continental revolutionary despotism, but who when they have achieved power have no capacity for its rightful exercise. If one be not quite ready to predict that central Europe will go the way of Russia it must be remem-