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A Memorial from the N. P. League.

Editor The Rebel—

Below you will find a copy of a Resolution passed by the North Dakota Legislature in the form of a Memorial to Congress and the President.

This was introduced in the North Dakota Legislature by the National Non-Partisan League and the Legislature without a single dissenting vote in the House. The Memorial is aimed at the profits made in war.

We quote a few extracts from press notices, to show you the measure in the North-west.

Fargo Courier News, Tuesday

on "War and Conscription—"

"We should stand by our country. We will stand by it with our all and our lives, but we demand that the wealthy individuals who do not care to risk his life, should be forced at least to risk his property. The countries of the world use human life to carry on war and give back to humanity what is left, and the countries of the world should use property in war on the same basis and give back what is left."

St. Paul Daily News, Madison

Wis., Feb. 19, 1917.

"Leading members of the Non-Partisan League of Wisconsin are preparing a memorial similar to the one introduced in the North Dakota Legislature, to take the profit out of war."

Fargo, S. D., Feb. 19, 1917.

"South Dakota favors taking private profit out of war. Non-Partisan members of the South Dakota Legislature will introduce a memorial identical with that passed by legislatures of other States, asking the President to take over all property and money needed to prosecute the war if actual hostilities are reached by this country."

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 19, '17

"A memorial to President Wilson asking him to take the profits out of war, will be introduced in the Minnesota Legislature Tuesday or Wednesday. The memorial will introduce a bill by the North Dakota House of Representatives to day."

Nobody wants war if war can be avoided. No one is interested in having war except those who make money out of war. The common people never win by war—there never should be war. If all profit is eliminated from the making of war, the strongest single motive of war will have been eliminated.

Yours faithfully, in a session of the educational committee of the introduction of this Memorial is inculcated whether it pass or no, and it will have a strong tendency to curb the war spirit, simply to have it quieted and shut down in the majority of the States, it will do more than anything that has been suggested to prevent a spirit of jingoism from controlling the deliberations of Congress and the President.

It is fair and it is right that if we must fight in defense of

our country, the owners of property should stake their property alongside of the lives of those who must do the fighting instead of adding to the burden of those who fight, after the war is over, by increased taxation and bonds, contributions by forced loans and conscription or confiscation of property necessary to carry on the war should be had, and thus give everyone, as nearly as may be, justice at home in the conduct of the war if war be inevitable.

Will you not see that either this Memorial is presented to your legislative assembly, or one carrying out this idea? The time is short in which to act—the matter itself is vital. If at all possible for you to do this it, and do it now. By all means let us have peace, but if we must have war, let it be with justice to our people.

Yours for justice,

A. C. Townley,
 Chairman Non-Partisan League,
 St. Paul, Minn.

Arthur LeSueur,
 President, The People's College
 Fort Scott, Kan.

MEMORIAL

(Passed by North Dakota Legislature.)

To the President and Congress of the United States:

Whereas, there is danger that the American nation, in spite of the centrality of its people, is about to become involved in the European war of human slaughter; and

Whereas, it has become apparent that there are some inevitable forces carrying on a press propaganda to involve this nation in the European conflict; and

Whereas, it is generally believed that the munition, armor and steel plants are the parties responsible for this propaganda; Now, Therefore, Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota, the Senate therein concurring, that we respectfully petition the President and Congress of the United States, to do everything in their power that can honorably be done, to avoid this nation's being drawn into the European conflict of destruction.

And we respectfully petition the President and Congress of the United States, to endeavor to maintain absolute neutrality with neither favor nor prejudice to any of the unfortunate belligerent nations.

And be it further made known that it is our firm and unalterable purpose to support and stand by our nation in case of war, with our lives and property. And being mindful of the principles of equity, justice and freedom upon which this government is founded, we do most earnestly recommend the Congress and Congress of the United States authorize and empower the Pres-

HAILETTSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1917.

THE PEOPLE'S REFERENCE.

Read what W. G. Shepherd, war correspondent of international reputation, has to say in a recent letter.

Note.—The following words appeared as postscript to the letter: "You may use this as you please, providing you do not make it any war. I am in favor of any war the people vote for. I think, however, the people, on both sides ought to vote. W. G. S."

50 Broadway, New York City.
 Dear Sir—During an experience covering over two years as a war-correspondent in seven different armies on every European point except the Balkans, I selected every opportunity to put the following question to army officers of various ranks:

"If all the people in Europe had been given an opportunity to vote as to whether or not there should be a war, would you have had it in Europe?"

I have had this question answered by German-British, Austrian, French, Italian, Serbian and the Belgians officers. The response was always the same. I never received any other answer than this:

"Of course not."

Yours truly,

W. G. Shepherd.

Okla. Home Socialists are backing up all their available funds an attack through the higher courts on the alleged result of the vote on the fair election law. They have every moral and legal reason to believe that it was carried. Morality, reason, law, evidence are not worth ainker's cussword in the courts if the interests control the state; though this is a case open and shut case that the boys may win out.

Come unto me, ye all ye MUTTS that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give ye arrest—Molier Version, by Sam Atkinson.

And so far as it is within their power, in case war becomes inevitable, to seize all the property useful and necessary to the government, carrying on the war, to be used during the war with out compensation, and to be surrendered after the war to the owners; shipyards, munition plants, armor plate mills, flour mills, armory factories, supplies and equipment, cloth factories, and such other property and money as the government may require, to the end that all our citizens, regardless of social position or economic advantage, shall contribute equally to the common need and common defense of our nation, so that citizens of wealth may be enabled and compelled to contribute to the common welfare and need of their country on the same terms as the enlisted soldiers or sailors, who give their lives and their property.

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IF IN MEXICO WHY NOT HERE?

The Atlanta Constitution of recent date approves of the clause in the Mexican constitution that "prevents gobbling of the land and natural resources of Mexico by foreigners"—or anyone else for that matter. The Atlanta Constitution says further:

"Under the old order of things and the old rulers of Mexico the country was not without restraint for selfish aggrandizement and exploitation. The wealth of the land, the mineral and other vast resources were controlled by the few rich of the north and east. The poor were ground down and oppressed and kept in ignorance and squalor. Their rights were withheld from them; they were shut out from the light."

"This system of tyranny and autocracy was continued and nourished under the long rule of Diaz; and it grew to proportion as a system, rivaling the feudalism of old. Foreign capitalists went into the country for the sole purpose of exploitation and were given free rein."

They procured grants of immense acreage of some of the richest of the land which should have belonged to the peasants. They acquired boundless mineral rights, oil holdings, etc., all of which should have been at least shared by the people of Mexico, who were crowded out. No wonder the people revolted."

The foregoing comment is rather radical coming from an old-line Bourbon newspaper, but, after all, it is typical when Editor Hill will content himself by merely pointing to the economic evils that drove the people into revolt and can not see that the causes of the Mexican revolution are operating here.

The Constitution says that Mexico "foreign capitalists went into the country for the sole purpose of exploitation and were given free rein." Are not the capitalists, both foreign and American, given "free rein" here for the "sole purpose of exploitation?" Nobody has ever accused them of being here for their health!

The Constitution says that in Mexico they "acquired immense grants of rich land." Is there any thing in Mexican history to back the gigantic land grants and land steals of the railway, timber, and other interests, until to-day there are four of our people alive in rented homes while four-fifths of the nation's arable land is held out of use for speculation?

The Constitution says, "they acquired boundless mineral rights, oil holdings, etc., all of which should have been at least shared by the people." What of the Guggenheims, Rockefeller, Schwab and Clark, of the Copper, Steel, Oil and other great trusts that have "acquired" ALL the important mineral rights of the nation?

The Constitution says, "No wonder the people revolted." But true to type, it can see nothing under its own nose.

The Rebel says, "Wonder why the American people have not revolted long ago!"

The Rebel 10 weeks for 10c.

Celebrating Washington's Birthday.

Patriotism is indeed the last refuge of scoundrels.

While over every square of the land from Podunk to Wall Street waved the stars and stripes in observance of the birthday of the Father of the Nation; while Wendell Jammer jammed and Daily Herald headlines barged in many ways the same old song of "Free America"—another sort of celebration was going on in the working men's districts of the great cities of the north and east.

In New York 50,000 poor women and children paraded in protest against the High Cost of Living, a parade that wound up in front of Mayor Mitchell's office. As in Paris before the heads of the blue-bloods began to fall into the basket, so in New York the meaning cry of "Bread! Bread! We want bread!" was heard in Washington's birthday with pious shot at the docks and warehouses that were literally groaning with stores of food.

In Philadelphia, the home of the Liberty Bell, "thousands of women in the southern district of the city were shouting protest against high food prices, upsetting food displays, entering stores, and for promises of public officials that 'something would be done.'" Philadelphia would have been in the grip of rioters.

In Chicago the Board of Trade celebrated Washington's Birthday by telegraphing the interstate commerce commission that they would ask President Wilson and Congress to take control of the railroad car shortage and food distribution problem if an immediate change were not placed on all products. The Board of Trade of Chicago except fuel and food stuffs. The Board of Trade said that if this were not done "the country will face the danger of rioting and anarchy."

In short because the "efficient" privately-owned railroads claim to be unable to handle all the goods shipped over its lines owing to "car shortage," food-stuffs and fuel are now beginning to pile up by the billions of tons.

H. O. L. DUE TO GERMAN AGENTS?

When Carranza proposed a joint embargo by neutral countries against the warring countries in order to force them to make peace, the Morgan-owned dailies chorused that "Germany was behind it." Now the same press prostitutes are saying that the protest meetings and parades against high food prices, were "likely the work of German agents."

Next thing we shall hear is that the High Cost of Living that has driven the common people of America to the brink of armed rebellion is a dark, deep, laid plot of the Kaiser's emissaries.

Agnes before capitalism came to stifle it, the human race learned the lesson of brotherhood and cooperation. The time has come when that lesson will be relearned never to be forgotten.

T. A. HICKRY, Editor.
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No 291

In America's great terminals. Many more billions of goods and warehouses of the great harbors, since the announcement of the German submarine blockade on February 1.

It would look to the Man from Mars, that if such immense stores of things necessary to warm and feed and cloth and light the people of America were accumulating mountain-high, that this should operate to reduce the already well-high prices of such necessities.

Well it might look that way if the allied trusts of America were in at least absolute control of the productive and distributive functions of the nation that they have knocked the law of supply and demand silly.

And what is president and congress doing about it? Being the executive committee of the Enemy Within, they will merely appoint the same investigating committee that will take the same old six months to find out the same old thing, that every corn-field know, namely, that a few men have cornered the people's necessities and are growing rich at the expense of the people before even the dreams of the false-writers of old.

In the meantime this hypocritical crew is trying to divert the minds of the people to a mythical foe across the water, when the real enemy, the ENEMY WITHIN is ravaging and starving this country with a ferocity that makes the United "fight-for-their-love" look like the beating of Mary's little lamb in comparison.

It seems I hear the shade of Washington saying to his pygmy successors:

"HONORABLE 'NATIONAL HONOR!' AT THIS TIME IS LAUDICRIOUS IF IT WERE NOT TRAGIC. A NATION THAT IS IN THE STRANGLEHOLD OF A FEW USURERS, LANDHOOG AND PROFIT-MONSTERS HAS NO HONOR."

Lloyd George, English premier, announces that the government will have to force unused agricultural land into use to insure England against food famine due to activities of the U-boats. The European war has hit at least one thing to its credit. It has partially awakened the fat-headed ruling class of Albion.

Brute force never settled anything and never will. At least the human race is learning in the flash of twenty million rifles by the side of great rivers of blood that what Christ said was terribly true: "Who lives by the sword shall die by the sword."

For months the flour mills of the middle west are said to have worked 35 per cent of the time because of alleged scarcity of railway cars. Great is the efficiency of private ownership.

Yep, we're getting the Wilson prosperity in great FAT CHICKS.

Two Kinds.

WHO WANTS WAR?

Breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany should have a steady effect on the market. It is the consensus of opinion of strong financial and business interests that, even if the United States becomes involved in the great war, there is little likelihood that this will turn the tide of OUR prosperity. If anything, it should result in further expansion of business both domestic and foreign.

—Weekly News Letter,
Jones & Baker, Brokers,
50 Broad Street.

The possibilities of this situation is a thing to which we have been looking forward.
Frank A. Vanderlip,
President National City Bank.

War with Germany will result in a great activity in this country . . .
James S. Alexander,
Pres. National Bank of Commerce.

WHO WANTS PEACE?

In The French Chamber.

The conception of peace founded upon the free will of peoples, and not upon the force of arms should become the charter of the civilized universe. And it is the more necessary at this time that democrats of all nations, wherever they may be, should rise against imperialistic ambitions and against their bloody and ruinous consequences. . . . To prepare and hasten an early and just ending of the present war, and to secure a future of peace, civilisation, the Socialist group asks the representatives of all the belligerent nations to press upon their leaders a trial in good faith of the noble experiment offered to humanity by the head of the great American republic.

(From a resolution passed by the eighty-nine Socialist Deputies, Jan. 26.)

British Labor.

"...A lasting peace cannot be secured by a policy of conquest followed by a policy of disarmament, but only by a policy that lays the foundation of a real international partnership."

(From a resolution recently passed by the Bradford Trades and Labor Council.)

American Students.

These college presidents, who have exceeded the speed limit in the offer of university funds for barracks and student bodies for immediate service, must feel somewhat dashed by the result of the post-vote just taken by Raymond College, graduates of the Teachers' College. The advisability of a popular referendum on peace or war, submitted to the students of Barnard School of Journalism, Union Theological, Oberlin Department of Teachers' College, and Columbia, brought in an affirmative response of sixty-four per cent. It is to be noted that no campaign for a referendum preceded the vote; also, that the later votes were more favorable than those taken earlier.

A further evidence of the non-militarist mind of American collegians is to be found in the spirited student delegation which, under the direction of the Emergency Peace Federation, will storm the Capitol on Washington's Birthday.

P. M. W.

It is better sometimes to stand opposed to the brutal system, than what an everlasting cool can stand for it!

The drive to fundamental democracy is on. It may run over some, but thank God it is on.

BOOKING RURAL POWER.

(Look upon this picture in the Dominion of Canada and then look upon the republic of America where electric trust controls and confines the use of power.—Ed.)

By Robert Black.

The province of Ontario, Canada, has pledged itself to give the farming population equal access to electric power in the distribution of public ownership generated at Niagara Falls and other points of convenient development. Such an undertaking is well under way, guided by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, one of the most extensive and successful public ownership projects in any part of the world. With a system of trunk lines now comprising 285 miles of high tension service and 500 miles of low tension, affording an ideal source of electricity to thirty-eight municipalities, and representing a capital expenditure of \$4,000,000, the Commission linked to its program, about three years ago, the involved question of rural distribution. The manner in which this is being worked out follows a composite plan derived in part from a painstaking investigation of methods adopted in U. S. and other American states. Hon. Adam Beck, chairman of the Commission, devoted through his engineering staff a somewhat unique scheme which Ontario looks upon as being precisely related to its requirements than any other.

One of the novelties in the farmer's plan of reaching the farmer is a demonstrating car, which carries a tool house on its back, fitted with a twenty-five horse-power motor and sufficient equipment to place it for action in a barnyard with wires running in the nearest power pole. Although the twenty-five horse-power is the standard of the Ontario demonstrating car, it is intended that a three or four horse-power motor should serve all the purposes of the average rural household, thrashing, feed cutting, grinding, pumping, etc.

Under the direction of an experienced engineer these cars have been sent out down the country, heretofore their approach by public notice. So enthusiastic has proved the interest in their coming that crowds numbering into the hundreds have gathered on two or three busy seasons to the attraction, manifest real delight at the results. Indeed the rural curiosity has been of such "high tension" as to earn for the demonstrating car and staff the sobriquet of "Beck's Circus."

While Ontario is in the preparatory stages of rural power delivery (for the main problem of eliminating cities and towns has been solved), it is not to be forgotten that scores of rural municipalities have declared their anxiety to become customers of the Commission. The reason of this flood of public interest is twofold: that no commercial power company has so far interested itself in the problem of the farmer. There exists, moreover, an overwhelming public confidence in the ideal to which the government has devoted its best men and full est means; the scientific soundness of the Commission's methods has never been brought into question and there is the testimony that the advent of "Hydro" in Toronto and other centers forced the commercial monopolists to cut their rates from twenty to thirty-five per cent.

The instant demand from agricultural districts was followed by a bill passed in the Legislature enabling the Power Commission to distribute power "locally," and obliging municipal councils to forward all applications

times submitted from rate payers, and to enter into an agreement with the government — if they chose — for power at a cost to be agreed upon. In each case the list of subscribers must admit to further additions, and the rate of charge must cover the municipal city's investment with sinking fund and interest. It is the practice of the Commission to handle its power supply as a whole, rather than to deliver it piecemeal to the municipality at its borders, but underlining a local distribution or construction, although all local matters, management, a lien upon the property charge and even the disposal of the annual profits, are under the dictation of the central body of Commissioners.

An interesting illustration of the sagaciousness of the Ontario farmers to procure power is shown in a northern township, where a body of rate payers living on widely separated lots agreed to distribute electricity to thirty-eight municipalities, and they cut down scores of poles in the swamps and dragged them across country, thus saving the government the most superfluous the more expert operations.

PASTORIZA WINS.

John Henry Kirby, Jesse H. Jones, Jake Wolters, and four or five others that represent the plutocratic reactionary interest of South Texas and Louisiana, were handed a glorious event in the city history of Houston, when J. J. Pastoriza was named as mayor by a big majority. It was also a bitter battle of crow for the Houston Citizens' League.

Joe Pastoriza is a sincere and militant enemy of landlordism and special privilege, only he thinks as yet that he can make headway against these evils through a Landlord party. Politicking through a Landlord party, which would not produce the results he may make a try for the governor's post on a Land platform, as his record in that respect was the worst of his success in the majority cases.

We Rebels need merely all back now with hands folded — if we wished — and watch our land movement shaping and reshaping by public policies and making and unmaking public policy in the Sunny South. The revolution has started and can't stop, using all kinds of ingenuity to attain its end, and Pastoriza is one of these instruments.

SMALLER LEGISLATURES.

The Daily Oklahoman is advocating smaller legislatures, claiming that it would reduce expense and expedite legislation. Correct, it would reduce expense for the interests, who would have fewer "expense bills" of their legislators. It would expedite legislation, most any bill of interest to the interests can be jammed through a legislature of 400 members as quickly as through one of 50 members. It is the people's bill that is in committee or on the calendar.

It is not a question of numbers. It is a question of what class a legislature represents. If our representatives were wage workers and working farmers backed by a political-economic organization of that class, we would see a flood of popular measures in never-ending stream.

But what can you expect from courtesan ring rhyeters, land-grabbers and their ilk? North Dakota has given us a little lesson along this line.

In war the killers are better fed, clothed, and medically cared for than the workers in time of peace. Some day the mutts will see the point.

MILITARISTS SPEAK.

By Ovington Kent.

At last the Prussians of the United States have spoken, and it would be one hell of a fool can mistake or a knave defend this bill to Prussianism the United States has been reported from the committee to the U. S. Senate. That bill provides for every outrage on democratic institutions the anti-militarists predicted it would and few infamies they were thought to charge to the military.

With the wooden-headedness that distinguishes all Militarists everywhere, their bill provides that their conscript army shall "never be used except in a defensive war, or the immediate thereof," and that it shall "never be used in strike or industrial disputes," this as a way to Libertarians and Labor, as if the democratic forces of this country were struggling for a tactic and not for a VITAL SOCIAL PRINCIPLE, as if we will embrace a Militarist on oath.

It will even force men who have religious scruples against war to serve, but graciously places them in the "noncombatant divisions of the army." What is the "noncombatant" division of an army? Are there men and women in the munitions and arms factories, in the Red Cross Service, even, warring, helping to murder their fellow beings as surely as are those up at the front sighting the cannons and the rifles? Could hypocrisy go further than this?

Then read this if you are still in doubt that the American Prussians are any better than the German "Huns!"

The committee measure, which is based on that prepared by Major Moseley, formerly of the army general staff, fixes the training as a duty of citizenship, denying naturalization until such training has been at least begun or exemption granted. All Government employment would be closed to those who could not produce certificates of training or exemption and private employers would be similarly prohibited from employing any man who could not produce his certificate of training or exemption. A maximum of \$1,000 fine and a year's imprisonment for each violation is provided for the violation of any section of the act except that those who receive training when liable for it must serve a longer time.

Libertarians of all the Americas, unite! Unite in defense of your freedom and freedom against the ENEMY WITHIN.

I saw one republican more—America—the night and the last, for the justice of heaven on the land, the most terrible; for the mercy of heaven to mankind, the briefest in its devastation. But there is all hypocrisy there was not better; the right and right were those of equal robber; the sacred figure of Liberty veiled its face; and the offering on its violated shrine was the spoil of honor, beauty and virtue.—Wandering Jew (Extract).

A movement that is composed and ruled by class conscious workers is revolutionary, regardless of the label. One that is not so composed and ruled is not, regardless of the label.

Ninety per cent of the people of Texas are farmers and wage workers. Yet your state legislature is composed of 80 per cent lawyers, and of a mighty poor quality at that. Wake up.

The Rebel will have some big announcements to make soon as to new plans in the fight for land and liberty.

THE WRONG WAY.

(Coming from an ultra standpoint some of the good of the martyrdom of Mrs. Sanger, Mrs. Byrne and like noble souls is doing—Ed.)

The propriety and wisdom of the propaganda in which Margaret Sanger and her sister, Mrs. Rebel Byrne, have been so active may be debatable. But, admitting that it is both improper and unwise, the fact should not constitute a crime. Jail is the wrong answer.

Error has never been combated successfully by imprisoning its advocates. Indeed, no more effective method could be devised for giving it substance and enhancing its authority.

The court is justified in committing Mrs. Byrne to prison, because the court must be governed by the law. Society can not afford to acquiesce in the infamy promulgated by Mrs. Byrne by any such simple process as locking her in a cell. Society is placing its confidence in an untrustworthy means of defense when it shelters itself behind a law which is unjust.

Galileo's conception of the universe was regarded as subversive of religion and morals by the authorities of his day, and he was tortured into recantation; but Galileo's glimpse of truth survived and conquered his persecutors. The advocates of birth control are sincere and seriously minded people, who offer their theory as an answer to certain very real and important problems of modern life.

It may be a poor view and a wholly wrong answer, but that will not be proved by making martyrs of those who urge it.

Many of us were stirred to indignation by British persecution of suffragettes. England imprisoned women for destroying property and disturbing the public peace. We are imprisoning them for teaching certain physiological facts. The laws that make this course necessary are not enlightened laws. They are even good laws from the viewpoint of those who believe that birth control propaganda is wrong. The way to meet that propaganda is with argument and the offer of a better solution for the problems it professes, in part, to solve.—Chicago Evening Post.

HOPES FOR PEACE GROW.

It is beginning to look like the plot of the munition and money trust and their henchmen of press, pulpit and rostrum, to drive president and congress aside and subvert the nation in the European war, is hanging fire, thanks to the great anti-war agitation of radicals of all political faiths.

On February 27 President Wilson went before congress and asked for authority to establish if he deems it necessary what he termed "armed neutrality," meaning for the present the arming of American merchant ships or the convoking of them by warships from the submarine zone.

He expressed the hope that it would not "become necessary to put an armed force into action," and said he was "not now proposing or contemplating war on any steps that lead to it," inasmuch as the "American people do not desire it and our desire is not to fight with them."

Of course the president's policy does not mean that the danger of bloodshed is over, or that the interests that want war at any cost are going to lie down. However, it does look more hopeful now than it did at the beginning.

Let the people continue to demand a referendum prior to declaration of war; let them continue to advocate that the expenses of his day, if declared, shall be borne entirely by the Big Rich that alone profit from it—and you will hear this howl for blood from those who have no intention of spilling any blood of their own, grow weaker and weaker as the days go by.

What has become of the old time preacher who used to raise a crop and preach at the week's end, maybe the landlord doesn't give him time to think of heavenly things.

The Rebel is in the fight to stay and will use any and all instruments that come handy to help him win it.

We Rebels are the chosen ones of the angelic hosts of heaven. We may appear in the minority, but we will win it.

"If the Socialist party is not a working class party, it is no party at all," says Gens. We'll have to come to that more and more.

THE GREAT LAND FIGHT

is world-wide.

Between Texas and other States, it is being waged in Great Britain and her colonies, in South America and elsewhere.

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