

THE PRESS AND WAR ALSO UNEMPLOYMENT

Areopagus Society Hears Speakers on Present Vital Questions.

Two addresses of unusual interest were heard at the meeting last night in the Imperial theater, under the auspices of the Areopagus. Mr. Gerald Brown, secretary of the Ottawa Canadian club spoke on 'The Press and the Present Crisis,' and Rev. Hugh Dobson, of Regina, took as his subject 'Canada's Unemployment Problem.' There was a large attendance, music was provided, and Rev. J. J. Clemens occupied the chair.

—Mr. Gerald Brown, who took the platform first, said that it was difficult to realize while sitting in such comfortable and quiet surroundings that in Europe there were vast armies of our fellow men facing each other on the battlefields. There were tens of thousands fighting off battle so that we may enjoy that peace and prosperity which we had. And through the telegraph and cable wires which served the press we were able to follow every turn of the battles thousands of miles away. It was impossible in Ottawa to grasp what the war meant to the city and to the country. It was looked upon in a too impersonal light. It was our war. It was not merely Germany against France, Belgium and England, but Germany against the whole world, against common sense, against right and justice.

THE BANDITS' MOTTO.

"Berlin's motto," said Mr. Brown, "is the bandits' motto: 'They should take away who have the power; they should keep who can.' The press cannot repeat with too much emphasis the fact that the war was more than a war. It was a fight for self-preservation." Coming more particularly to his subject, the speaker said that there were 1,000 newspapers in Canada. Daily, weekly, and monthly, and in every language imaginable. He quoted Mr. Pickwick's famous summing up of the virtues and uses of the press to the editor of the *Katanswill Gazette*. "But it is difficult," he continued, "to know just where the news end of a paper ceases and the thoughts or opinions begin. Our opinions are mainly derived from the daily newspapers. In forming our opinions, however, we cannot be too careful to make sure that our opinions are based upon accurate information. The prime purpose of the press is to give us news of what is going on. It is a most important obligation resting upon the heads of newspaper editors to give the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. But it is often very, very difficult to separate the truths, half-truths, inaccuracies and even lies.

"The demon of untruth is everywhere. His voice comes in every conceivable quarter," he continued. "Those who wish to follow the war intelligently should read first and always the official announcements, with a map at their side. All our reading has as its object the adding to the information we have. Therefore we may accept or reject the views expressed in the newspapers, thus gradually building up opinions of our own."

Later Mr. Brown said: "By all means let us have all the light that editorials and correspondence can shed, either on the war or the water question. But let us have the facts that we may judge matters for ourselves."

ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

Rev. Hugh Dobson made a strong plea for the efficient handling of the unemployment problem in Canada. "It is unwise to call attention to the extent of the calamity in our midst," he said, "therefore I will not dwell on the extent of the problem with us today." Unemployment was a moral problem. In countries which had experienced long periods of unemployment, these periods were invariably followed by a permanent lapse into pauperism. He laid stress on the distinction between the unemployed and the unemployable. "In Canada, unemployment is a permanent problem. Well, let us establish a permanent system to deal with a permanent problem," declared the speaker. He next dealt with the underlying causes of the question. Contemptuously dismissing the argument of some self-centered individuals that it was a personal matter, he spoke of the structural changes in industry, and seasonal and cyclical changes. What the causes of these periodic returns of unemployment were was the great question for statesmen. "Emergency measures are wholly inadequate," he said. The remedy lay in the formation of a system of labor exchanges, to regulate unemployment. Here the man who had his labor to dispose of could be "testified and classified." To ensure its efficient working the speaker advocated unemployment insurance.