

GREAT EVENTS AND GREATER HISTORY BEING MADE

From Toronto World

How many of us ever thought a year ago that we would live to see the most stupendous days in the history of mankind?—There never were such days as these very ones of this week for so many, many men and women.

Continents, countries, races, governments, political organizations, are all convulsed by this war. One of the old historians begins a chapter by saying "There was a kinesis among the Hellenic peoples at this time." By kinesis he meant a movement, a boiling, a ferment; best perhaps illustrated by the modern idea of kinetic energy; an innumerable quantity of atoms in restless motion.

Europe is in this restless condition, and Italy now the most excited of the lot. For fifty years or more the Italian people have been getting ready for some great race manifestation and they are in the opening throes of it. It will be one of the surprising race-manifestations of history. It is coming out of their body and out of their souls.

Just as the throbs that shake German peoples come out of their minds or out of their savage instincts, Germany is consumed with a lust for power, for rule, toward some aim of the race to be attained by blood, by the destruction of other people's and races.

The British peoples—of all races and kinds—are also affected and in a mysterious way are animated by a common spirit of solid resistance of the German assertion. Unity of spirit and aim seems to govern these opposing elements. We thought Armageddon was a myth, we know it now to be a huge reality. It is greater and worse than anything we could imagine; the whole of Europe and more lined up in a bloody struggle of races and countries. Civilized warfare in part, but savage warfare in greater part—and no knowing to what limit it may go. The civilization of fifty centuries threatened with extinction.

And we sit and live in the midst of it or near it. The mother country is in the very centre of it. Britain was never so perturbed. So France. And Britain and France are spiritualized by the situation, by the trials of these days. Germany is brutalized. That's the great difference. It's a fight of savagery against civilization.

And look at all the other peoples that are equally and suddenly animated: Russians, Poles, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Jews, Turks, Japs, Chinamen.

The people of the great American republic find themselves highly upwrought and yet without and clear compass. "What is Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba," and what is liberty to them and this gigantic struggle to their political conception and birth? They are only groping so far. President Wilson has not grasped it.

All mankind suddenly devoted on the question of slaughter, one nation of another.

What it all means we do not know, but we see it, it is happening in these very days and all around us.

In other days men have disturbed sections of the world, of peoples more or less a few; but all civilization has been suddenly convulsed—perhaps by the kaiser, perhaps by some more powerful force or stimulus. Whatever it is it is making history on a stupendous scale.

Look at the panoramic spectacle of the week: the battlefronts in Belgium and France, in Austria and Russia, on the Dardanelles and adjacent lands, the marshalling of men and armies in Holland, in Italy, in Japan, in southeastern Europe. Red Cross organization on a gigantic scale.

Look at the political events in Britain at the moment, at the tension suddenly developed between the

United States and Germany; Austrian, Turkish and German diplomats leaving Italy; half of the workshops and workmen of the world making munitions of war.

And yet the clouds may begin to settle and the portents to vanish.