

A RETURNED SOLDIER'S VIEWS

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir,—I see in your newspaper a champion of free speech, a letter in answer to returned man who gave his views as a citizen who fought at the front. This answer, which was signed "yours for a better day," was apparently written by one who has on his mind "De~~x~~ Tag" which, when I was in Germany in 1912-13, was a toast which was drunk at all public and private dinners all over the country. That toast, as everyone now knows, was drunk to this present war for which Germany had been preparing for over thirty years, and which they thought was going to be a walk-over.

It is something to know that "Better Day" agrees that the coal strike is serious, but he does not think it serious when at least sixty per cent. of the strikers are alien enemies, and striking for another dollar a day, making their minimum wages \$6 per day, which is a higher rate of pay than a captain in the C.E.F. at the front. Our men, the real men of Canada are fighting for these same strikers for the sum of one dollar and ten cents per day. The public are better able to judge how far \$5 per day will go against that of \$32 per month allowed to our noble war widows.

"Better Day" does not make mention of the 176 Austrians striking at the dry dock at Port Arthur, and, although being offered their demands, plus ten per cent., refused to go to work because it was to finish a boat which was to carry grain to the old country.

Now, what a returned man does think, and so do all returned who have suffered and lost their dearest friends, is, that all native-born Germans and Austrians now striking, whether naturalized or not, should be conscripted the same as Canadians are going to be, and sent to work for \$1 per day mending the roads in Belgium and France and rebuilding the towns and villages that their brothers have knocked down.

This is a far greater liberty than Canadian citizens or any of our allies enjoy in Germany today.

Yes, "Better Day's" reflections and his attitude towards returned man's letter shows his nationality. As a returned man stated, "blood is thicker than water" and any one who will champion Austrians or Germans who are striking at this time is of their blood.

Fancy "Better Day" saying that if we develop a suspicious nature towards a certain people we may rest assured they will never place their confidence in us!

Isn't it too bad that Great Britain didn't develop a suspicious nature towards Germany ten years ago, so that this war could have been averted?

"Better Day" also says he often had the pleasure of listening to the beautiful strains of the travelling German bands, but he never suspected them. But he knows that they all cleared out before Great Britain declared war.

I remember a German that was behind the German lines near Ypres on a Sunday morning in April 1915, playing nice hymns, trying to lull us into a sense of security and after the beautiful strains were finished, they launched a deadly flow of gas which left many a home with a gap which will never be filled.

No! "Returned" is not biased or narrow-minded, nor muddled up. He knows what he is speaking about. Labor unions have sent about 50 per cent. of the boys who have gone to fight the brothers of the aliens who have taken their places in the same unions, and it is these same enemy aliens who, led by extremists, are causing so much trouble all over the country, and by their strikes making the high cost of living soar higher and higher, which may in itself be a pre-arranged plan.

Yours, etc.,

ANOTHER RETURNED MAN.