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WAR AIMS

ADDITIONS TO MR. WELLS'S CHARTER

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—In common no doubt with many of your readers, I have read Mr. Wells's letter in your issue of last Wednesday with great interest. Will you allow one actively engaged in meeting the challenge of youth to the problems of the world they are about to enter to make further suggestions, for my work has compelled me to attempt to define the rights of the individual in a world where the State becomes increasingly glorified; and that not only totalitarian countries?

It would be strange to me to hear the leader of the Liberal Party proclaiming in the House of Commons the other day that the internal arrangements under which the people of another country were governed were no concern of ours. The conditions under which all people live are the spiritual concern of the entire civilized world. I should desire therefore to add to Mr. Wells's charter for the individual, with which I entirely agree, the following:—

(1) The right of every citizen to partake in the government of his own country and for all to have equal voting power in the election of the governing authority.

(2) The freedom of every citizen from the liability to conscription. No world will be worth living in unless we can get rid of war, and war must be regarded as the dividing line between barbarism and civilization.

(3) No individual to suffer any disqualification, penalty, or differentiation on the score of his religious belief or of his race.

(4) The right of every individual left in need before he reaches the age of employment, or left in need when no longer able to work, to be honourably cared for under conditions making for his happiness.

(5) No individual under the age of 16 to be withdrawn from educational care for employment in industry, and higher education in its most diverse forms to be equally available for all individuals until the age of 18.

(6) No censorship of an individual's books or other writings upon any subject to be legal except in the interests of public decency, and then only by an adequate legal authority.

Two further points: Mr. Wells ends his suggested declaration by a clause that it should not be qualified or departed from upon any pretext whatever. This would mean that it would become static and incapable of improvement. I cannot believe that the wisdom available in the world to-day can produce a declaration which will not require extension and improvement in the years to come.

Finally, may I emphasize the possibility that the adoption of a declaration of rights would greatly help forward the inspiring and constructive scheme of federal union so brilliantly expounded in Mr. Clarence Streit's book, "Union Now."

Yours very truly,
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