EDUCATION BY VIOLENCE. ESSAYS ON THE WAR AND THE FUTURE

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Education by violence. essays on the war and the future by Henry Seidel Canby

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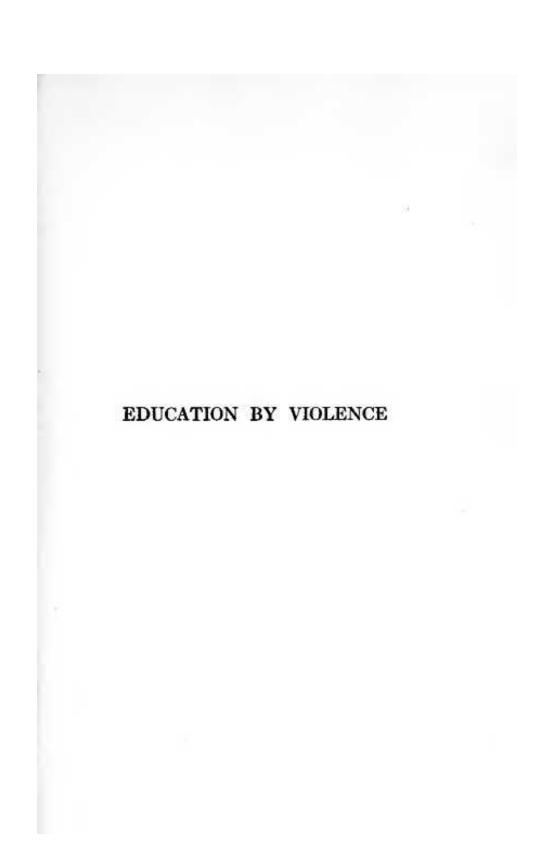
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HENRY SEIDEL CANBY

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BY

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Eo the Memory of

WALTER HINES PAGE

LATE AMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN
WHOSE DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE
OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
AMONG THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES
WAS A CONSTANT HELP AND INSPIRATION TO
THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK

INTRODUCTION

In the fat, green days before 1914, a book was made in a manner that had become almost conventional. You lived, you studied, you thought, and then retired, like an expectant mother, to some mental solitude, where the travail in due and decorous order was ended, and the book came forth complete. But in this book, conceived in war time and finished in the early days of peace, I have been subject to a different ordering. Life burned intensely in 1918. The battle-front, the tumultuous humanity behind the lines, Great Britain and France at war, where I was a humble observer, flung imperious summons. Ideas, hopefully interpretative of the surging forces loose everywhere, shot into the mind, sometimes in a trench, sometimes in a munitions factory, on a steamer deck, or at midnight in Piccadilly, and would wait only for the quiet of an Oxford garden, or the peace of a room high hung in Kensington above a park cheery with thrushes, to be worked out as far as the uncertainties of the time would permit.

As I wrote, then and later, I felt there was only

one question: What will come afterward? - and that reflections upon race and education and working women and fighting men were all, like the game of Twenty Questions, aimed at one answer. The next generation may find that answer. I see only a little further now that the war is over, than in April of 1918, when Hardy's President of the Immortals seemed about to play his own game with our ideals and our little strengths behind them. The ideas begin to fall together; one sees the connecting links and I have written in many of them in brief transitional and prefatory sections; but these essays are still most valuable, if valuable at all, as historical evidence of how the war and its aftermath affected one American mind. hence I have left them much as they were first conceived; some with the memory of last night's bombing behind the words, or the intense sense of racial contrast felt by an alien who finds himself among comrades and friends; others written in the dawn of peace and looking forward to a future full of urgency and promise and doubt. And though only one bears that title all - the first four on international relationships, the fifth on morale, the sixth and seventh on education, the eighth on reconstruction, and the ninth on war's ending - all, and the brief prefatory essays that precede them, present the fruits of education by violence.