

**PRACTICAL PACIFISM  
AND ITS ADVERSARIES.  
"IS IT PEACE, JEHU?"**

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Practical pacifism and its adversaries. "Is it peace, Jehu?" by Severin Nordentoft & G. K. Chesterton

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# PRACTICAL PACIFISM AND ITS ADVERSARIES

"IS IT PEACE, JEHU?"

BY

SEVERIN NORDENTOFT.

*7th. 1927 2/10/27 Johanna*

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

G. K. CHESTERTON



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## PREFACE

IN the year 1913 I published in Copenhagen in Danish a book called "The Pacifist Cause," a comprehensive, critical representation of its tasks, material, aims, means and methods, its mistakes, its results, possibilities and prospects, its dogmas and its ultimate issues, but not including its history, organization, and personnel.

To this book I added a Supplement which was intended to illustrate the chief and most deeply rooted causes of war, and to state the aims and to explain the conditions which appear to me to be necessary to the victory of the pacifist cause and to a permanent peace in Europe. This Supplement was a fiery pamphlet, written by a member of one of the oppressed peoples. It contained a description of the reign of terror under which he was groaning, and was provided with footnotes by an intelligent and large-hearted subject of the ruling nation.

Since then the world war has come. But it has changed none of the views I then expressed.

On the contrary, one of the Allies has inscribed upon its banner, and postulated as conditions of peace, word for word, the same demands which I have put forward in my book. As these demands at the present time cannot be too often and too energetically proclaimed from the housetops, as it presumably will be welcome to those who advocate these demands to see their necessity emphasized in a way which must appeal to every honest man's heart and head, and as I should like to address a larger audience than my little native land can offer, I have resolved to present to English readers, not only the Supplement mentioned but also the Preface of my book, some pages of its programme, and a couple of short sections containing a few proposals for pacifist progress.

Self-appointed prophets are probably plentiful in Britain, pacifist literature perhaps also, but an appeal like the one contained in this Supplement has perhaps not been read before in Britain. British people will here find a fine illustration of what it is they are fighting against just now.

THE AUTHOR.

AARHUS, DENMARK, 1915.

## INTRODUCTION

DR. NORDENTOFT has asked me to contribute a line or two of introduction to his very interesting book, and I am very glad to do anything I can to assist the consideration of so able and important a statement, even where it is the statement of a view not identical with mine. I doubt if there is any precise sense in which I can be called a Pacifist, except the sense in which every man is a Pacifist who is not a homicidal maniac. But in a world in which homicidal maniacs can apparently wield the power of empires and chancelleries, the exception is not insignificant. It is further open to my critics to say, with not a little plausibility, that if I were a Pacifist I should not be a Practical Pacifist. Nevertheless, a Practical Pacifist is a man well worth attending to; and Dr. Nordentoft really is a Practical Pacifist in the two or three most necessary and most neglected practical respects. I think his book very significant because it is not, like so many books of his school, merely a challenge to Militarists about why they have made war;