

17th Sept., 1918.

8, BARTON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S. W. 1.

My dear Buxton,

I am to have a
talk with Asquith on
the subject of your
letter tomorrow. Meantime
the Austrian proposal
sets the stream running

again. Arthur Balfour's
speech yesterday was
candid & not unfair,
although he is not justified
in placing Alsace Lorraine
in a position superior to
any other territory entitled
to self-determination.

Yours always,

Walter Dillman



June 19th, 1918.

Dear Runciman,

[We feel it our duty to lay before you our view regarding the influence of the Liberal Party in reference to War Policy and War Aims. We desire to express our thanks for the services you have done in counteracting the defection of supporters of the Liberal Party which is taking place owing to the widespread feeling that the Liberal Party has failed to express the Liberal view in regard to the war.

2 We are fully conscious of the difficulty of going beyond the leader of the Party in expressing opinions during the present crisis and we specially appreciate the independence and courage which you have shown in deprecating the committal of this country to extravagant aims in regard to Alsace-Lorraine.

3 There is a wide-spread feeling that not only is inaction a national disaster, but it is endangering the future of the Liberal ~~cause and~~ ^{party in particular} We desire earnestly to suggest that you and your colleagues, whose anxiety must be



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at least as great as our own, should realise the necessity of freely expressing the Liberal view and of refusing to be bound to silence by the individual opinion of the present Leader of the Party.]

4 It is, ~~in our view~~, intolerable that owing to the Party truce, Liberals are responsible for the present War Aims Propaganda (conducted largely in its own interest by the Government) propaganda which includes the exhibition of pictures of atrocities in the public post offices and which is justified by Lord Beaverbrook on the ground that Liberals are equally responsible with Conservatives for its maintenance.

5 ~~Meanwhile, we understand that Mr. Asquith's intention~~ is to express his difference from Governmental War Policy as soon as the public has sufficiently shown its movement in that direction. The material for such a Movement has already shown itself, but it evidently cannot become vocal while the responsible Liberal Leadership ^{shown} to which it has been accustomed to look, ^{give it a lead.} remains silent. ^{fill some at least of}

~~We are certain~~ ^{no} greater services could be rendered to the Country and to the Party than that you and your colleagues



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should ~~now~~ freely and actively express the views at which you
have yourself already hinted.