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The flames of war burn over that poor Europe and even in neutral governments which our old fatherland casts its glimmer (glow) over land and people, so for this time one blinks with his eyes and asks himself the question, what now? In letters from friends in the U.S.A. I am in recent times offended by the question, what is with Denmark? (What is going on in Denmark?-arh). It is understandable that the question comes up and the worry is to the credit of the many Danish emigrants who continuously have warm feelings for the homeland and its destiny (fate) in time, through which we are now living. You may rest assured that the same question is also raised among people here, without receiving an answer, but there is no doubt that there is the strongest will to retain the neutral position, to endeavor to remain outside each activity that could be an appearance of a covered part for the one or the other party, regardless of where the majority of the population's sympathy lies.

The year that is gone appeared in the first half to be lighter for our country, decreasing unemployment, increasing production until Europe again became the theater of war, since, there is a down going curve which characterizes our position, restrictions, rationing, lack of goods, unemployment, and currency shortage together with increased pressure of taxation. We who have experienced the previous war feel a considerable change from that time and until now, all that was there the year before one noticed was wrong is now instead after months the bitter truth.

We look with horror at our seamen who in order to maintain a connection with the larger world place their lives at risk. We see our sister-nation Finland's lot (destiny), as it were, we hear the cry through the cold winter night from the unfortunate, the innocent who call for help. We celebrated Christmas and the beginning of the New Year, but we could not feel the Joy as previously when all this castes shadows over our mind.

Yes the year has begun, time goes on, let us at the start of the New Year, in a dark time wish that the winter solstice may bode well for a lighter time for Denmark, for Europe, and that Peace on Earth may come to us in the New Year. Compatriots out there in the distance will certainly wish the same.

ABSTRUP