

What will the world have for its colossal investment in war?

s. c.

Some War Thoughts.

It is not only the Socialists in Europe who have disappointed us in their attitude towards the war. David Lloyd George, England's far-sighted and fearless Chancellor of the Exchequer, causes surprise, at the very least, by his proposals for raising the war budget. If our papers report him correctly—there is always a chance of mistake, of course—Mr. Lloyd George has forsworn his principles of penalizing idleness and unearned incomes, and has chosen to lay the burden for a war that is not a workingmen's war on the shoulders of the working class. There is not a word, in any report in American papers, about increasing the tax on land values, the importance of which Mr. Lloyd George has so long and fearlessly preached. The English workingmen are exhorted to give their lives in this war and to further bear the burden by paying added taxes on the necessities of life and on some of the poor little luxuries they are able to afford . . . and what is the argument advanced for all this sacrifice? "We fight for our *land* . . . for our freedom . . . we fight to keep England for the English." And yet it was Lloyd George who first taught the average Englishman *who* owns the land of England! Why not let those who own the land of England fight for it and pay the taxes as well? There would be some reason in this.

The Krupp Company, manufacturing Germany's big guns and other war material, votes 3,000,000 marks towards the relief of the families of soldier employees. Seeing as the Krupp Company helps largely in making the relief necessary it would be interesting to know the exact relation, in dollars and cents, between the benefit accruing to the Krupps through the death of each soldier, and the amount spent in each individual relief case. It could doubtless be computed by subtracting from the added profit this war brings the Krupp Company, the 3,000,000 marks given the relief fund. The balance, we fear, would still be found on the profit side for the Krupp Company, so that self-interest on their part and the part of other such firms will still be a fruitful source of danger to the cause of a world peace.

The Comic Spirit, which looks on at the doings of mankind must find some source of pleasure in

the assertion on the part of nations who have always aided and abetted the military spirit as a function of their national life, that they are "fighting a holy war against militarism." It is so delightfully illogical.

Either militarism is right and necessary as a function of government or it is all wrong. If it is right, then why isn't the country which has brought it to the highest state of perfection the country that should be most admired by all militarists? If it is wrong, then why isn't it wrong when present in a small degree as well as in a larger degree? If burglary, for instance, is right and lawful as a function of society, then the man who steals the most should be most admired, not condemned. But if burglary is wrong in itself, is the thief who gets away with only a few hundred dollars' worth any better (in principle) than he who loots several thousands? It is most amusing to hear the ardent militarists of this country, the followers of Rooseveltian doctrines of brute force as a qualification for citizenship, take sides, violently, with the Allies and as violently condemn "Prussian Militarism." Don't they realize that what they are condemning is merely the thing they admire raised to its highest potency? Or can it be that they are angry with Germany for having shown to what the thing they admire may lead?

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

Governor Hunt's Dilemma.

Governor Hunt of Arizona has done well in saving from execution six condemned persons whom he was said to be at first disposed to send to death. The press dispatches had said that there were eleven condemned ones awaiting execution, so that his act may not save all who were to die. But it is also possible that the dispatches erred in giving the number. The Governor has been compelled to endure a sore trial, such as should be required of no man. For this, sympathy is due him, however he may pass through it. But let it be hoped that he has not committed the irretrievable error of allowing a single execution in the fallacious belief that the burden of guilt will rest entirely on the people.

S. D.

The Inalienable Right to Life.

The Arizona Republican of Phoenix of December 10 finds fault with The Public for urging Governor Hunt to prevent a wholesale execution, in spite of popular approval of capital punishment. The Republican declares the issue to be "Shall the