

motives lead always to wrong. Among the possible benefits that may come from the present war are greater liberty and justice to subject states and peoples. Russia, eager to secure the aid of the long-suffering Poles, offers them home rule. And to gain the friendship of the influential Jews of Europe she promises citizenship to the Russian Jews. It does not appear as yet what harm Finland can do the Bear of the North, but it is even possible that a faint sense of consistency will compel autocratic Russia to deal more leniently with the weak.

S. C.



None Are So Blind as Those Who Will Not See.

America contains still one unreconstructed militarist. Notwithstanding the unprecedented success of our pacific policy toward Mexico, and the absolute failure of the armed peace of Europe, Colonel Roosevelt comes out with his oft repeated assertion that peace treaties are not worth the paper they are written on, and that it is only might that prevails. Speaking before the Connecticut State Progressive Convention, Colonel Roosevelt said:

Within a fortnight we have had fresh proof of the utter worthlessness of treaties, of names signed to pieces of paper, unless backed by force, if power or interest demands their violation. This fact has been demonstrated again and again within the last dozen years by almost every one of the great nations who are now engaged in this war.

It is not every man who knows beans when the bag is closed; but what should be said of a man who does not know beans when the bag is open?

S. C.



A Contrast.

Lest some over-zealous reformer should despair of his cause, it might be well for a moment to consider American diplomacy as contrasted with that of European countries. For more than a year we have striven to establish peace in Mexico. Provocations innumerable have tempted intervention, and the world not only would have approved it but did urge it. Yet, though actually in possession of her chief port, and confronted by an enormous bill of expense on account of Mexican strife, we have not only refrained from seizing territory, but have waived all indemnity. Contrast this with current events in Europe.

S. C.



Spreading the Gospel of Peace.

Under the title, "What Hast *Thou* to Do with Peace?" one of Milwaukee's true and well known

democrats has made a reprint for general circulation of President Wilson's appeal for neutrality. He appends to his announcement no other signature than "W. F. B.," 51 Loan and Trust building, Milwaukee. The importance of as wide compliance as possible with the appeal makes its circulation desirable and since the publisher avoids both publicity and profit in this work it deserves mention. His announcement follows:

To arms! let each faithful soldier in the cause of "on earth peace, good will toward men" do his several part in the nation-wide distribution of these gentle words of Mr. Wilson. The far-reaching effects of each single copy cannot be overestimated. What, then, the happy fruits of many! I have a practically inexhaustible supply of this reprint of *The Message*, which I am furnishing, be it in lots of hundreds or thousands, for the cost of paper, printing, and postage—thirty-two cents per hundred copies, postpaid.

S. D.



Britain's Love of Liberty.

Whatever may be said of England's treatment of her colonies and possessions—and it must be confessed that with all its faults it is better than that of other European countries—the Briton will brook no curtailment of his liberties at home. The Irish Home Rule question has brought about complications difficult of solution; yet, notwithstanding all its confusion, the great mass of the people are quick to resent the slightest encroachment of King or Lords. The problem of giving expression to the aspirations of Catholic Ireland, while quieting the fears of Protestant Ulster, is one to tax the ingenuity of the ablest statesmen; and it is not to be wondered at that the government, in its anxiety to avoid civil war, should have resorted to extra-constitutional means.



But the English people were quick with their rebuke. When the King called the recent conference he was immediately condemned by the Laborites and by the radical Liberals. The action has been analyzed with the utmost nicety. The King's speech has been weighed, word by word; and phrases that would have passed unnoticed as coming from any other man, are fraught with evil portent when coming from him. Nor was the Prime Minister's assumption of responsibility for the King's utterance enough to allay criticism of his course. Says the London Nation:

Mr. Asquith has hastened to cover the King's acts and words with the accustomed formula. But every one of his listeners knew that what he was defending was a speech drafted by the King and viséed by him, and not a speech drafted by the Cabinet and viséed by the King. Even if Parliament did not detect the difference, the country has. . . . The King

is not and cannot be a real arbiter between parties. All kings are conservatives. That is their metier, for they are the most conservative institution in the country. Moreover, they are surrounded by men in whom this political bias is accentuated by personal affection for the person of the Monarch and unqualified devotion to his interests.



The criticism of the able and dignified Nation was echoed throughout the Kingdom, but as a rule in severer terms. The severity, indeed, led one defender of the King's course to exclaim that whereas it was once said the King can do no wrong, 't is now said the King can do no right. It has prompted others to think that the main use of a king, in the mind of the average Englishman, is to serve as a common object of abuse. But aside from all facetiousness, the promptness with which public opinion condemns the action of the King in his efforts to soften the fall of the Tories, promises well for English liberty; and gives hope that the reform of the House of Lords will be fundamental.

S. C.



Pittsburgh's Good Example.

Although Pittsburgh is but beginning to untax its buildings in the slow and cautious manner permitted it, the advantage of the process is already evident. Other Pennsylvania cities feel that they should be allowed the same right. The Johnstown Chamber of Commerce has started a vigorous campaign to have the Pittsburgh system extended to the third class cities of the State. It is circularizing all legislative candidates and calling on business organizations in other cities to help. A convention of third class cities has been called at which the matter will be taken up. If successful, the movement will enable these cities to exempt ten per cent of improvement values from local taxation every two years until improvements will not be taxed at more than half the rate of land values. For the present this will be a great step in advance. Five years hence it will be a backward community that will not be demanding greater progress.

S. D.



No More Tory Judges Wanted.

Fewer reactionaries, not more, are needed on the Supreme Bench. The selection of Attorney General McReynolds to that position is an act inconsistent with the general trend of President Wilson's policy. It is a mistake which the Senate can correct by refusing to confirm the appointment. McReynolds may have the legal ability necessary to properly perform the judicial func-

tions of a Supreme Court Justice. But there is cause to doubt his ability to act properly in cases where the Court is called upon to exercise the legislative functions it has assumed. It would be as unfair to the President as it would be to the people to confirm so unfortunate an appointment. Wilson is entitled to another chance to make a better selection.

S. D.



The National Voters' League.

Excellent work is being done by the National Voters' League of which Lynn Haines is secretary. It offers an excellent means of keeping voters informed concerning the action of Senators and Congressmen on many important matters which the daily press fails to report. Its latest report gives in brief space the record of every member on forty-four different matters which have come up. The fact of such an organization being at work will do much to stimulate and encourage the conscientious representatives and will be a help in securing the retirement of the tricky dodgers.

S. D.



Joined to Their Idols.

Once more the Democratic party has demonstrated its inability to live up to democratic principles. It did manage to liberalize the Panama Canal Act, which admitted to American registry foreign-built ships less than five years old by striking out the time limit and providing for temporary exemption from certain navigation requirements. But when it came to admitting foreign built ships to the coasting trade, even from Atlantic to Pacific points, the old spirit of protection rose up and robbed them of the power to act.



One of the chief reasons for digging the Panama Canal was to establish effective competition with the trans-continental railroads. To this end railroad-owned ships were excluded from the toll exemption clause. And as if that were not enough, a deliberate attempt was made to break a treaty with a friendly nation in order to relieve our shipping from the burden laid upon others. Yet, the Panama bill, that admitted foreign-built ships to American registry under the five-year limit, prohibited them from engaging in the coasting trade—the only place where water transportation can curb the railroads. And now, when Congress is compelled to take action on account of the war in Europe, enough Democratic Senators and Representatives bolt the party principles to perpetuate the coasting trade and ship-building monopoly.