

The amount appropriated for one year for the army and navy would build the proposed national railway in Alaska. After being spent, moreover, we would be prepared to carry out what it would be spent for, while spending it for military purposes only leaves us as "unprepared" as ever.

S. D.



In Time of Peace, Prepare for Peace.

Japan is sorely afflicted. This is our opportunity to strike. Burdened already to the very limit of endurance by the cost of the Russo-Japanese war, crop failures have left millions of her people at the point of starvation. And now is added the horrors of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and tidal waves. Seldom does such an opportunity come to a nation to overcome its opponent. This is our chance to render Japan forever harmless. One bold stroke now, and our Pacific coast will be as safe from Japanese invasion as the state of Colorado. This is the psychological moment. We may never again have such an opportunity.



But it is not with dreadnoughts or super-dreadnoughts that the blow must be struck. It is not by any form of force that the Japanese are to be overwhelmed. Physical blow will provoke physical blow in return. Were we to over-awe Japan today with a great armada, she would assume yet greater burdens, she would starve yet other millions of her people to retaliate. But by sending her shiploads of food instead of shiploads of guns and armed men, we shall by one blow disarm her. The cost of a single battleship spent for food to save these starving men, women and children will do more to render our coast safe from attack than all the dreadnoughts we could launch. The price of one battleship expended in succoring these unfortunate people will save the building of twenty battleships in the future. Will our Congress rise to the occasion? Never has a nation had a better opportunity to show its real worth.

S. C.



Heroic But Not Discreet.

And now it is South African labor that has appealed to the arbitrament of war. The long drawn-out struggle between miners and mine owners has resulted in a general strike. Business has stopped, the citizen soldiers have been called to the colors, and we are to see a short, sharp struggle between the man with the tools of industry and the man with the tools of war. How will it end? How does it always end? There may or

may not be destruction of life and property. There is certain to follow increased bitterness to hold men of common interests apart with misunderstood-grievances. If any material gain at all comes to labor it will be so small that it will ill compensate the men for the dangers dared. It is heroic, heroic beyond measure, this stand taken by labor. For while the soldier's pay begins when he goes on duty, the striker's pay stops. The one's livelihood begins, the other's ends. Yet, in spite of the hardship—not to say danger—labor stakes its all upon the success of a strike. It is heroic but it is not discreet.



Consider the factors involved. Labor with a grievance pits itself against the rest of the community. Part of the opposing force is passive and indifferent, part active and aggressive. The moment violence begins, the indifferent become positive, and respond to the appeal to maintain law and order. Then it becomes a contest between two bodies of citizens, the one doubly armed with the majesty of law and the weapons of war, while the other meets it with bare hands. Can an inferior force overcome a superior force? If the strikers be in a minority what chance is there for them, unarmed, to overcome a majority, armed? If the strikers be in a majority why appeal to arms at all? Why not resort to the ballot? The majority rules, and if labor can carry its point by force, how much better can it carry its point by ballot?



If it be said that labor cannot be got to vote as a unit, what reason is there for supposing it will strike as a unit? Many may respond to the first call for a walkout, the militant-spirited with enthusiasm, the worst oppressed, stolidly, and the great mass, passively. If the strike be the result of a passionate appeal, such as that at Lawrence, Massachusetts, it may win united support. If the grievance be one to arouse the sympathy of the public, it may succeed. But the public is fickle. The appeal that found willing ears at Lawrence was treated with indifference at Paterson.



There are two reasons why violence and sabotage cannot solve the labor problem. Most men instinctively shrink from anything savoring of unfairness—even if done in the name of fairness. And if by any chain of fortuitous circumstances success were to crown their efforts for a time, it would lead only to jealousies, betrayals and disaster. Men will act together peaceably as long as