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EDITORIAL

Armed Peace.

Was it for this that the nations of Europe have groaned beneath the burdens of militarism all these years? Will human folly repeat it? s. c.



A Tree Known By Its Fruit.

In Europe we now see the fruit of that pernicious doctrine "My country right or wrong." Austrian citizens are marching forth to kill Servians, with whom they have no personal quarrel, and who have never done them wrong. Germans, Russians and French are going out to do the same. "Our country calls us," they say or think, and at the same time they imagine that that relieves them of moral responsibility. The fallacies falsely labeled "patriotism," which have been impressed upon them since childhood, are now leading them out to kill and be killed, to inflict misery on others, and to suffer it themselves. May this be the last time such sacrifices will be made to the fetish of counterfeit patriotism. s. D.



In Time of War Prepare for Peace.

Let not those who have thought to see men beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks feel that they have indulged a vain hope. It is not for us to gauge the task nor to fix its ending, but to keep everlastingly at it. And if there be faint hearts that would give up because they see not the end, let them take comfort in the reflection that all the great accomplishments of history looked just as impossible immediately before the page was turned. The war spirit may be likened to a carbuncle on the body. The poison flowing through the blood localizes itself, and a painful lump forms in the flesh. Relief is sought in salves, ointments, and poultices. But the lump continues to swell, and the pain to increase, until at the very time when the soul is in mortal agony the carbuncle bursts and spews out the poison. The

pain ceases, the swelling subsides, and the flesh regains its normal color.



Such has been the history of the world. The poison of injustice flows through the veins of society. Men are denied their natural rights; and when the oppression becomes unendurable, their oppressors make all manner of excuses. The affliction is due, they say, to the wrath of God, to the niggardliness of nature, or to the encroachments of foreign nations. Ah, the encroachments of foreign nations! When all other excuses fail, there is this to fall back upon; and each ruling class of oppressors holds its victims in subjection by charging the trouble to the others.



War is not due to the will of monarchs, generals, and parliaments, but to the oppression of the people, and their belief that the oppression comes from abroad. And foreign wars will continue as long as the poison of injustice flows through the body politic. When citizens have been freed from oppression at home—and know why and how they are free—they will have no desire to oppress others abroad. But so long as men are the victims of injustice, and have no part in the advantages of science and learning—remaining as it were in the station of their ancestors from time immemorial, at the point of bare subsistence—they will be the playthings of fortune. Having little to lose by war, and their despoilers little to gain by peace, wars will be inevitable.



But the people are awakening. A few already see their real oppressors. It is for each who sees the truth to tell his fellow, and that fellow his fellow, until presently all will know the truth, and the truth shall make them free; free from industrial tyranny at home, and free from military tyranny from abroad. The work of the peace advocate is not negative. It is not enough for him to cry peace, peace! He must first lay the foundation for peace. To cry peace while the people writhe under injustice is like trying to heal the carbuncle without cleansing the blood. All things have their natural order, and there will be war among them so long as they are not in that order. Man's sympathies grow broader, his understanding deeper, and he is close upon the discovery of that magic talisman that will bring peace, Justice. s. c.



Economic Aspects of War.

The first thought of those who are seeking to

bring about a more equable distribution of wealth is that war will entail a serious loss through the distraction of the minds of those who are now considering fundamental principles. This, doubtless, is true in the main, but there is another phase. Were the plans confined to mere palliatives, as they have hitherto been, any proposition that was growing in popular favor would stand to lose from a military outbreak; but with the question of scientific taxation under consideration the result is likely to be different. Modern war must, from its very nature, be short and expensive. The briefer hostilities tend to distract the people's minds from their habitual thoughts; but the necessity of making good the losses of the war compels the consideration of questions of taxation. It is doubtful if the British Parliament would have accepted Lloyd George's Budget, with its tax upon ground rent, but for the extremity into which British finances had been thrown by the Boer War. More revenue was necessary, and ground rent was the only thing adequate remaining untaxed. This is not to condone the loss of life, the maiming of men, and all the horrors that accompany collective murder, but to help men to stand firm in the faith, and to press unceasingly toward the goal. The world at large, like England in 1909, has all but reached the limit of taxes on industry. The next step must be a tax on privilege, and no other economic privilege is equal to that of landlordism. To pile up more war debts seems madness. Yet war debts are better than landlords, economically considered, for war debts can be paid off, but landlords exact toll forever.

s. c.



No Need To Go.

"His Majesty the German Emperor has ordered mobilization of the German army and navy. All persons abroad belonging to the army and naval reserves must return to Germany without delay and without further notice." So says a proclamation issued by the administrator of the German consulate in Chicago. Probably other representatives of warring European nations in the United States have issued similar notices. Since many immigrants, especially unnaturalized ones, are under the erroneous impression that they are not safe from conscription while in this country, proclamations so worded may tend, in many cases, to confirm that impression. Thus many Austrians, Germans, Servians and Russians may go back unwillingly to fight, ignorantly believing that they have no choice. To combat such a false impression is one service in behalf of humanity possible to the