

perience of their European comrades and will not be stampeded into war by false cries, they can make themselves an exceedingly effective force in blocking the militarist game.

S. D.



British Blundering.

Critics, contrasting the high degree of German military efficiency with Great Britain's lumbering methods, are disposed to reflect upon British statesmanship. But is not this to totally misconceive the underlying principles of the two governments. An autocracy must from its very nature have unquestioned obedience. Since all authority rests in the head of the government, the subjects have no choice but to obey; and they do obey as long as the autocracy stands. Citizens in a democracy, however, knowing that authority comes from themselves, as expressed through a majority, are ever ready to question whatever they disapprove individually, and may yield obedience only when the majority is overwhelming. The British government temporized, for instance, with the defiant Ulstermen. Such action would be inconceivable to a German. This is because of his different point of view. The German looks to the State first. The individual is permitted such liberty as the Government thinks is compatible with the welfare of the State. The Englishman, on the contrary, looks to himself first, and gives to the State such allegiance as he thinks is compatible with his own welfare.



These diametrically opposed views result in very different kinds of government. The policy laid down by the German government is forthwith carried out willy nilly by the citizens. But the policy of the British government is debated by the people both before and after its adoption. This is why England has not had conscription, and why she has not had a large military establishment similar to that of Germany. The militarists have never been able to persuade the mass of the people that these things are necessary or desirable. When the war began England could send to the Continent only 200,000 men; if the war shall continue a year or more she will send 2,000,000 men. She might, indeed, before submitting to Germany, send twice or thrice that number. But, however fast, the number and the time will represent the mental state of the British populace. This has led some critics to say England blunders through. It leads them to say the same thing of this country; for we have a similar point of view.

England is preserved from sudden invasion by her fleet. Should a force be needed in addition—well, that can be attended to when the time comes. This country is preserved from sudden invasion by the oceans. Should troops ever come—well, we shall attend to that when they do come. Such a plan is condemned by the militarists as inefficient. But is it in reality? May it not be more costly to keep a nation in arms for forty years than to raise a volunteer army when it is needed? Militarists have tried to arouse public opinion by showing that the "next war" would be swift and certain. Yet it seems to drag along as it did in the good old days. Great Britain will lose a lot of ships, and she will sacrifice a lot of men; but it is not unlikely that it will be found when the war is over she has lost fewer ships and fewer men than Germany. And whether more or less, Englishmen will have the consciousness of knowing that the affair has from the first been in the individual citizen's hands.

S. C.



Mexico Still in the Throes.

At last a date, the 23d of November, has been set for the withdrawal of the United States troops from Vera Cruz. They would have been withdrawn long before this had it not been for General Carranza's stupidity in refusing to give assurances that Mexicans serving the United States would not be molested, and that importers would not be compelled to pay a second time the customs dues. General Carranza has from the very beginning shown himself to be utterly impossible as president of such a country as Mexico. Although profiting by the aid of this country he has had nothing but rebuffs and insults for President Wilson. His incivility lacked only General Huerta's virility to be as objectionable. And he has only his own stupid obstinacy to thank for his present predicament. During the earlier days of the rebellion, when he had nothing to do but stroke his beard, talk grandiloquently, and let Villa do the fighting, he served as a figurehead. It was only the threats of Villa then that kept him within a semblance of sanity. When he was finally placed in a commanding position his genius for setting things awry knew no bounds.



But this is not our affair. The Mexicans must settle among themselves who is to be at the head of the government, and what he is to do. It is quite plain that the democratic element in this revolution is still alive. Both Villa and Zapata stand by their original declarations, and are as

ready now as at any time in the past to fight for what they conceive to be the rights of the poorer classes of the people. To them this war means something more than a changing of presidents and office holders. However crude their logic, or brusque their methods, they stand for the oppressed peon. Nor are they likely to lay down their arms so long as there is the slightest doubt regarding the good faith of those holding political power. General Carranza has been as shifty with Villa and Zapata as he has been with the United States, and they, lacking Mr. Wilson's patience, have declared he must go. And go he will.



A marked distinction will be noted between the Mexican war and the war in Europe in its effect upon the people. In Europe great suffering has come upon the poorer classes, among whom many are actually starving to death. The rich, on the contrary, have suffered little, beyond a reduction in income. In Mexico, however, the poor have suffered comparatively little from the war, while the rich have been plundered. One cause for this difference is the fact that the peon was already living at the point of bare subsistence. Any change was sure to bring relief. The rich, however, had been so oppressive that despoiling them seemed the simplest form of justice. The question now seems to be to find a man who will set up an administration in favor of the mass of the people, the peon poor. This cannot be done except at the expense of the beneficiaries of the present system, and they are not going to relinquish their hold until they are compelled to do so. Had the United States or any other country used force to restore order in Mexico, it would have meant nothing less than the restoration of this class to power, with another revolution at the earliest opportunity. As it is, the people have been able to make a new estimate of each other. The privileged class now knows the peons can and will fight, and the peons know their oppressors can be whipped. It may be some time yet before peace and order are finally restored in Mexico; for they cannot come till justice has been established.

S. C.



Woman's Cause is Marching.

In spite of the preliminary reports of mischief-making correspondents the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention in Nashville, Tennessee, passed off in a quiet and orderly manner that would serve as an example for almost any male convention of like importance. Those timid old ladies of both sexes who fear that politics

will unsex women should bear in mind that the suffrage movement to the mass of the women now actively interested is very new. The women have not yet found themselves. They have all the zeal of the neophyte, but lack the discretion of the disciples. They have not yet mastered the art of being discrete in the presence of reporters; for these degenerate sons—and perhaps daughters—of Anak had rather report one fight than twenty peaceful programs. But in spite of careless talk in the presence of reporters, the wiser heads steered the convention free of rocks and snags, out upon another year's work.



It is not for mere man to congratulate or commiserate the Association upon its choice of officers; but if the movement for equal suffrage makes as rapid headway during the coming year as it did during the past year the members may well congratulate each other. The fight, indeed, is really won; all that remains is for a few old foggy States to write into their statutes what is already in their minds. Every solitary objection that the antis ever had has been met in theory and overcome in practice. It is merely that the mossbacks may conserve their dignity that they delay. They do not like to be hurried—particularly by the women. The great thing now to do, and it will be a difficult feat to accomplish, is for the friends of equal rights to keep their faces straight and refrain from undue merriment while the anties climb down. The world has produced many funny things, but it is doubtful if it ever brought forth anything else quite so funny as the man who seriously claimed the vote for himself and denied it to woman. It is to be hoped that he will not realize all at once what a colossal joke he has been, lest he die with laughter.

S. C.



The Cause of Crime.

The theory which traces crime to feeble-mindedness, and declares criminals to be mainly morons, does not seem proven by the experience of Judge W. M. Gemmill of Chicago's Municipal Court. He is reported to have said:

They try to tell us that criminals are morons. One of the doctors who is supposed to be famous because he studied at a German university said 85 per cent of the criminals are feeble-minded. Bosh! It isn't true. I've had 30,000 in my court. They're not feeble-minded; they're just like you and me. The difficulty is they haven't moral courage or weren't given the proper education. There is no criminal class. The problem of crime is largely one of environment.

Yet, in the course of the same speech, after