

an American governor like Ammons of Colorado or Hatfield of West Virginia? Would the peons be less inclined to engage in a revolution under such conditions as now exist in southern Colorado? How much better off would Mexicans be under American rule than are the dwellers in the slums of our great cities? Will not the Hearst papers and other jingo organs explain?

S. D.



Strength and Weakness.

President Wilson, the Idealist, standing for peace abroad and justice at home, has been the strongest personality in the world during the past year. His firmness in opposing predatory business, and his determination to carry out legislation in the interests of the country at large, have rallied the support of such a body of sane citizens as have not stood behind a President in this country for generations. And this same firmness and fairness was carried into his foreign policy. For a year he has disregarded sneers abroad and taunts at home, and continued in the way of peace and honor. It was the finest example of foreign policy the world has seen. Mistaken it may have been as to details; but its main purpose was carried forward upon a plane never before assumed in statecraft. And the nation that stood behind the President in both his foreign policy and his measures at home has come nearer than ever before to reaching its ideals.



But President Wilson, Commander-in-Chief of the United States, making war upon a foreign nation on his own initiative, would find himself so beset by the political vultures that scent the rich pickings of disorder that he would see his strength dissipated in opposing the new forces aroused. And he would be as impotent in striving with the newly entrenched privileged interests as a shorn Samson. And the nation that has tried to live up to a new ideal, that has attempted to set the world an example in its foreign relations that should square with the highest of moral concepts, that stood in a fair way to enlarge the powers of the Peace Court, and bring about international disarmament, this nation, at the very moment of success, turns its back upon the fair prospect, and scuttles into the ranks of the militarists. To have resorted to arms in the beginning would have been bad enough; but to rise above that temptation, and enter upon the altruistic policy of passive resistance, only to fail, is to discourage others from attempting it. That

failure will strengthen the hands of the militarists as few other things can.



Is there any possible escape from our dilemma? The army and the navy want war, the privileged interests want war, and, worst of all, the people want war. With all these influences, led by cheap politicians, small statesmen, and a sensational press, is there any hope that the President can maintain his policy. It is possible. It is possible to drop a lighted match into a keg of powder without exploding it. Constructive statesmanship lies not in lamenting past mistakes, or heaping reproaches upon those who followed a wrong cause, but in making the most of the opportunities that remain. It is still possible to avoid a Mexican war; but the probability depends entirely upon the ability of the President to withstand the first on-rush of the war spirit that is sweeping over the country. To hold up his hands, therefore, and to do what we can to create a supporting public opinion, is to preserve our sole fleeting hope.

S. C.



Fighting for Our Country.

Marion Letcher, American Consul at Chihuahua, estimates the American-owned property in Mexico, including all kinds, at \$1,057,770,000, Mexican-owned property at \$793,187,242 and British-owned property at \$321,302,800. Are not the Mexicans straining a point in making so much ado about *their* country?

S. C.



An Iniquity Perpetrated.

The war scare has been of service to predatory interests in bringing about the passage of the dangerous and iniquitous Hay army bill. The present state of the popular mind makes it hard to cause the peril of this action to be fully realized. But sooner or later a bitter experience or two will open the eyes of the people to what has been done.

S. D.



Refuse the Increase.

Railroad attorneys declare that refusal of the requested five per cent increase in freight rates must bring Federal ownership of railways. If that is true then it is alone sufficient reason for refusing their request. If private monopoly of public highways can be so easily destroyed then the Commission has a better opportunity to perform a public service than has hitherto been supposed possible.

S. D.