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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

Condemned	385
The Immediate Duty	385
The Mexican Crisis	385
Etiquette and War	386
No Time to Pass Army Bills	386
Geographical Politics	386
True Democratic Doctrine	387
Public Service Corporations Not Starving	388
Peckoning Day	388
Poverty a Cause of Extravagance	389
The Lesson of the Copper Strike	389
An American "Cat-and-Mouse" Act	389
A Righteous Decision	389
Correcting Nature	390
Privilege and Equal Suffrage	390
Why Mayor Lunn Was Obnoxious	390
A Menace to Business	390

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

The Preferential Vote in New Jersey	391
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NEWS NARRATIVE:

Mexico and the United States	391
Militaristic Measure Held Up	393
Miscellaneous Congressional Doings	393
English Politics	393
The Labor War	393
Tax Reform News	394
News Notes	394
Press Opinions	395

RELATED THINGS:

A Prayer for Peace—John Haynes Holmes	397
The Best Way to Help Mexico—Frederick Starr	397
An Elder Sister—Charles H. Shinn	399
An Economic Monstrosity—R. Bedichek	400
My City—Stuart Chase	401

BOOKS:

Practical Municipal Reform	402
Books Received	402
Pamphlets	403

EDITORIAL

Condemned.

Bloodshed at Vera Cruz deeply condemns the policy of reprisal. No excuse can wipe it out. Let it also be noted that so far from being a guarantee of peace, our big navy turns out to be a breeder of war. It has driven us into trouble with Dictator Huerta because it could not influence even him. How much more absurd must be the contention that it guarantees peace with stronger powers.

S. D.



The Immediate Duty.

Although President Wilson has made clear that no war with Mexico is in contemplation, yet the war spirit has been aroused and delicate handling will be required to keep it from getting beyond control. That the President's policy will be to keep this evil tendency within bounds may be taken for granted. That he will firmly oppose demands of noisy shouters for action that will increase the seriousness of the situation may also be considered certain. That he will succeed in a task rendered difficult by unwise concessions already made by him to the war spirit, is the immediate object for the accomplishment of which all effort should be made.

S. D.



The Mexican Crisis.

It is a mad world, a very, very mad world! At a time when peace conferences and celebrations are in preparation, and arbitration and disarmament seem to be becoming hazily within the vision of the real, it all fades away into nothingness before the rude shock of war. That is what the present situation means, war. The great mass of the American people have war in their hearts, and their hands clutch eagerly for guns, that they may kill some of their fellow creatures.



But there is a saving remnant. Actual war has

not yet been declared. It is possible that it may not be. What can those who yet see, do to open the eyes of those who are blinded by passion? President Wilson stands for peace, and for the justice that can come only through peace. He may have made mistakes in his treatment of the Mexican problem, and his policies may not have been the best, but there can be no question that he has kept ever in mind the fact that Mexicans are our brother men, and that we can do more for each other as friends than we can as enemies. Nor is there any doubt that he still holds to this high ideal. But he has ventured upon a policy fraught with the gravest dangers. Powerful interests are more eager than ever to force his hand; and a war-mad people, backed by an echoing press, clamors to enter the shambles. It is the duty of every man and woman who has at heart, not alone the immediate victims of war, but those infinitely larger numbers who suffer in after days from the blight of war, to throw every ounce of weight into the scales for peace.

s. c.



Etiquette and War.

A Chinaman of the old school sees an insurmountable objection to a railroad in the fact that building of it will disturb the grave of some ancestor. Some Americans who see the absurdity of that position adhere to a similar absurdity. They hold the refusal of a Mexican official to salute the American flag to be an insurmountable objection to peace. They can no more comprehend how such a refusal may "with honor" be ignored than the Chinaman can understand of what little importance is his ancestor's grave. Because of the obsession which so greatly magnifies the importance of a rule of naval etiquette, the nation has been driven to the position of threatening or of actually beginning war on Mexico. Never again let us treat with contempt the most ridiculous superstitious rite of the most ignorant savage tribe.



It may be asked, "What should have been done?" We were insulted and defied. The apology actually tendered was insufficient. Moreover it was not the first time such disrespect has been shown us." Well, a sensible man will bear in mind the words of the poet Cowper: "No gentleman will insult me. No other can." It is true that Cowper's wisdom is still too deep for most so-called statesmen of this and other countries to grasp. But we should not wait for these to realize the absurdity of some customs of the dark ages in order to adhere to a policy of peace. We should

not be influenced by unintelligent foreign jibes and sneers. If back-number statesmen and publicists of other countries consider self restraint a sign of weakness, then the reflection is on them, not on us. So the incident at Tampico should have been treated by the nation as a sensible individual would treat an insult that had not really injured him. It should have accepted the apology offered, while the Admiral misled by a back-number education into insisting on a certain ceremony, should have been instructed to give common-sense the preference over mediaeval tradition. Surely a question of etiquette may no longer be considered justification for an aggressive war.

s. d.



No Time to Pass Army Bills.

A period of war excitement is always taken advantage of by selfish seekers to gain some sinister object. The feeling concerning Mexico is now being used to push to adoption the Hay bill, the object of which is to practically increase the standing army. Those back of the measure clearly feel that calm discussion of the bill, when the war fever will have subsided, will show it to be unfit for adoption. So it has been kept in committee for months waiting a favorable opportunity when any attempt to check it can be howled down. Evidently the present is considered just such a time. That is the very reason why it should not be passed now. If the bill has merit it can stand being subjected to discussion when there is no war spirit abounding. If it can not stand such discussion, it should not be passed at all. In either case action on it should be delayed. To force it to passage now is to confess that it will not bear calm inspection.

s. d.



Geographical Politics.

Of all the absurd possibilities of the protective spirit it is doubtful if any surpass its application to political representation. Avowedly for the benefit of the voters—as the tariff is for the protection of labor—it is in reality maintained in the interests of machine politics, and those businesses that make use of machine politics. Aldermen must be elected from arbitrarily prescribed wards, and Congressmen must represent districts laid out every ten years by the party that happens to be in control of the Federal government after the taking of the census. The scandal attaching to these gerrymanders is the least objection to the system. An absolutely honest apportionment, that is, one that allotted to each district the proportion of voters in each party that the party bore to the total