

was urged as a peace measure, to bring nations to a better mutual understanding, and therefore into closer harmony.



It is necessary only to reflect upon the present war and the causes that led up to it to appreciate the blessing that the statesmen of the world have ignorantly thrown away. Co-operation everywhere, save when extending across international boundary lines, increases power or wealth and enriches all parties participating; and tends to the growth of friendliness. But co-operation that must cross a boundary line is looked upon by the tariff advocate as an evil. He sees that it is beneficial to the people of the other country, but ignores the fact that it is good for the people of his own country. And seeing only the advantage to the foreigner, whom he has permitted himself to look upon as an enemy, he wishes either to stop it entirely or to arrange it in such a way as to secure all the advantage to his own country.



This idea that one country can prosper at the expense of another furnishes the broad commercial basis for the use of force in regulating trade. Instead of seeking international relations of mutual benefit, an effort is made by statesmen to maintain relations that are of advantage only to their own country. Each resents the action of the other; each pretends that the other is determined to injure him, and that safety lies only in a strong armament. Hence the standing army and navy. A vast number of men are withdrawn from the ranks of production and another equally great number devote themselves to constructing agents of destruction.



If trade between New York and Ontario were considered in the same way as that between New York and Pennsylvania it would lead to the same community of interests. And if trade between France and Germany were looked upon in the same light as that within the two countries, international friendliness instead of enmity would result. And the moment the people of the two countries realized that their desires and needs were identical, that moment would militarism be robbed of its chief motive. Religion proclaims the unity of the races, the natural kindliness of man tends to the same end, and civilization demands it. Whatever other results may follow the present war, two are imperative: Disarmament and free trade.

s. c.

An Object Lesson.

Checking of imports is doing us a tremendous amount of harm. The checking is due to the war. But if it were due to a tariff it would be just as harmful, and that is what tariffs do. The war would not be restricting imports as much as it is if the old protective tariff had not prevented building of our American merchant marine, and if we had abolished all import duties, instead of slightly reducing them when the tariff was recently "reformed." Protectionists and revenue tariff advocates alike have a splendid object lesson presented to them of the evil of arbitrary interference with trade. It should not be hard for them to see that when the interference is caused by taxes it works the same way as when caused by war.

s. d.



How Congress Will Act.

A proper way to meet the deficit in national revenue is presented in a bill in preparation by Congressman Warren Worth Bailey of Pennsylvania. Mr. Bailey's measure proposes to raise \$100,000,000 through levy of a land value tax apportioned among the states in proportion to population. This gives Congress a chance to meet the deficit through a tax that will force unused land into use, stimulate industry, increase production, lower prices and increase wages. The alternative to Bailey's proposition is some form of taxation that will burden industry and intensify existing economic evils. Unfortunately Congress will deliberately push the good proposition aside and inflict the evil one upon us. But Congressmen who help to do this can be asked by constituents to explain.

s. d.



Insulting American Citizens.

A gratuitous insult to American citizens of German birth or extraction has been ignorantly offered by Congressman Britten of Chicago. Falsely assuming that these citizens favor participation of the United States in the European quarrel, and further assuming that they can be deceived into accepting as genuine a fake effort in that direction, Mr. Britten has solemnly offered a resolution directing the Secretary of State to protest against the Mikado's demands on the Kaiser. It is safe to say that Mr. Britten knows that Congress will not adopt his resolution. It is safe to say that he knows quite well that his colleagues of his own party will not seriously support him. It is needless to say—though Mr. Britten seems to think otherwise—that however much American citizens of German

origin may sympathize with Germany, few if any of them want American peace endangered even though that should assure victory to the Kaiser. Congressman Britten owes an apology to his German constituents for his insulting reflections on their patriotism as American citizens.

S. D.



Roosevelt and Peace.

Militaristic obsession has clearly blinded Theodore Roosevelt. He does not see the terrible object lesson now furnished us in Europe. This shows how fortunate it is that he is not now President. He opposes the pending arbitration treaties on the ground that no power will keep a treaty which it can violate with impunity, unless it be to its interest to keep it. Are we to understand from this that when Roosevelt made a treaty with the Republic of Panama—a treaty which we can violate with impunity as far as military punishment is concerned—that there was a mental reservation to violate it as soon as it would be to our interest? Or does he hold American honor to be superior to that of the rest of the world? S. D.



What Might Be Done.

During the Mexican war of 1846 there enlisted for service in the American army two members of the same Cincinnati church of which Herbert S. Bigelow is now the leader. They were promptly expelled from the church for engaging in an unrighteous war. If the churches of Europe were as quick to expel those members who have gone to carry death and destruction into neighboring countries, how long would the present war last?

S. D.



The Czar's Trickery.

The sick devil has a good imitator in the Russian Czar. He is promising self government to the Poles and religious freedom and citizenship to Jews. How gullible he must consider these people!

S. D.



Tottering Despotisms.

Absolutism is on trial. It is possible that this year will add no republics to the family of nations; but it is certain that the monarchies and empires that remain will be liberalized. The divine right of kings holds allegiance of few save the sycophants in court circles; and the right to declare war and make peace will not be left to the whim or caprice of a single man. Indisputable evidence

of the present trend of political thought is to be found in the attitude of the Germans in this country toward the war. A virile race, their national consciousness has been peculiarly awakened by the events of the past fifty years; and while they have been among the best of American citizens, they have, nevertheless, retained a keen interest in the affairs of the Fatherland. Yet, notwithstanding their strong home ties, they are slow to approve of the action of the Kaiser. The man who for years has stood as the embodiment of the German spirit, but who himself has singularly misinterpreted it, is today out of touch with that spirit. The Germans in America would be less than human if their sympathies in the present war were not with the German nation; but so abhorrent to them has autocracy and the military regime become that many are willing to have the nation humiliated rather than to see the triumph of militarism.



It is not unlikely that the spirit of opposition to the Kaiser's course which has manifested itself in obstructing his policies will show itself in lukewarm support if not in open revolt. Fighting, after all, is a matter of men, and while the organization and equipment count for much, they still rest for efficiency upon the men. History is full of instances where men poorly armed, but inspired by a great enthusiasm, have defeated better armed mercenaries. The German troops are not mercenaries, but they are awakening to a consciousness of a new ideal; and while they may go through the form of fighting their hearts will not be in it.



This is a great opportunity for German Americans. If, instead of rushing to the assistance of the Kaiser, they will condemn him and his doctrine of divine right; if they will take up the torch lighted by the patriots of 1848 who flocked to this country after that unsuccessful uprising and did such valiant service in our own struggle for liberty, they will prove themselves worthy representatives of a mighty race. This is not a war of the German nation, but of the absolutists who have controlled it. The real welfare of the German people depends not upon the success of the Kaiser's fighting machine, but upon its failure. S. C.



Repealing the Law of Supply and Demand.

Rising prices bring the near-statesmen to the front with their "be it enacted." Industry is organized on a given basis of producers and con-