

Terrorism No Guarantee of Peace.

Military preparations "for purposes of defense" by one nation are represented by militarists of other nations as intended for attack. So when our own militarists insist that we be prepared for military defense they are working to bring about a situation that will cause us to be looked upon as contemplating aggression. Protestations of desire for peace are practically worthless while preparing for war. Not a nation that is engaged in the present war but has protested that it wants nothing so much as peace, that it prepared and mobilized for defense only, and that war was forced upon it. Why should any of these nations look upon us as more sincere, if we imitate their militarist policy? Why should they not suspect us of harboring designs against them? Does not experience tell them that aggressive warfare is always waged by countries that have made preparations for "defense"? To prepare for war is very likely to bring on war.



Not only must continual preparation for war cause us to be subjected to the suspicion of contemplating war, but it must sooner or later actually lead us into an aggressive war. If the theory is correct that our safety requires a stronger military force than other nations, then, whenever we may have so strong a force, the logical course will be to find a pretext for attacking at once the nation we most fear. Otherwise this other nation may profit by the delay to overtake us in the race for military supremacy and attack us. We can not enforce peace through terrorism.

S. D.



The Victor's Dead Sea Fruit.

The latest number of BODENREFORM to reach these shores prints the following letter from the owner of several tenement houses in Stettin (East Prussia) to her tenants:

Stettin, Sept. 1st, 1914.

Mr. and Mrs. X.

The great and favorable turn of affairs which has come about for our nation, through the Grace of Almighty God, and our brave troops, strengthened by Him, permits us to look forward to a great and blessed future. May our people never forget this Mercy, never turn from the God of their Fathers who has preserved them from all evil. Your rent will be raised to thirty marks from the first of October.

Yours truly,

MRS. R.—

The thirty marks meant an average of four marks extra a month over the former prices. As Bodenreform observes, it will not be easy to prophesy just *how* high rents in the pious lady's

houses will go, provided the German victories continue!

And what *we* observe in relation to this incident is that it points once more to the self-evident but usually avoided (or denied) fact that the average man in the ranks of any army will get the worst of it, *in any case*, whether his colors lead him to victory or defeat. He risks his life and returns, victorious or defeated, to higher rents, higher taxes, a harder struggle for life, often crippled or with weakened health. When the average man who makes up the rank and file of any army remembers this, and does not allow himself to become intoxicated by jingo flag-waving and sabre-rattling, wars will become a thing of the past. For wars cannot be fought without the man in the ranks.

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.



Favor Peace But—

The herring fishers who favored free trade in everything but herring, have a counterpart in some peace advocates of the present day. These condemn every nation for waging war except the one in which they happen to have been born. They are peace advocates, but—. They hold that their country is the only one that sincerely wanted peace and only reluctantly went to war when it realized that it must. And they can see nothing but bitter prejudice in the peace advocate who holds his country to be as much to blame as any. Between the jingo militarist and the "peace advocate but" what practical difference is there?

S. D.



Evidence of Prejudice.

Those who charge The Public with partiality and prejudice usually neglect to specifically state on what these charges are based. For that reason an expression of appreciation is due a southern Illinois reader, who, in charging us with anti-German prejudice, submits the following as evidence and argument:

Issue of September 11. Unreasonable Expectations. What brutalities were committed at Zabern? Men guilty of insulting officers being interfered with, you call brutalities? In this land of ours what would have happened? It seems to me as though I had read of something like the following: A private was found guilty of having addressed a letter to a higher officer. This letter was intercepted by the captain (?) unlawfully; and what happened? Yes, yes, seeing the splinter, etc. Did you ever hear of any other brutalities committed in this country—out West, out East, Homestead men being shot down for marching peacefully along the highway. Yes, **we are free** and I think it hardly necessary to go to Europe to find strikers rather unkindly treated.

September 11, page 866.—Unwise to pay Black-