

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-

mail. **Predatory commanders!** This sounds as though a little school boy that had never heard of war were talking!

September 18, page 889.—**Cowardly Game of War.** Wonderful! Wonderful logic! Curious doctrine you preach.

September 18, page 902.—**Patriotism and Murder.** This article I presume your imaginary Frenchman would take exception to as being too favorable to the Germans. This is as bad as anything I have been able to discover in *The Public* concerning the French. About the facts in that article, I cannot deny, not being familiar with anything of that nature, but I very strongly doubt. It smells too much like so many infamous lies that fill the English press, which the five eminent reporters, as given in the *Chicago Tribune* of a week or two ago [discredited] which no doubt you have seen. To people half way inclined to learn the truth this would go a good ways [to] inform them. That article in which you accuse the Prussians of committing atrocities I can not find, is not necessary either, as no doubt your memory is not so short as to have forgotten.

We boast so much of our republican institutions, of our liberties, of the Home of the Free and the Land of the Brave and all that sort of thing, and don't seem to know that the German enjoys more real liberty than we and the autocratic rule of the Kaiser is at least as much circumscribed as the power of our President. It should hardly be necessary to call your attention to our free press, as long as the press publishes nothing not pleasing to the powers that be. Here comes a little woman that is to address her fellow mortals, and the whole city is in uproar, the police force has to be called out! That is because we are so brave and free! Take a trip on one of our railroad trains, and not being a grape juice man you take along something a little stronger than milk, take out your flask openly like a man, not a sneak, and see how free you are! There is so much that could be said about cruelties and killings not in Prussia, but in the Land of the Free. Think of Colorado, of Homestead men shot down for marching on the highway, and about you or anybody else being asked about calling out the soldiery. Remember Chicago.



The evidence against *The Public* for anti-German prejudice is thus presented. Would any attorney consider a word in rebuttal necessary before a jury of *The Public's* unbiased readers? If, on the other hand, a counter charge of inattentive reading were brought against the writer of that letter, would not his communication be sufficient to convict him? That he questions the existence of his French co-prosecutor is pardonable, as would also be the Frenchman's questioning of his existence. There is so little ground for either to base their charges upon that had their letters not been actually received the possibility of such baseless complaints would have been inconceivable.



The sad part about this controversy is not the

reflection on *The Public*. It is bad enough that the workers in the countries of the Dual Alliance and of the Triple Entente have been deluded by their rulers into engaging in a murderous brawl, but it is sadder still that men of democratic inclinations in America should allow sympathy with either side in this disgraceful affair, to lead them into an attitude of pugnacity in behalf of their favorite, when there are far more important matters needing their attention. Events of the European war call for comment on this side, but not such comment as comes from a partisan feeling due to accident of birth or environment. The comment called for is that which points a moral to be applied to affairs of our own. Unintentionally our pro-German critic makes this clear. In showing that the Zabern affair is a possibility with us, he justifies all that was said in comment. Seeing the criminal nature of the Zabern happening, Americans militaristically inclined, can be more easily led to see the wrong of similar outrages here. And the truly patriotic German should be thankful, rather than resentful, for criticism which may lead his countrymen to end such an abuse at home; just as the truly patriotic American gratefully appreciates such justifiable criticism of outrageous wrongs here, and such exposures of shams, as those with which our German critic favors us.

S. D.



Improving Market Facilities.

Some confusion seems to have been caused by an editorial on municipal marketing in *The Public* of October 16th. A correspondent, writing from Cincinnati, says:

That anybody who wants to can be a middleman is evidence that there are no monopoly conditions applying to the business is not at all shown; for without the free markets we have here and other places, the middleman would have a monopoly to the extent that he practically dominates the whole business. He can tell the grower: Accept my offer or your stuff will rot on your hands, for you can't use up your remaining hours in hunting up customers. . . . The open curbstone market requires the middleman and the commission man to go to the markets before the consumer comes. They get to the markets at from one to three and four o'clock in the morning. The farmer who can't get a sufficiently good price for his stuff at wholesale from the commission and middlemen can and does wait to sell to the consumer who comes along a few hours later. And where he gets from the consumer anywhere from 25 to 100 per cent better than he was willing to sell at wholesale, the consumer saves anywhere from 25 to 100 per cent, as against what he would have to pay were not these curbstone free markets in existence.