

# The Public

A National Journal of Fundamental Democracy, and  
a Weekly Narrative of History in the Making.

Vol. XVII.

CHICAGO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1914.

No. 855.

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Published by STANLEY BOWMAR, Manager  
Ellsworth Building, 537 South Dearborn Street, Chicago

Single Copy, Five Cents      Yearly Subscription, One Dollar  
Canadian and Foreign, \$1.50

Entered as Second-Class Matter April 16, 1898, at the Post Office at Chicago,  
Illinois, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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## EDITORIAL

### A Great Victory.

A glorious victory was finally gained on August 15. It was the opening to commerce of the Panama Canal. It was a victory of peace and worth many times more than all that will be gained from the bloody victories to be won in the European war.

S. D.



### Civilizing the Navy.

At last the navy is to be used for a civilized purpose. Some cruisers are to be made into mail carriers and it is even being seriously proposed to employ all the ships, their officers and crews, in carrying of freight and in performing similar tasks. To thus change a thoroughly bad institution into a useful one is a glorious achievement. It shows a way to abolish the barbarous features of all navies. It makes the navy into a means of spreading civilization—the reverse of what it has hitherto been. The objection may be urged—perhaps even by some peace advocates—that ocean transportation is not a natural monopoly and hence not properly a governmental function. But since it is far better business for government to be engaged in, than in threatening or carrying on war, consideration of the objection may well be postponed. Let the good work go on in this thoroughly modern way of beating swords into plowshares.

S. D.



### Free Trade as a Peace Measure.

One of the commonest charges made against the freetrader is his lack of patriotism. If a tithe of what the protectionists said were true, the Cobden Club must have sent enough "British gold" into this country to affect the balance of trade. The American freetraders were traitors in the pay of England. Yet one of the strongest points made by such men as Cobden and Bright and urged upon the public by American freetraders, was not commercial at all, but humanitarian. Free trade

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