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EDITORIAL

A Consolation.

There is this to be said in extenuation of Congress' neglect to pass the Seamen's Bill, with its safety at sea provisions: We have become so accustomed to the wilful destruction of human life that another Titanic or Empress of Ireland disaster will not cause the shock of former days.

S. O.



"Civilization" and Barbarism.

In "civilized" warfare a military aviator performs his duty in a laudable manner when he drops bombs on defenseless civilians, even though these civilians be women and children. But the civilian who catches the military aviator on the ground and in any way molests him is guilty, under rules of "civilized" warfare, of an atrocious crime and subject to the death penalty. What is there more barbarous and unfair than this in savage warfare?

S. D.



Should More Billions Be Wasted?

According to the Statesman's Year Book, the United States has spent since 1900 on the army and navy the sum of \$3,308,066,310. Such a sum might appear to the ordinary man as ample to prepare for any possible war. But complaints of unpreparedness are still as loud as though nothing had been spent. In his 1913 report General Wood bewailed the insufficient supply of guns and ammunition. Today the Navy League is at work urging more expenditures, so that we may be prepared for war. One of two things is evident, if General Wood and the Navy League are not mistaken. Either the United States has in the past fourteen years dumped more than three billion dollars into a bottomless pit, or a state of preparedness for war is a luxury far more expensive than any possible financial loss due to unpreparedness. Perhaps General Wood or the Navy League can shed light on that question.

Evidently we have been unprepared for war during the whole period within which we were spending 3,300 millions for more "unpreparedness." To that expenditure can not be correctly attributed the fact that no foreign nation has attacked us. Our immunity must have been due to entirely different reasons. The 3,300 millions were simply thrown away without any return. How many useful and desirable things has the nation been compelled to forego on account of such waste of ten times the amount required to build the Panama Canal? Is it not time to adopt a wiser policy?

S. D.



Another Consolation.

It is a satisfaction to know that the world has progressed far enough to be rid of the Christian minister who blasphemed his God by declaring war a necessity in order to keep humanity within the means of physical subsistence. Malthusianism is dead.

S. C.



Blowing Both Hot and Cold.

In a prominent place in bold face type on its first page the Chicago Tribune of October 5 presents a number of "peace epigrams," the first two of which are the following:

One of the lessons of the war is the foolishness of preparing for war to insure peace—those who prepare for war go to war and those who prepare for peace live in peace.

The best defense against giving offense is no defense.

In the same issue is an editorial entitled "Unpreparedness Illustrated," in which a plea is made for adoption of the very policy declared "foolishness" in the epigram. Possibly the Tribune feels like Hearst, that in times when peace talk pays best it is well to prepare for later appeals to war sentiment.

S. D.



War and Trade.

Minority Leader Mann opposes the granting of independence to the Philippines because we shall need the islands by and by for military purposes, when the nations of the East are at war with the nations of the West. "I have no doubt," says this redoubtable defender of special privilege, "that such a conflict will come. The logic of all history teaches us that such a conflict is unavoidable. I hope it may be only a commercial and not an actual war, but I have little faith that peoples and races can long compete commercially without an armed fight." To one holding Mr. Mann's views such a conclusion is not unnat-

ural, indeed, it is inevitable. For, when the state confers upon some of its citizens a special privilege, by means of which they are able to extract a part of the common wealth without contributing a corresponding amount to the common wealth, the laws of trade are set awry. A person so privileged cannot sell to his fellow citizens, for they have been deprived by law of a part of their purchasing power, and he must go abroad to find a market. It is this unnatural trade seeking a foreign outlet that leads to all the wars. For, from looking upon trade as desirable only when we can sell, which in the last analysis means giving goods for gold, the protectionist comes to look upon all traders who would give their goods for his gold as enemies.



If Representative Mann could but comprehend once the essence of trade he would realize that "commercial competition" so far from leading to "an armed conflict" is the thing of all things that when given entire freedom will avoid armed conflict. Nations do not trade. Neither do races or peoples trade. Individual men and women do trade. And when they are free to buy and sell where they please, mutual good will results. The housewife has her favorite marketmen, her husband has his favorite merchants, and there is a tendency toward friendliness in their relations with each other. But let the municipality limit merchandising to a single dealer, and immediately wrangling and jangling between customers and merchant begins. Even were the single merchant the fairest in the world, giving his customers the best bargains, still they would accuse him of taking advantage of his power, and enmity would inevitably result. But trading has exactly the same elements whether it be between buyer and seller in the same village, in the same state, in the same country, or in different countries. Wherever trade occurs under free conditions it must result in each person's receiving what he values more than what he gave. It is friends and not enemies who do us kindnesses of this nature; and the freer and more intimate we become in making these trades, the greater will be our friendship.



Mr. Mann is one of those unfortunate persons who has looked for economic guidance to the learned men who have laid down laws to govern the trade of nations. In the depths of their studies, surrounded by vast numbers of books of men similarly qualified, and unhampered by the facts of reality, these great men