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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:

Wanton Waste	889
Willingness to Sacrifice Others.....	889
The Cowardly Game of War.....	889
Prayers Without Faith.....	890
A Warlike Clergyman.....	890
Saul Also Among the Prophets.....	890
Inexcusable Extravagance.....	890
Conflicting Emotions.....	890
A Humiliating Position.....	891
Philippine Independence and Irish Home Rule.....	892
Strange Tales from England.....	892
Constructive Advertising.....	893
A Tory Tax Measure.....	893
An Anti-Democratic Bill.....	893
Judicial Contempt of the People.....	893
Progressive Democracy in Pennsylvania.....	893
A Union for Practical Progress.....	894
A Tedious Process.....	894
Illinois' Duty.....	894
Raymond Robbins for Senator.....	894
When the Primaries Fall—John S. Pardee.....	895
Making History—Grace Isabel Colbron.....	895

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE:

Utopia in Maryland—Millard F. Bingham.....	896
Home Rule Campaign in California—J. W. Wells.....	896

NEWS NARRATIVE:

The European War.....	897
Mexico and the United States.....	898
Washington Doings.....	898
Election Results.....	899
Mrs. Fels on Rangel-Cline Case.....	900
Using Judicial Power to Block Recall.....	900
Commission on Industrial Relations.....	900
The Labor War.....	900
News Notes.....	901
Press Opinions.....	901

RELATED THINGS:

The Inferior Races—Joseph Dana Miller.....	902
Pioneering in Industrial Democracy—Louis F. Post.....	903
Emptiness of War—Harriet Monroe.....	906

BOOKS:

Monopoly.....	907
Periodicals.....	907
Pamphlets.....	907

EDITORIAL

Wanton Waste.

It has been estimated that in the wars of the nineteenth century the average cost of killing a man was \$3,677. Since it only costs about \$1,000 to rear a child to the killing age, this looks like a case for the efficiency experts. s. c.



Willingness to Sacrifice Others.

The Czar is said to have expressed a determination "to sacrifice his last mujik" in order to capture Berlin. He only draws the line apparently at sacrificing himself and other members of Russia's predatory classes. But that is the spirit of all who make war. Europe would be at peace today had there been a requirement that in case of war no peasant soldiers be put on the firing line while the supply of Romanoffs, Hapsburgs and Hohenzollerns held out. s. d.



The Cowardly Game of War.

The press reports a story attributed to an American in Belgium, who tells about the infliction of summary justice by a German officer on two of his soldiers who had maltreated a Belgian woman. Now what would have happened to this woman had she fired on these soldiers before they entered her house or afterward? Under military law she would have been subject to the death penalty. According to reports some civilians did fire on soldiers this way, and were punished either with death or the burning of their homes. Possibly not more than one soldier in a hundred would needlessly harm a non-combatant. But no non-combatant knows but what the soldier of the invading army who enters his house may be the hundredth case. What wonder if he or she refuses to take chances? The invading soldier is morally a trespasser. He is not morally entitled to any more consideration than a trespasser in time of peace. Perhaps not even as much, since he has helped to overthrow the local government

and to deprive the people of all protection, save what a hostile military despotism may see fit to accord. It is cowardice of the meanest sort which denies to non-combatants the right of self-defense. But war is a cowardly as well as a barbarous game.

S. D.



Prayers Without Faith.

Do any of those who will pray for peace on October 4 demand appropriations for an army and navy? Do any uphold protective tariffs or other predatory taxes? Do any defend denial of the natural right of their fellowmen to the use of the earth? If so, where is their faith in the efficacy of prayer?

S. D.



A Warlike Clergyman.

A Baptist minister, Reverend I. M. Haldeman, of New York City, in a letter to the New York Herald, given a prominent place in its issue of September 7, demands the building by the United States Government of fifty warships and increasing of the standing army to 200,000 men. To make his position perfectly clear, Mr. Haldeman denounces as a fallacy "that human government is to be maintained on the basis and by the exercise of the Golden Rule." Of course he is entitled to his opinion, and to the right to express it. What is more, he deserves encouragement for frankly saying what he thinks, since that is far better than to endorse war and to dodge explanations about the Golden Rule. Mr. Haldeman makes clear that when called upon to choose between faith in armaments and faith in the teachings of the Prince of Peace he prefers the former. With the possible exception of some ritualistic ceremonies, there can be but little difference between his religion and that of those, whom perhaps he calls "heathen," who share his belief in the superiority of the sword to the principles of Christianity, as a means of preserving peace. It would be interesting to know if any of Mr. Haldeman's brother clergymen share his faith—or lack of it—and, if so, whether they share his courage to proclaim it.

S. D.



Saul Also Among the Prophets.

Not a few persons rubbed their eyes in amazement when they saw in the newspapers the report that Representative Hobson, of Merrimac and kissing fame, had introduced a resolution directing the President of the United States to call a special assembly of delegates to the third international peace conference, in Washington—as

soon as practicable," to attempt to end the European war. When Hobson, sponsor for a big navy, hero of young ladies' seminaries, and baiter of Japanese, begins to talk peace, Mars may as well sheathe his sword. Next thing, we shall hear that the Big Stick has been used to prop a clothes-line.

S. C.



Inexcusable Extravagance.

Concerning the suggestion that naval vessels be put to useful purposes, a naval officer writes to show its impracticability. To carry either freight or passengers the vessels must be entirely rebuilt, he says. That only makes clearer than ever how hopelessly wasted was the money spent in building these ships.

S. D.



Conflicting Emotions.

What American does not thrill at E. A. Powell's account of his journey from Antwerp to Brussels through Belgian and German lines with dispatches for United States Minister, Brand Whitlock:

From Louvain to Brussels our car with its fluttering flags passed between lines of cheering people all the way. Men stood with uncovered heads as they saw the Stars and Stripes whirl by; women waved their handkerchiefs as tears rolled down their cheeks. Soon we were passing between solid walls of Belgians, who screamed "Vive Amerique!" A lump came into my throat and tears filled my eyes. To these wretched, terror-stricken people the banner that streamed from our windshield really was "a Flag of the Free."

Nor are the governments of the several countries less backward in paying homage to this country. America, indeed, today towers above the nations of the world like Saul among his brethren.



But why? Is it because we have a great military establishment, an invincible navy, or an unconquerable army? Is it because we have the most extensive territory, the most people, or the greatest wealth? No, we are exceeded in all these, save wealth, by some other nation. Our distinction is due wholly to the fact that we have an ideal, Democracy, and at the present time are led by a man who is trying to live up to that ideal. Had we the largest navy and army in the world we could do nothing with them but help the Allies to whip the Germans, or aid the Germans in overcoming the Allies. In either case we should merely add to the misery of the world, and end by having the enmity of one or both sides to the conflict. But by holding aloft an ideal, and satis-