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EDITORIAL

Vera Cruz Should Be Evacuated.

The story of a clash at Vera Cruz between General Funston and Carranza may or may not be true. There is just enough possibility of its truth to make clear the urgent need of speedy withdrawal from that place. Keeping soldiers in foreign territory is not the easiest way to maintain peace. Besides, with the departure of Huerta all cause for further occupation of Vera Cruz was eliminated. Let Funston and his army be recalled.

S. D.



Brutality.

First it was the "unspeakable Turk" who was charged by Christian nations with reverting to savagery, and practicing indescribable cruelties. Then it was the Bulgarians and Greeks. Later, the Mexicans furnished incidents to point a moral and adorn a tale. Now the Servians complain of the Austrian treatment of prisoners and non-combatants, and the Germans are condemned by the Belgians. But these things are not new. There were charges and counter charges between the armies of our own Civil War, in the war of the Revolution, and in all other wars. Cruelty and brutality are the inseparable accompaniments of war. Let no one be surprised if the greatest war of history marks the lowest depths of human passion.

S. C.



The Difference.

The difference between "civilized" and uncivilized warfare has been made clear. In uncivilized warfare looting and pillage of captured cities is allowable, as also is indiscriminate killing of non-combatants. In "civilized" warfare looting and pillage is forbidden except through levy of a tax on a captured city. Such a tax must be no greater than the sum total of wealth which the city contains. In killing non-combatants the "civilized" warrior must confine himself to drop-

ping bombs on them from airships, to laying mines to blow up ships in which they may be sailing, and to starving them by cutting off their food supply. While this may explain the difference between two kinds of warfare, it still remains a mystery why one kind should be called "civilized."

S. D.



Military Justice.

How military courts arrive at verdicts in cases of soldiers charged with misconduct may be judged by an excerpt from the finding of the court martial in Colorado which acquitted the officers and men accused of responsibility for the Ludlow massacre. The excerpt follows:

The court finds the accused Karl E. Linderfelt, first lieutenant second infantry, national guard of Colorado, guilty of the facts as charged, that is to say that part of the specification 1, charge 6, reading as follows:

Having then and there a certain deadly weapon, to wit: a United States Springfield rifle, did then and there with said weapon, commit an assault upon and against one Louis Tikas—but by reason of the justification as shown in the evidence adduced before the court attaches no criminality thereto.

Tikas was said to have been a prisoner when killed. Since complaints of violation of the rules of war are coming from invaded European countries, it would be interesting to know if this Colorado verdict resembles the kind that a court martial in a European army would return. If it does, why bother with protests?



Savagery and War.

That the victors in Europe are behaving like "defenders of law and order" at Ludlow, Colorado, is the gist of numerous complaints. It would not be surprising if it should be true that war has the same effect in East Prussia and Belgium on those engaged therein that it has in the mining regions of the United States, in the Philippines and in Mexico. Just how much protection there is to the conquered in the rules of war may be realized on noting the verdicts of military courts in this country.

S. D.



What the War Teaches.

Of what avail to the French people is now the money squandered for many years in maintaining a big army and navy? What good has it done them? It has not only failed to bring so poor a return as revenge for the defeat of 1870, but it

has failed to avert another invasion and another infliction of whatever humiliation there may be in being overwhelmed through superior skill or superior physical force. And all this might have been avoided. There were better means of defense to be had than armies, navies or fortifications. There was a chance to be revenged on the Hohenzollerns without sacrifice of life or property.



Had the French republic instituted true liberty and true equality, no other defense against foreign aggression would have been needed. True liberty is "The full freedom of each bounded by the equal freedom of every other." True equality is "the equal right to the use and enjoyment of all natural opportunities to all the essentials of happy, healthful human life." With such liberty and equality there would have been in France no involuntary poverty and none of the evils that result therefrom. There would have been employment for all who would want it and all would have received the full product of their labor. The country would have been a haven of refuge for the oppressed and poverty stricken of all Europe. The people of Germany, so far from allowing themselves to be led into regarding France as a menace, would have insisted on being granted French liberty and prosperity. This would have necessitated abolition of privilege, including the privilege of the Hohenzollern family to rule by divine right. France would have had her revenge and have achieved it in a worthy manner.



Just as the French people might have securely fortified themselves against foreign attack by establishing economic justice at home, so might the German people in the same way—without a single soldier or fortification—have erected an impregnable defense against aggression. No appeals of chauvinistic demagogues could then have led the French people to permit the defeat of 1870 to rankle within them for forty-four years. True liberty and true equality would create true fraternity—"that sympathy which links together those who struggle in a noble cause, that would live and let live, that would help as well as be helped, that in seeking the good of all, finds the good of each." How much better that would have been than dependence on the mailed fist which can bring to the nation no other satisfaction than tickling of the vanity of shallow-minded ones—a poor recompense for the grief and bereavement that even victory has brought into thousands of German homes, for the increased arrogance of military rulers and