

is certain that no man in the armies of these nations had the legal right to refuse to go. To all intents and purposes these soldiers are slaves. The rulers thus had the power to bring on war and—whatever public opinion on the matter may have been—nothing short of successful rebellion could deprive them of the means of carrying it on. So the ruling classes of Austria—under the senseless pretext of revenging the murder of one Francis Ferdinand Hapsburg and his wife—drove Austrian peasants to kill Servian peasants and to be killed by them. The Czar sent his peasants to join in this fight which did not concern them. The German ruling classes, having made an alliance with the Austrian rulers, called on the German people to let themselves be killed—that being part of the contract. The French government, having a similar inexcusable agreement with the Czar, called on its citizens to sacrifice themselves in the same foolish manner. In a similar way English and Japanese were brought into a fight that did not concern them. It is a rulers' war. Possibly the people are sufficiently hoodwinked to favor it. But there is no positive proof that they are. What is certain is that they were not consulted.



In England's behalf the excuse is urged that it was not the French alliance, but the attack on Belgium which brought it into the fight. That defense of another is as justifiable as self-defense may be granted. But there must be no forcing of persons to engage in such defense who are unwilling to do so. It may have been proper for any Briton who wanted to help defend Belgium to do so, risking nothing but his own life, and spending nothing but his own money. It is certainly not justifiable to send men into Belgium who may not want to go, and to levy taxes for support of this war on persons who do not want it. This the British government is doing. It is as guilty as are the governments of Germany, France, Austria and Russia.



Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, South Africa and other parts of the world are drawn into the struggle through no act of their own. The decision of the home government has rendered them subject to attack by German or Austrian navies. Moreover the entrance of Great Britain into the field brought in Japan and has threatened destruction of the most enlightened and advanced economic policy in Asia—that established by Germany at Kiau Chau. Nothing else than severe condemnation is due the governments of all the

big nations involved in this war of the ruling classes.

S. D.



Kiau Chau's Danger.

The transfer of Kiau Chau from Germany to Japan would probably be a change for the worse. That Japan would continue the beneficial measures introduced into that colony by Germany is little less doubtful than is the sincerity of its professed willingness to restore the colony to China. It does not seem to have occurred to either side that the people of Kiau Chau should be allowed to decide for themselves what change, if any, should be made in their government.



Inexcusable as was the seizure and imperialistic control of Kiau Chau by Germany, yet it has made the colony the best illustration of a despotism that is truly benevolent. The German administration established reforms that every democratic government would do well to imitate. During the period of its occupancy the German government has refrained from levying oppressive taxes and checked land speculation. The colony was made a free port and colonial revenue has been derived from a 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent increment tax and an annual tax of six per cent on land values irrespective of improvements. Under this system Kiau Chau has prospered as has no other place on the Chinese coast. From 1900 to 1912 its imports increased almost 200 fold and its exports a little less than 800 fold. In 1900 the nearby port of Chifu had thirty times the imports of Kiau Chau and sixty times the exports. In 1912 it had but half the imports and half the exports. During the same period the imports of the important port of Shanghai fell off sixteen per cent and exports increased but five per cent. Now the source of this prosperity is endangered by the needless war.



If the change impending in Kiau Chau were from the present despotism to self-government it would be a welcome one, regardless of what might temporarily happen to the economic reforms established. But the change which war will bring will be but a change of masters, a change that will bring no improvement but possibly deterioration. Japan's step menaces about the only accomplishment by Europeans in the interest of civilization in China.

S. D.



Belated Justice.

Not all that happens is evil; nor do unrighteous