

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 result. 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

have figured out systems of tariffs and bounties by means of which any country can by observing them enrich itself at the expense of its neighbors. Any person who stops to think sees at once that this is as impossible as perpetual motion; but unfortunately a great many persons do not stop to think. They, like Mr. Mann, accept this false philosophy without question, and set out to apply it. That is, they set up a legal system whose avowed purpose and intent is to secure to their own country more benefits from trade than they confer upon the countries with whom they trade. But the unthinking people of those countries have the same idea, and apply the same system. That is, they seek to secure for their country more than they confer upon others. Manifestly, all cannot succeed. Actually, all fail. And because each does and must fail, disappointment follows, enmity is engendered, and the "armed fight" sooner or later follows.



But if Mr. Mann would turn from the books of his learned exponents of false trade-philosophy and study his own motives and the consequences of the very next purchase he makes—if it be no more than the buying of a newspaper—he will have a complete understanding of the laws of commerce. If he buys the paper as he approaches the railroad station, while there are several newsboys at hand, the price will be a cent. If he buy it after the train has pulled out of the station, when he has access to but one boy, the price will be five cents. Here he has the combination of the motives, the principles and the results of all trade. Does not his heart warm to the little street Arab? And does he not instinctively dislike the train boy? Yet both are human beings, and both are acting from exactly the same motives; that is, to benefit themselves. The difference in the result is due entirely to the fact that one boy is selling papers in a free market, while the other has a monopoly. Trade is as natural as breathing, and needs no more assistance from lawmakers. Congressmen can help trade only by maintaining its absolute freedom; that is, by preventing piracy and all other restraints to the freest possible exchange between one man or woman and any other man or woman in any part of the world. When Congress has established this condition it will have rendered war forever impossible.

S. C.



#### A True Statesman's Advice.

Some members of the visiting Belgian Commission are observant enough to take note of

other troubles than those which war brings. Thus they commented, in an interview in the Chicago Evening Post, on the—to them—surprisingly large stretches of unused fertile land noticeable on the trip from Montreal to Chicago. They could not see why this land should be allowed to lie idle when there were so many unemployed men seeking work. At least one of the delegation, Emil Van der Velde, saw and suggested a remedy. "These idle lands should be taxed more than improved lands," he said. "That will force them into use." What would he have thought of us had someone told him that that very remedy has long been urged but that so far no legislative body could be induced to apply it? Diplomatic considerations, and the courtesy due a host from a guest, would probably have kept him from openly expressing the opinion such information concerning us would logically create. If the advice of this wise Belgian statesman should help the movement for proper taxation of land values, we will have good cause to look upon his visit as a stroke of rare good fortune for us.

S. D.



#### A Superfluous Investigation.

Now another investigation of the labor problem and search for the solution is to be instituted. This time it is to be by the Rockefeller Foundation. Before beginning this search, would it not be well for the trustees to inquire whether the subject has not been already investigated? Why not appropriate a modest amount for return postal cards, to be addressed to the various organizations engaged in work of an economic, sociological, political reform or charitable nature, asking them whether the question needs any more investigating and if so, why? For the organization that wants to be helpful in abolishing poverty, there is already available all the information needed to show the way to accomplish that object. To defer taking the necessary steps, on the plea that more investigations are needed, is to lay oneself open to the suspicion of either having failed to learn that sufficient investigations have already been made, or of harboring a strong desire to secure credit for good intentions, and an exceeding reluctance to carrying such alleged intentions out.

S. D.



#### Blind Men Searching for a Rainbow.

What seems to be the most exquisite bit of grim humor ever perpetrated on a long suffering public is the announcement that the Rockefeller Foundation, which has been endowed by John