

origin may sympathize with Germany, few if any of them want American peace endangered even though that should assure victory to the Kaiser. Congressman Britten owes an apology to his German constituents for his insulting reflections on their patriotism as American citizens.

S. D.



Roosevelt and Peace.

Militaristic obsession has clearly blinded Theodore Roosevelt. He does not see the terrible object lesson now furnished us in Europe. This shows how fortunate it is that he is not now President. He opposes the pending arbitration treaties on the ground that no power will keep a treaty which it can violate with impunity, unless it be to its interest to keep it. Are we to understand from this that when Roosevelt made a treaty with the Republic of Panama—a treaty which we can violate with impunity as far as military punishment is concerned—that there was a mental reservation to violate it as soon as it would be to our interest? Or does he hold American honor to be superior to that of the rest of the world? S. D.



What Might Be Done.

During the Mexican war of 1846 there enlisted for service in the American army two members of the same Cincinnati church of which Herbert S. Bigelow is now the leader. They were promptly expelled from the church for engaging in an unrighteous war. If the churches of Europe were as quick to expel those members who have gone to carry death and destruction into neighboring countries, how long would the present war last?

S. D.



The Czar's Trickery.

The sick devil has a good imitator in the Russian Czar. He is promising self government to the Poles and religious freedom and citizenship to Jews. How gullible he must consider these people!

S. D.



Tottering Despotisms.

Absolutism is on trial. It is possible that this year will add no republics to the family of nations; but it is certain that the monarchies and empires that remain will be liberalized. The divine right of kings holds allegiance of few save the sycophants in court circles; and the right to declare war and make peace will not be left to the whim or caprice of a single man. Indisputable evidence

of the present trend of political thought is to be found in the attitude of the Germans in this country toward the war. A virile race, their national consciousness has been peculiarly awakened by the events of the past fifty years; and while they have been among the best of American citizens, they have, nevertheless, retained a keen interest in the affairs of the Fatherland. Yet, notwithstanding their strong home ties, they are slow to approve of the action of the Kaiser. The man who for years has stood as the embodiment of the German spirit, but who himself has singularly misinterpreted it, is today out of touch with that spirit. The Germans in America would be less than human if their sympathies in the present war were not with the German nation; but so abhorrent to them has autocracy and the military regime become that many are willing to have the nation humiliated rather than to see the triumph of militarism.



It is not unlikely that the spirit of opposition to the Kaiser's course which has manifested itself in obstructing his policies will show itself in lukewarm support if not in open revolt. Fighting, after all, is a matter of men, and while the organization and equipment count for much, they still rest for efficiency upon the men. History is full of instances where men poorly armed, but inspired by a great enthusiasm, have defeated better armed mercenaries. The German troops are not mercenaries, but they are awakening to a consciousness of a new ideal; and while they may go through the form of fighting their hearts will not be in it.



This is a great opportunity for German Americans. If, instead of rushing to the assistance of the Kaiser, they will condemn him and his doctrine of divine right; if they will take up the torch lighted by the patriots of 1848 who flocked to this country after that unsuccessful uprising and did such valiant service in our own struggle for liberty, they will prove themselves worthy representatives of a mighty race. This is not a war of the German nation, but of the absolutists who have controlled it. The real welfare of the German people depends not upon the success of the Kaiser's fighting machine, but upon its failure. S. C.



Repealing the Law of Supply and Demand.

Rising prices bring the near-statesmen to the front with their "be it enacted." Industry is organized on a given basis of producers and con-

sumers. Remove a large part of the producers while retaining the consumers, and prices will go up. This is nature's method of protecting man. When the supply is lessened more economy must be practiced, and rising prices compel economy. Yet grave and dignified legislators solemnly pass bills to set aside the laws of nature. "But," some protest, "we are not engaged in war; there is no reason why our prices should go up." What foolishness! Trade tends always to establish a common level of prices; and to expect food to advance in Europe and not in America would be on a par with trying to make the water in an open vessel stand at a higher level on one side than on the other. Let no one try to deceive himself; we must bear our share of the war's burdens. S. O.



Food Price Investigation.

The ever mounting price of foods has brought an order for an investigation. If the result of previous investigations of the same thing be accepted as a criterion, there is little hope for practical results from the present one. These previous investigations generally showed that the investigators either did not recognize the fundamental trouble when they saw it, or did not know what to do about it when they did recognize it. The present investigation is also doomed to failure if there is no other remedy in view than enforcement of certain prohibitory laws or enactment of more laws of the same kind.



If the present investigation should be no more thorough than previous ones the blame will eventually be laid on the war, or some individuals will be made scapegoats. If it should be a thorough one the investigators will see that it is due to our own folly in failing to take note in time of fundamental evils. It is true that the war is shutting out imports, even as a protective tariff would shut them out. It is true that peace would remove the obstruction caused by war, even as Free Trade would remove a similar obstruction caused by tariffs. But neither war nor tariffs offer an excuse for failure to use our natural resources. Had these resources been kept open and had we not enacted foolish laws interfering in many ways with production, there would now be neither a scarcity of food, nor any possibility of an artificial monopoly. The war would have caused us inconvenience, anxiety and trouble, without a doubt. But it would not and could not have caused a scarcity of the things which could be produced from our vast unused resources.

That investigators should shrink from pointing out the fundamental cause and its obvious remedy is natural. They have good cause to doubt whether so faithful a performance of duty would be appreciated as it should be. Realizing the difficulties in the way of applying an effective remedy, and feeling that a suggestion to apply it would be unwelcome, they will not be altogether to blame should they side step the issue and offer some popular but utterly useless suggestion.

S. D.



Still Toying With the Trust Problem.

The dissolution of the Harvester Trust ordered by the Federal Court is only another example of the ridiculous child's play involved in prevailing methods of handling the trust problem. The decision may be annoying and expensive to the Trust. It is of no value whatever to the public except as it may be a means of teaching the folly of such proceedings. The Trust can be forced to disintegrate but there is no power that can compel the different parts to compete.



The Harvester Trust derives its power to shut out competition either from some government-conferred privilege or from ability to perform better service than any one else can perform even under free conditions. If its power is due to privilege then the remedy is to abolish the privilege. If it is due to superior natural ability to serve the public then there is nothing to remedy. In either case the court decree is contrary to common sense, however much it may be in accordance with law.

S. D.



Ohio's Poor Choice.

There is this much to be said in favor of the Republicans of Ohio. They had to choose between Joseph B. Foraker and Warren G. Harding for a senatorial candidate. They chose Harding, the lesser evil, though a very great evil for all that. The Democrats, on the other hand, made the worst possible choice. They chose a candidate whose election will disgrace the party, even as it was disgraced in the days of McLean rule, when Tories like Payne and Brice were sent to the Senate and John R. McLean was with difficulty kept out.

S. D.



Ohio's Tory Democratic Nominee.

Ohio democrats must go outside of the Democratic party for a democratic senatorial candi-