

the foreigner's own good as well as for ours. That is a matter on which the foreigner should be allowed to make his own decision. He would be justified in doubting our ability to manage his affairs properly when we have made such a mess of our own that we look on his coming as a calamity. He could with good cause question our judgment as to what was best for him when we are so blind as not to see how to get rid of the fundamental evil underlying all that is hurtful and wrong in our institutions. We have done nothing to justify confidence in our being competent guardians for any one.

S. D.



### The Ship Purchase Bill.

Once more is the injury to the innocent bystander from warring nations painfully evident. Laying aside for the present the question of economic necessity for the Government purchase of ships to relieve the present stress, the possible international complications should give us pause. If it be possible for the Administration to secure by negotiation the approval of the Allies of the purchase of German or Austrian ships for South American trade there will be a field for their operation. But that the Allies will consent to the use of such ships, even though flying the American flag, in foreign trade that will in any way aid their enemies is not to be expected. War means the worsting of the enemy by killing its citizens and destroying its property. Since from its very nature it is a non-moral force, it is idle to expect belligerents to observe any moral rules or principles that do not make toward the desired end. Not only could Great Britain, from this point of view, object to America's purchase of German ships; but it could oppose it on the ground of the precedent that it would establish. For, if the United States Government, or its citizens, could purchase German ships, and change the flag, then any other government, and the citizens of any other government, could do the same. And while it might be possible for this Government to demonstrate its good faith in making the purchase; yet in view of the irresponsible character of certain governments it is clear that it would in such cases be difficult to prove that the sale was not a blind, under which German citizens were operating their own ships. The helplessness of neutrals, as manifested in the discussion of the ship purchase bill adds another to the mountain of reasons against war. It would be bad enough if belligerent nations could confine the evils of war within their own

borders; but when these evils spread themselves throughout the world it becomes intolerable.

S. C.



### Brawn against Brains.

Endurance feats, such as six-day walking matches, heavyweight lifting, and a-quail-a-day eating contests, have ceased to be popular drawing cards; but Senatorial talking matches are still in vogue. When a minority in the United States Senate runs out of arguments, and realizes that it is to be outvoted, it resorts to a filibuster; and the success of the filibuster depends upon the physical endurance of the participants. This raises in a new phase the question of American inefficiency. Why is so little attention paid, when selecting Senatorial candidates, to their physical development? Let it not be inferred from this, however, that too much attention has been given to other qualifications, either intellectual or moral; but it must be apparent that their powers of physical endurance are not fully appreciated. What a tower of strength, for instance, was former Senator Allen of Nebraska, as compared with Senator Hoar of Massachusetts.



True, if the intellectuality of the United States Senate were sufficient to lift that body into the class of reasoning, deliberative assemblies, the quality of physical endurance would not be so important; but so long as it persists in deliberately waiving its rights, shirking its duties, and putting its power of action in the keeping of the leathern-lunged, it is clear that other qualifications than intellectuality and morality are required to make an efficient Senator. What, it may be asked, is the difference between an electorate that postpones an election day at the behest of a minority, and a representative body that delays action at the dictation of a few of its members? Possibly the answer to this question may lie in the fact that the members of the present Senate were not elected by a popular vote.

S. C.



### Government by Commission.

It will be noted from the course taken by the Commission on Industrial Relations that whatever good is to come from arbitrary or autocratic regulation of trade relations, will depend upon the personality of those exercising the authority. Whether it is the result of design, or merely chance, the man who has been put at the head of the Commission is carrying out a constructive policy. Not only is he bringing out concrete facts, but, what is