

gressman feels that he must secure the largest possible amount of Federal appropriations within his own district. This has resulted in keeping up a large number of little navy yards along the coast, each of which is maintained at the maximum expense, and all of which have a minimum of efficiency. If they were reduced to one-third the present number, the cost of operation would be reduced, and their efficiency greatly increased.



The management of the army is even worse. Instead of keeping our forces in a few units, at points where the cost is least and where the efficiency would be greatest, they are scattered in small bodies throughout the country where they were placed in the early days to keep the Indians within bounds. Owing to the fact, however, that it is next to impossible to shut off an appropriation that goes into a Congressman's district, these little army posts are kept up long after the Indians have disappeared. These small army posts, like the small navy yards, are not abolished because the Congressman thinks that it strengthens his hold upon his constituency. And his hold is strengthened by this means, because the political henchmen who profit by it directly, get out and hustle for him, while the voters who know better, and who foot the bills, remain at home and scold. When one realizes the tenacity with which the average citizen clings to this petty graft, he can appreciate in some degree the determination with which the army and navy leagues will work for a larger military establishment.

S. C.



### Food for Moloch.

The labor struggle that had been going on in rural England for some time prior to the breaking out of the war has been revived in a strange form. It may be recalled that the farmers in certain districts had locked out or discharged the farm laborers who had combined for the purpose of bettering their condition. The press and public opinion generally was on the side of the laborers. But the farmers were obdurate, and refused to yield. During the recruiting that has intervened some of this labor has joined the army, and some has drifted into the cities to take the place of factorymen who have enlisted. With the approach of spring the farmers find themselves in want of labor. One of the means of relief proposed by them is that school children of twelve years of age be placed at their disposal. This is a sinister move, with far-reaching consequences. It is a backward step

in the effort to eliminate child labor; and it will be a potent means of keeping down the miserable wage that has prevailed, in spite of the rise in prices, both of labor and goods.



As a reminder of the evils of war it may be recalled that the British government had undertaken, before the beginning of hostilities, an elaborate agrarian program for the relief of rural labor. But all that was laid aside at the call to arms. It is unfortunate that this campaign for the betterment of rural conditions should have been interrupted at all. Should the interruption involve the taking of the children from the schools, in order to carry on the work of the farm, it will be nothing short of calamitous. The real reason for the scarcity of farm labor is the low wages, and the hard conditions incident to the life. Decent terms will secure all the labor needed; and without these terms the farmer should have no help. If the product of English farms is not sufficient to support the laborer, the farmer, and the landlord, one of the three might be eliminated. It is to be hoped that the people will have made up their minds by the time the war is over which one of the three can best be spared.

S. C.



### Safety at Sea.

Less than three years ago the world was startled by an appalling disaster in the North Atlantic ocean. A great steamship crashed into an iceberg and sank with more than fifteen hundred people. But before she went down her call of distress throbbed out on the night air, and vessels hundreds of miles away hastened to her assistance. The world was so impressed with that disaster that it has not yet ceased its efforts to prevent a repetition. But, co-incident with these humanitarian endeavors have been the deliberate machinations of the militarists. And to-day the sea is sown with mines and scoured by submarines for the express purpose of duplicating the disaster of the Titanic. The success of their efforts and the applause they will receive will be measured by the number of ships and human beings that they send to the bottom of the ocean. Verily, verily, man is a strange creature. In one mood he defies the elements and goes to the ends of the earth to succor distress. He stands aside to let women and children pass to safety; and turns with a smile to meet his own destruction. In another mood he steels his heart to all compassion and scours land and sea that he may destroy his fellows, measuring