

right, or leave his country. As to murder, theft, and a few other acts that are condemned un-animously by the human race, such action is wise; but in matters such as the use of liquor and tobacco, regarding which there is such a wide range of opinion, would the nation be justified in taking such action? Small communities may do so, for the individual objector may exercise his right by moving to another community. Just how large the unit exercising such authority may be is a matter to be determined largely by expediency. If the small village may safely bar liquor, and the nation may not, without injustice and unnecessary hardship to the individual, it is for practical statesmen and sociologists to determine from experience just where the line should be drawn.



It may be doubted if it is wise for the advocates of prohibition to press their authority at this time. Moderate steps will have the approval of the better class of liquor men; extreme measures will meet with conscientious resistance. Hence, too much haste may really retard the movement. This is the more important for the reason that there are other measures before the public of greater importance than prohibition; and intemperance and unreason in one may retard all.

s. c.



Robbing the Sea of Its Romance.

When a British naval critic started a discussion shortly before the breaking out of the present war as to the comparative efficiency of battleships and submarines few people realized how prophetic his words were destined to be. Mines have rendered the German harbors unapproachable, and submarines prevent the enemy from removing the mines. The greater fleet, under favorable conditions, can bottle up the smaller fleet, but to do so in the presence of submarines it must pay a heavy toll. The tale of British losses from mines, submarines and accidents has risen almost to the dignity of a battle; yet the navy has not had so much as a peep at the German fleet. The percentage of fatalities has been nearly as great as would have accompanied the wrecking of airships. And when it is realized that the mass of the men so killed went to their death like rats in a trap, it may well be imagined that the time will not be long before naval warfare will lose its glamour. In the olden days when the men could watch the fleet maneuvers, and from deck and portholes see the enemy's ships disabled and sunk, with their own vessel perhaps

sharing the same fate, there was something heroic and exhilarating about a sea fight. But to be confined in an iron box, the mass of the crew below the water line operating machinery, and only a few gunners and officers in command ever seeing the enemy, there is little of the romance of a sea fight. Add to this the unexpected shock of mine or torpedo from a submarine, and it would seem that all individual volition had been removed.



As though this were not enough to try the nerves of men, accidents, such as occurred on the British battleship *Bulwark* and the French ship *Jena*, and our own *Maine* must add their appalling toll. Considering the quickness with which these vessels go to the bottom, and the enormous loss of life that accompanies them, one is reminded of the caustic comment of our own Admiral Farragut regarding "iron pots" that were to be substituted for wooden vessels. If naval warfare is to be carried on in submarines, with the assistance of mines, and land campaigns are to be conducted in trenches and tunnels, under the direction of aeroplanes, it will require a strong imagination on the part of the participants to clothe war with the glamour of the heroic. The more the combatants sink from sight, and the more the widows and orphans appear before the public eye, the less likely will statesmen be to settle disputes by an appeal to arms.

s. c.



Declaring a Holy War.

It would seem, judging from present indications, that Mohammedans take their religion no more seriously than do Christians. The Holy War has been held over the heads of Christians for ages, as the appalling extremity to which the Mohammedans will bring Christendom if pushed too far. The believer in the Koran has been held up by believers in the Bible as a terrible creature, fond of murder, and rapine, and taking a savage delight in killing defenseless women and children; and when was added to this the supposed dispensation of the church in a Holy War, in which his reward in heaven would be in direct proportion to the number of Christians he murdered, the last word in terrorism is supposed to have been said. It so happens that all the countries at war, save Germany, have large numbers of Mohammedans among their subjects. When, therefore, the head of the church in Constantinople proclaimed a Holy War, the thought was that all these millions of Mohammedans, in India, in the