

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

his success by the number of his victims. A very, very strange creature is man!



War's Latest Barbarity.

War presents arguments against itself. The most just provocation for war can not justify a belligerent in deliberately inflicting hardship and suffering on a neutral nation. To urge that hostilities can not be efficiently carried on without subjecting innocent parties to annoyance and danger, is to admit that being at war, at all, is a crime. The European war has reached a stage wherein ships and citizens of neutral nations engaged on peaceful errands on the high seas, are in as much danger as those of the belligerent nations. Protests against this have been met with the reply that the situation is unavoidable if the war is to be carried on. Such a reply is a confession of moral guilt. It means that rather than submit their quarrel to an impartial tribunal, the responsible members of the belligerent government are willing, not merely to send men of their own nation to kill their enemies and to be killed, but also to murder in cold blood unoffending men, women and children of neutral nations. How thin is the veneer of civilization, while such things are possible!

S. D.



Preparing for Peace.

A splendid service to the cause of Peace has been performed by the Reform Club of New York City in presenting to President Wilson a fundamental explanation of the causes of war, and of how to maintain permanent peace. In its presentation the club shows that in artificial restrictions of international trade are to be found the causes of war. To secure the removal of these the United States government must put forth its influence. There is little consistency in urging peace and restrictions on trade at one and the same time.

S. D.



Warding Off Good Things.

The Legislature of the State of Washington, or at least the dominant re-actionary Republican element thereof, has felt itself called upon to adopt a remonstrating memorial to Congress concerning the awful deluge of good things from foreign lands that have been "dumped into the markets of Washington" and hence, presumably, into the laps of the good people of the State.

Specifically, the memorial recites that under the present tariff line the income of desirable products for the year preceding the present tariff and the

year following the adoption of that tariff has been as follows:

	Year Prior to the Present Tariff.	Year Since Adoption of Present Tariff.
Butter, pounds	12,008	1,104,000
Eggs, dozen	4,755	289,000
Fresh beef, pounds	145,000	3,453,000
Pork, hogs	5	98,000
Salmon, cases	759,000	3,000,000
Lumber, feet	434,000	12,026,000
Shingles	44,276,000	235,000,000



On the face of it, the uninitiated might almost suppose that this state of things would indicate that a rich blessing had befallen the people of the commonwealth. As compared with the year preceding it, the people, presumably, have had, under the present slightly reduced tariff, an increase of over a million pounds more butter, about 280,000 dozen eggs, 3,300,000 pounds of beef, 93,000 hogs, 2,250,000 cases of canned salmon, 11,600,000 feet of lumber and nearly 200,000,000 shingles. But we must remember that it is only under a natural order of things that to receive more food and more housing material would be a blessing. The remonstrators, however, are representative of that class which does not approve of a natural order of things, and have an artificial arrangement known as a "protective tariff" which is said to be vastly superior to any natural law of free exchange laid down by a merely all-wise God.



Hence this deluge of good things must cease. If permitted to continue, common workmen, mere men who work for what they have, might have an abundance of butter and canned salmon on their tables, not to mention roast pork, and have houses of their own over their tables, besides, and become almost pert and independent. They might even become deficient in deference and satisfactory respect for those who so graciously "give them work." I concede that that is not likely to be the case while there yet remain private landlords and speculators for about ninety-five per cent of the unused land of the state, but the tendency likely to be engendered would be exceedingly reprehensible.



You see, it is work that people want, and not the products of work, according to the profound wisdom of these remonstrators hereinbefore referred to. If there should continue to be an increasing income of good things, people would soon have more good things and less work. And, on general principles, increased incomes are not de-