

decided to admit it to debate this year. [See current volume, page 901.]

PRESS OPINIONS

A Sane English View of the War.

Land Values (London), September.—It is a sad reflection that nations which are the leaders of European culture should be involved in a brutal and devastating conflict. Everyone feels that it is wretched to be engaged in warfare against a nation which has made so great contributions to science, art and literature as Germany has, and on all sides the sentiment is heard: "We have no quarrel with the German people; it is Prussian bureaucracy that has forced us into this." This is in part an explanation, but it is not enough. There remains the question, why did the common people of Germany, France, and Britain, who will pay for it in blood and suffering, permit their rulers to declare war? In a great measure because the common people, if not actuated by hostile feelings to the common people of other countries, are filled with suspicion of them through ignorance, and that ignorance is due to the fact that they are all exploited by unrighteous economic adjustments which concentrate wealth in the hands of a few and leave the masses poor. A degree of economic emancipation which would permit the ordinary citizen of one country to become acquainted with the citizens of other countries in their own homes and become acquainted with their literature and their ideals would make war an impossibility, for no ruling class could get the popular support necessary in order to carry it on. . . . Swiftly and surely war will exact its tribute of money and blood and suffering from every family in the country; and they have grounds for saying so who say that war is madness; but there are other madneses—their economic madness, which day after day takes its toll of wretchedness and suffering. If only the casualties in the battle of life were all collected and published day after day in an Official Gazette! Then we should read: killed by evil housing conditions, so many; killed by long toil and low wages, so many; killed by starvation, who could not get enough bread to keep them alive, so many. And then the long list of the wounded—those blighted and careworn lives! And the women and the little children. It is natural that humanity should be moved by the vivid sufferings of war, but it is eternally wrong and sad and unjust that so little should be done for the sufferings of peace. Little is done to relieve them, still less is done to eradicate the causes of suffering. Let not more spectacular things withdraw too much attention from the main object that all should have in view—to put an end to economic exploitation. In order to put an end to war madness we must put an end to economic enslavement. Territorial aggrandisement will not be an objective of peoples who are allowed to make use of the land of their own country. Culture and leisure too will come when mankind are allowed to use to the utmost the kindly earth which is the source of all wealth. And with culture and leisure will come that international solidarity which all must desire, the mutual under-

standing, trust and forbearance which will make war impossible.



A Revival of Liberty.

The Nation (London) August 29.—There is another aspect of the Irish situation which is of special interest at this moment. The capture of a Rhodes Scholar serving in the German army in one of the frontier engagements last week reminds us that fifteen years ago if Germany and France had been at war the great body of upper-class sympathy in England would have been on the side of Germany. Britain was then Imperialist, and Imperialist Britain took Germany as its model. Mr. Rhodes valued the affinities so highly that he gave Germany—alone of European peoples—a share in his great benefactions. All our thinking took German color. Professor Hobhouse traced this influence in his book on "Democracy and Reaction." Efficiency was our God; the day of small nations was over; good government was better than self-government; we had a mission to impose our institutions by force; we despised all the triumphs that were specially our own, and we admired in Germany just the spirit that crushed the best influences in her life. But this Imperialism did not last. When Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman gave self-government to South Africa, he proclaimed to the world that the nation had re-discovered the secret of its greatness, and reverted to the liberal ideas that had gained for its place in the history of the world its chief success and distinction. The view of life and societies and human development that overwhelmed us in the time of the Boer War—and melted away as our normal habits returned—has been the settled philosophy of the powerful class that governed Germany. When the Kaiser sent his soldiers to China, he called himself a second Attila; when he welcomed the new century, he could only think of duty as armed service. This theory, elaborated with all the thoroughness of German industry and concentration, has been developed in a literature of incitement, and it has brought the German people, with so many triumphs to their credit in other fields, into this violent catastrophe.



All Warfare Is Uncivilized.

Chicago Evening Post, August 26.—What is civilized warfare? . . . The unpleasant scalping habit of the Indian has been regarded as reprehensible by civilized nations. They prefer to drop bombs from airships upon the heads of defenseless people. The mutilation of the dead enemy, practiced by certain savage peoples who are shockingly devoid of refined sensibilities, naturally distresses us. It is so much more civilized to mutilate the living with contact mines and exploding grenades that scatter a hail of steel-clad bullets. The fact that the mine may destroy a shipload of noncombatants as easily and unintelligently as it destroys a battleship of the enemy detracts in no degree from its great advance upon the barbaric methods of earlier days. . . . What is uncivilized warfare today? So far as we can discover, if you are a citizen in a town that is beleaguered; . . . if all that you hold dear is threatened