

sociation. This same gentleman says that the Grain Growers "know no more about running a co-operative business than a cat knows of its grandmother." There is a certain amount of truth in this, but the Grain Growers are learning how to conduct a co-operative business and intend to know more about it as time goes by. They have learned the grain business only by experience.

The most amazing part of this statement by the Retail Merchants' Association secretary is that his organization has ordered every wholesale dealer in Canada to stop selling to co-operative societies or they will be boycotted by the retail merchants. This is the most brazen and cold-blooded attempt that the Big Business interests have ever made to club the common people into submission. It is a huge conspiracy to tighten the grip of the distributive interests upon the consumers and we believe that it is a boycott strictly against the law. This is the same Retail Merchants' Association that went down to Ottawa and succeeded in having the Co-operative Bill killed every time it appeared in Parliament, and we presume that it is this same organization that still prevents the passage of a Co-operative Bill.

We believe that this Retail Merchants' Association has a lesson to learn and will probably learn it out here on the prairies, where there are university courses for just such institutions. The farmers will please take note that they are to do no co-operative buying nor selling and that their efforts to establish co-operative stores must stop at once because the Retail Merchants' Association have so ordered it, and if any wholesale firm sells to these co-operative stores, the Retail Merchants' Association is going to boycott that wholesaler. This Retail Merchants' Association believes that no person should conduct stores except its own members and that the retail merchants in every town should have the power to fix the price of everything the farmers have to buy and as much of the farm produce he has to sell as possible.

If the Retail Merchants' Association will keep Mr. Trowern touring about the West making more speeches of this same kind, it will be the best thing we know of to encourage the co-operative movement, and it will not be more than a year or two until the Grain Growers establish their own wholesale houses to supply their own retail houses, and if the manufacturers join in the boycott the next movement will be to establish their own factories. The best way for the Retail Merchants' Association to encourage this work on the part of the Grain Growers is to send their secretary out here to poke fun at them and to make false statements about co-operative work and to fling defiance into the teeth of the Grain Growers. We hope Mr. Trowern will keep up the good work, because he is the best advance agent for the co-operative movement that has struck this country for a long time.

"WAR IS HELL"

Let those who think General Sherman was exaggerating when he gave his famous definition of war read the despatches coming every day from the fresh outbreak in the Balkans. Here is a cablegram from Saloniki, dated July 13:

"Many people were crucified, hacked to pieces or burned alive by the maddened Bulgarians, who committed incredible outrages on women of all ages, many of whom died from the effects."

"The condition of those who escaped is lamentable. Rich merchants are dying of hunger, while wretched mothers are trying to find covering and food for their naked and starving children."

"The situation is desperate as all the pharmacies were burned down and there is total lack of medicines for the sick and bandages for the injured."

The news of the sacking of Nigrita by the Bulgarians is just as sickening. A week ago it was a flourishing Greek town of 1,450 houses and 8,000 inhabitants. "Today," says the despatch, "it is a reeking heap of smould-

ering ruins and the acrid stench of burning human flesh and bones overpowers the nostrils." The sole survivor, a Greek named George Vlajos, tells how the Bulgarians captured him and a lad he was with and after having beaten and robbed them, ordered them to be shot. The sentries missed their aim so rushed at the defenceless pair with fixed bayonets. The boy stood up to the soldiers, who killed him. Vlajos was thrust through and lay unconscious. The Bulgarians threw petroleum over their bodies, set them on fire and left. When Vlajos came to, his right leg was burning, and he succeeded in putting out the flames with his hands. This poor fellow's story was confirmed by a war correspondent on the spot, who thus describes the scene after the Bulgarian atrocities:

"The majority of the corpses had been buried for fear of cholera. We have, however, smelled burning flesh in the ruins and seen partially burned human skeletons. We believe absolutely that at least 470 villagers have been killed or burned alive in this town alone. During the last two days, a whole regiment of sappers have been engaged in burying the dead. We have no reason to doubt the report of the authorities that 1,500 persons have been foully murdered. Scores of women are still living who were violated, and every house was sacked. We believe, in fact, that seldom in the history of warfare has the barbarity of the Bulgarians at Nigrita been surpassed."

The tale of horrors might be indefinitely prolonged, for every day adds its quota. Bulgarian soldiers have been captured who had in their pockets the ears and fingers of Greek women, cut off for the sake of the earrings and rings.

Plenty of people were willing to justify the late war of the Bulgarians, Greeks, Serbs and other allies against Turkey on the ground that it was "cross against crescent," or Christianity against the barbarous Turk. But the unspeakable Turk never hacked innocent people to pieces, burned them alive, or set fire to the hospitals, the way the "Christian" Bulgars have been doing. The plain truth is that war is a hellish business all through. Instead of getting more humane, the wars within recent memory seem to prove that it is getting more diabolical all the time. War lets loose the worst passions of depraved men until even Satan must blush to see their fiendish work. The latest inventions and advances of science are made to serve in wreaking upon the enemy such hideous cruelties as no former time imagined. And a real war in these days is bound to mean all this. With annihilation as the alternative, what folly to expect kid-gloved diplomacy or the regulated courtesies of the duel to mitigate the horrors of a conflict between two peoples! The man who speaks so glibly about a coming war between great powers does not realize what it would mean. "War" does not mean gold braid shining, banners flying and bands playing. It does not mean glory and honor and power. It means mangled bodies, burning cities, homes without breadwinners, children without fathers, closed factories, deserted fields, national depression and desolation. If people kept that in mind whenever war was being discussed there would be no argument about its necessity. Is there any reason under the sun why two intelligent (let alone civilized or Christian) nations should deliberately plan for war, which means a mutual compact of suicide by a large part of both nations? Yet there are public men in Canada doing all in their power to drag Canada from her high plane of long continued peace, from her geographical security, down among the frenzied militarism of racial and historic enemies. Our Minister of Militia, Col. Sam Hughes, has set his heart on training 1,500,000 men in Canada to shoot straight. What would be the result? The United States would be forced to follow suit, and if they did so on the same scale it would mean 20,000,000 Americans also "trained to shoot straight." How much better off would Canada be then? Such ignoring of the lessons of history is seldom met with, thank fortune. Yet the fact that a

Dominion Minister and all sorts of "Imperial" societies are spreading such views shows that the opponents of war must be on their guard.

"To nationalize the coal mines of the United Kingdom." That is the large order of a bill recently introduced into the British Commons. While there is no hope of its passing now, the very fact that it was brought up and discussed will help. People are asking why should private men appropriate the gifts of the Creator and dole them out to their fellows at the highest price they can get? By the time that the coal lands and oil fields are nationalized people may see that more sane reasoning will apply to all lands. A downtown corner in a big city is more valuable than a coal mine, and the man who, because he was first on the spot, or for some other reason, receives large revenues from it, should be made to hand over to the community the value created by the mere presence of the people.

"The best defence scheme for Canada on land," said Col. the Hon. Sam Hughes, the other day, "is a million and a half men trained to shoot straight. Then we need have no fear of the invader." The Montreal Standard blazons these stirring words in a page heading, eight columns wide. Now that the Minister of Militia has sent thrills chasing up and down our spines, would he mind telling us who the invader is whom we should fear? It would certainly be quite an achievement to teach 1,500,000 men in Canada how to shoot straight, but how would it be to teach them to think straight and live straight, and to have conditions remedied so that the honest worker and no other would get an honest living?

The bill to abolish plural voting in Great Britain passed its third reading in the House of Commons by 293 to 222. After the principle of "one man, one vote" becomes law, the cause of reform should make swifter progress than ever. The lords and landholders who could motor from one riding to another casting a vote wherever they held property, have been one of the reactionary forces British progressives have hitherto had to contend with. One more count for the Asquith Government.

Many English lords and dukes own as much land in Canada as in Great Britain. Soon they will be able to maintain their town houses and country mansions from their Canadian rent rolls. The way to prevent the establishment of a landed aristocracy in Canada is to tax land values, which would make landlordism unprofitable and cause all vacant land to become available to those who desire to live or work upon it.

The Canadian Government pays an annual subsidy of \$180,509 to the Canadian Australian Steamship Line, plying between Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Thus our Canadian Government is subsidizing the Australian shippers to send chilled meat, butter and eggs into British Columbia, and then erecting a tariff wall to keep them out. Very sensible scheme.

If the members of Canada's Parliament desire the public to have faith in their integrity they will enact laws to provide for publicity of campaign funds, and will put an end to the secret lobbying of the Big Interests. The public is weary of the Hole-in-the-Corner work and it is time Canada's public business was conducted in public.

Some of the C.P.R. officials at Calgary have organized a "Safety First" League. A fine idea, but we fear they will not be able to do much good, since the officials higher up belong to the "Dividends First" club.

R. S.
PhDe
that
Provi
the a
lievin
prope
The c
people
sities
them
their
get tl
after
condit
becom
ways
uallyIt is
cludin
will b
at the
In vie
the sit
protect
make
Manuf
the tar
ing ex
and ha
of its
questio
informa
The chi
underst
of Cana
tive tar
The c
ficial or
ciations
and of
number
our pap
weekly
vines.Is you
the same
mighty C
Have yo
midst?
that can
for the d
young fo
tion a li
and mon
pose off
local mar
ete? Hav
an occas
attention
political
questions
mative, th
men's au
tricts it
try the exOrganiz
lems of t
tempt to
husband
may be, to
Try to un
ficulties, I
tion invite
When seve
meeting on
tion of aux
your distri
help you
suede the
Having agr
ticle "A
ing," in M