

it may be a fact. At the moment the tide is running heavily out the other way.

In the United States the senate is just now discussing "preparedness," and the President had to let go his strong-headed officials who were out-and-outers for perfect, if possible, defence. A month ago Bryan, an ultra-pacifist, resigned because he would have peace at any price. There is always a watershed in the mentality of men. Here you see men resigning honor, office, salary, society and all for exactly opposite ideals. The United States was till this war broke out, a peaceful country with a small regular army for a nation of a hundred million, and an efficient navy. Since 1812 they have been at peace with Canada. It is true there have been a few hot controversies, but they were not afraid of either Canada or Mexico and consequently there were no alarming preparations made. There is not a ship or a fort on four thousand miles of a frontier. Neither will there now be, because the English-speaking peoples are drawing closer and closer together. Still there is only one word now that has much vogue among Americans and that is "preparedness." Theodore Roosevelt, Taft, Root, Wilson, all agree independent of politics and party, that something must be done. This session of the senate will probably approve adding indefinitely to the strength of the navy on sea, in the air, and undersea. Not less than half a million and probably a million men will be enlisted or impressed into the standing army.

That word impress is ominous. Conscription is exceedingly odious to a free people and English-speaking peoples notoriously love liberty, personal and political. And yet England after a titanic struggle within herself has adopted a modified form of conscription. It is the thin end of the wedge and it won't come out easily, mark my word! United States, Canada and England are forced into a queer predicament—almost an impasse. But self-preservation is a strong law. Physically it is the first law. Germany, like the poor, will always be with England. Japan wants the suzerainty over the Pacific and the new world-tragedy will yet be fought out there. People are so used to the sound of the Atlantic they don't know there is a train coming on the other track. But they had better look the other way—look at the Pacific and get used to its music, its diapason and its roar. That means Australia and Canada must look sharp. They, with the United States—and now England's best statesmen admit they are nations—will have to hear the white man's hurden on that other ocean's wave. Japan is not merely military, it is fanatically imperialistic. To die for the king and the country is not patriotism, it is religion and philosophy. Individuality