

have reason to believe that the combined influence of those three great powers and of those who naturally follow their lead, would bring about the acceptance of certain all important clauses in the treaty for universal peace. The United States, France and England after coming out victorious in war, would crown their achievements by a final victory in peace.

These humanitarian views have been given expression to by the official delegates of the British workingmen, Mr. Appleton, who at the International conference held at Paris last summer, deplored in bitter terms the fact that while England was spending two billions for the maintenance of the army and the navy, she was spending fifty millions only towards education and the development of arts and sciences. And bear in mind that England is one of the countries of the world wherein the illiterate are in the smallest numbers, and one of the countries of Europe, at any rate wherein military service is less exacting, inasmuch as it is not even compulsory.

The feeling in France in this respect has also already received semi-official expression. As the result of a competition bearing on the question as to who was the greatest Frenchman of the nineteenth century, a competition initiated by a great French newspaper, modestly designated 'Le petit Parisien,' militarism was relegated to the fourth place by a majority of subscribers to this paper, who represent practically French public opinion, and the first place was assigned to philanthropy, which commends itself to the human reason and to the good feelings of men, when not vitiated by circumstances. Through that plebiscite France proclaimed that her greatest citizen of the last century was Pasteur, the healer, the benefactor of humanity, and not Napoleon, the scourge of humanity.

French and German advocates of peace, forgetting their broils of recent occurrence, and their old-time grudges, extend a friendly hand and unite in denouncing those constantly recurring conflicts and armaments by their respective governments.

The president of the United States, Mr. Taft, and Canadian statesmen, among others the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Lemieux), whom I now see at his seat—have also with marked satisfaction, during the recent festivities at Burlington, celebrated the centenary of peace maintained between Canada and the United States, and that along a frontier of 3,000 miles in length.

In this Dominion of Canada, in Toronto, that hot-bed of loyalty, there has been established a Canadian association for peace and arbitration, of which Mr. William Mulock is the president and Dr. C. S. Eby, the secretary. In the course of a sermon

delivered at the Crescent street Presbyterian church of Montreal, an English preacher, the Rev. W. W. Dickie, has not hesitated in condemning before a numerous audience the policy of militarism as a disgrace to civilization.

Finally, the two conferences both held at the Hague in 1899 and 1907, may be pointed to as events of a novel character to this day, as regards their humanitarian inspiration, preciseness of their object, the plausibility of their methods and the evident good faith of their promoters. The human conscience, which for centuries past has not tolerated that differences between private owners as to property rights should be decided by handcuffs on the street, is beginning to be impatient at witnessing the settlement through pitched battles of differences arising between sovereign countries of boundary disputes or other international conflicts.

Ethics should not be made to vary in accordance with the importance of the interests at stake. These are, amongst many others, indications of a desire to see universal peace firmly established, a result which the heads of the ten principal states of Europe and America should and might bring about through the making of an international code which would be finally and permanently accepted.

What the heads of the ten leading states of Europe and America have not had the courage or power of accomplishing, delegates of the working fraternity the world over who are to meet in London next summer, have decided to attempt at their conference. On that account they are entitled to universal gratitude.

The acceptance of an international code carries with it the establishment of tribunals. Tribunals are human institutions; as such, they are not always above reproach; but their decisions as a rule should be more equitable than the rule of the sword.

It has been objected that there exists no sheriff, no bailiff in international matters, to carry out the orders of a world-wide tribunal and ensure their observance. That would be the part assigned to the common international force to which the various nations would contribute units much smaller than their present armaments. And if a bailiff, single-handed can enforce on individuals the will of the nation, a few thousand men will be in a position to enforce the observance of international decrees.

These are facts, theories and hopes on which the advocates of universal peace rely for ultimate success; but, it should be admitted that the spirit of warfare is far from being yet extinct on the face of the earth. While making a pretense to peaceful intentions, the various powers are all very self