

should be retroactive. This might be well enough for mortgages already registered, but Mr. Money fails to say where prospective builders and mortgagees are likely to lay hold on mortgages willing to lead at that rate. I have read that there is a famine for tenement houses in parts of the Clyde side. Is this to be wondered at? Why should not builders hesitate? Those who would build are afraid to do so lest legislation make the venture unprofitable. Why are these people willing to lend on mortgage? Because the rate of interest is as high while the security is sounder than investments in other directions. A mortgage is not as safe an investment as a government bond, and if those willing to loan money to builders are forbidden to charge a higher interest than the government gives they would be foolish indeed to invest in a security secondary to that offered by the government. I am not a landlord and if I hold that landlords should not be restrained more than the other classes in trading and business circles it is solely because I like to see a square deal all round, or if you prefer it, a fair squeeze.

### PEACE! PEACE!

(Montreal Witness.)

As a pleasant interlude amid the over-strain of the war tragedy, Mr. Ford, the admirable but fantastic auto-millionaire, is going to lead a sort of Coxey army to Europe to exert moral suasion on the warring powers. The movement seems to have been long in the clouds. It has made its overture in a smothering pyrotechnic shower of telegrams upon the devoted head of the president. Poor man, between the barytone, *Arm! Arm!* of the jingoes balled into one ear, and the shrill peace cries of the pacifists at the other, it will bother him to enjoy his honeymoon. Mr. Ford has a ship going to Christiansia in Norway—may, to The Hague in Holland, which is it? He has sounded all the powers and found them all favorable. He has invited all the neutral powers to be represented and got approval but no consent. He has invited all the governors of states, the great Edison, the great Wamamaker, who wanted the United States to pay Germany a thousand million dollars for Belgium as a reward for crushing it, also honorable women not a few, Miss Jane Addams, Miss Ida Tarbell, and Miss Helen Keller. He has invited Mr. Bryan, who will surely preside and supply Mr. Ford's lack of speech power, and, it is said also, that proud warrior of the "Noble" peace treaty, Mr. Roosevelt. With these two on board, there would be fine practice at peace-keeping all the way over. He has invited all the student bodies of the colleges to nominate in each their most pacifist student. The outstanding peace-makers in the United States are the Germans. They are doing what they can with bombs and bullets to put an end to belligerency. Every pro-German there is a pacifist. What they want is to bring the war to an end forthwith, and leave Jupiter Hohenzollern on the throne, in possession of all he has taken, and, as neutral dictator to Europe, enriched by indemnities and other extras. Mr. Ford says this is the psychological moment; and so thinks the German chieftains. What the Ford pilgrimage will purpose as a settlement is apparently to be deter-

mined in conference. The peacemakers had better go to work on the chief criminal. He could end the war tomorrow and save several million lives and much else by confessing the greatest crime on record and retiring to Elba, to St. Helena, to Devil's Island, no matter so long as he eked out his days away from the abhorrence of mankind. The German people, once told what they have been fighting for, namely, to increase the brute power of a self-worshipping sovereign, to the advantage of none else upon earth, would then be a sadder and a wiser people, and would be amenable to good will.

### CONSCRIPTION.

Sir Sam Hughes has slashingly condemned the principle of conscription, claiming that Canada had done better without it than other countries had done with it. No one can question the force of this argument if the assertion can be proved. Mr. Marcell, speaking for the Opposition, has declared that conscription would never take place in Canada, because Canadians do their duty. There is no doubt that, so long as the premise holds good, the conclusion is assured. Mr. Rogers, another minister, speaks in similar uncompromising terms. We judge from this unanimity of political leaders that there is in some section or sections of the people a very strong repugnance to the principle of conscription. Such repugnance was very diligently cultivated by a certain group of politicians without whose aid the present government would not have been in power. The government confessed to be, not only beholden, but in bonds to this anti-imperial group by taking a considerable quota of them into the cabinet. It is pleasing to note that since then it has provided for, or otherwise suppressed, that element. The loyalty of the recruiting oratory of the successors of these seditious statesmen is all that could be wished, is indeed inspiring. Among the rest of the people of Canada we are not aware that the question of conscription was ever a live one. Still, so diversified is our population that it would be difficult to predicate anything as to its sentiments. We should judge, however, that whether strong or weak, the sentiment of our newer people as well as of the native-born would be distinctly in the negative.

Charles Weegham, father of August Weegham, president of the Chicago Federal League Baseball Club, who for nearly fifty of his sixty-five years had been a hard-working blacksmith in Richmond, Indiana, projected suddenly into a life of luxury and idleness, became restless, and in a moment of despondency committed suicide on Nov. 18th at his son's residence in Chicago. His son, who had made a fortune in the restaurant business, thought his father should have a rest from toil, and prevailed upon him to come and live with him. Had the old man been hammering at his anvil he would have been happier and more contented.

This winter our armies in the field will be supplied with charcoal fires, which will ensure warmth without flame or smoke. This means the revival of a large scale of a very old industry in Sussex. The Government has given an order for 250 tons, which is being completed by the charcoal burners of Robertsbridge.