

colossal proportions of the task. And who is not forced to reflect that if this energy, this ability, this science and art were used at the same high pressure in times of peace, in the interests of progress, instead of destruction, what a sum total, what a momentum, it would add to the assets of society in every conceivable way.

The commonest thing in the world, although few notice or note it, is for the means to become an end in itself. In fact if all means were personal and intelligent under the eye of psychology and investigation they would reveal like many servants a tendency to supersede and supplant their masters. In the ancient empire the thing occurred so frequently that it ceased to be unique and became ordinary. A military dictator ruling a country means the army has superseded society in its civil functions. Again and again the diadem of ancient Rome was up at auction and the dictator was the auctioneer. The sword or the pistol is for the defence, not for the conservation of life—food does that. The military in all normal political judgment is the sword of the state; but when it takes over the crown and the sceptre and the mace, the cancer has consumed the body and will soon consume itself.

Another thing supremely odious and inimical to democracy is that officialdom and officers in the army and the navy betray an infallible tendency to become a caste. In England and Prussia and in all countries, aristocratic or democratic, this order of society prevails: the king, the prince, the duke, the baron, the viscount, the general, the admiral. Even in the United States and France there is nearly as much caste and class as there is in Prussia and England. No denying this. If it is good, necessary, unavoidable, and desirable in itself, let us not complain; but democracy instinctively dislikes gold braid and gold buttons as it also dislikes hull pups in carriages with blue ribbons around their necks. The Canadians were considered a mob in England until the days of Ypres, St. Julien and Festubert, when their fighting saved the day; because, forsooth, the officers off duty would chum and drink and smoke with the men.

At any rate this war will bring into striking relief the relative merits both of pacifism and militarism, and as the heaven is in the dough neither will easily down. Overdoing anything undoes it as proving too much proves nothing. A cumulative subliminal consciousness after this war may find a voice like a volcano even in Prussia, the home of the sword and the helmet. The same consciousness may cry out with one thundering voice for universal disarmament, for perpetual peace and pacifism will be more than a dream and a theory,