

...AT THE...

Editor's Desk

ANOTHER Queen's Birthday is upon us. Eighty years have passed over the head of Victoria, who still keeps in close touch with the affairs of the Empire and exercises her powerful influence for peace among the nations of the world. In the old days, monarchs—queens, as well as kings—had to depend largely upon their military exploits for popularity and the respect of their subjects, but that which has given to Victoria the admiration of the world and the abiding affection of her people in every clime has been her life-long practice of true womanly virtues. Her woman's instinct has often grasped the solution of difficult and danger-laden international questions, on which the logic of experienced politicians had spent itself in vain, and, by her remarkable tact, she has induced veterans in statecraft to see eye for eye with her, to the ultimate advantage, as after events have proved, not only of her own people, but of the world at large. Although she has long passed the allotted span, well may we sing of Victoria "God save the Queen," and breathe the prayer that she may be spared to celebrate the Jubilee of Seventy Years, of which she gives every promise.

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AMONG the many remarkable events that marked the reign of Victoria as the age of progress, none will fill a larger place in history in the years to come than the Peace Conference which was opened at the Hague, Holland, on May 17. The Conference consists of representatives of all civilized nations, and its objects are to remove, as far as possible, the opportunities for war by substituting for the latter an universally recognized Court of Arbitration for the settlement of international disputes, and to arrive at some agreement to refrain from the ruinous increase in armaments which has placed a heavy burden upon the workers of Europe of late years, each country trying to keep pace with, or get a little ahead of, its supposed rivals.

While it is too much to hope that the immediate dethronement of King War will be the outcome of the Conference, it is a happy augury for the future that such a Conference has been possible, that the Government of every civilized nation has given evidence of its desire to bring about a more humane method of settling international differences. The majority of those living to-day have surely reason to hope they will yet see the United States of the World, a confederacy existing solely to carry out the policy first formally enunciated at the great Peace Conference held in the closing years of the nineteenth century.

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THE news from England that much of the Canadian produce recently received there has not proved up to standard, and that some of it was "packed," is much to be regretted. The market for Canadian farmers is across the water; it is practically an unlimited market, provided honest goods are delivered. Let only a small percentage of our farmers persist in trying to gain an unfair advantage of Old Country buyers by tricks which are really nothing less than fraud, and the stigma will attach to Canadian farmers as a whole, with the result that they will be as effectually shut out of the English market as if England had a protective tariff exceeding that of the United States.

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It is only of recent years that the people of Great Britain have made any distinction between Canada and the United States, people and products from the former were to the masses merely Americans, and American (U.S.) products being in bad odor. Canada suffered from what was practically the geographical ignorance of the British people. In course of time the individuality of Canada and of Canadian products was recognized, to Canada's decided advantage, and corresponding disadvantage of our neighbors to the south. So much so that the latter have year by year increased their shipments to England via Canadian ports, that their goods might have the prestige of "produced in Can-