

POET OF THE PRAIRIES

incorporated complete into a telegraphic news service. Later it was copied by the leading newspapers of England, was eulogized by the *London Spectator*, was reprinted by English admirers for distribution in the army hospitals of the old land, and subsequently found its way around the world in the press of east and west. Among the poems called forth by the war this lyric, with its grave rhythm and restrained passion, will have an honoured place.

The mood in which Mr. Stead has conceived and written the most powerful war poems of this volume is expressed in the central lyric, "Why Don't They Cheer?" After reading that pensive interpretation of the war sadness in our hearts, which forbids noisy demonstrations of farewell to those departing for the valley of the dreadful shadow, we can understand why Mr. Stead avoids the hip-hip-hurrah, superficial style of patriotic verse. He could write that sort, if he would, but he has a sense of the fitness of things; and the exquisite little elegy, "He Sleeps in Flanders," shows ability to penetrate into the heart of things, to stir the depths of the soul.

Although the public has little patience with literature that does not bear some relation to the great struggle in which the fate of civilization is at stake,