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### EDITORIAL.

#### Call off the Dogs of War.

In reading accounts of the terrible war now raging in Eastern Asia, one cannot but stop to wonder how human bodies can endure the hardships or human minds bear the nerve-racking torments to which the soldiers engaged in this bloody strife are being subjected. Imagination revolts at the picture which it may conjure up, and yet no picture of the imagination can be more than a dream of the sickening reality. Dismembered limbs, rigid bodies, with faces white, and cold as stone, and glassy eyes staring up at a foreign sky; pools of blood; wagons laden with groaning, quivering masses of human flesh; men annihilated by the fall of a shell in the space of a single second;—think of it!—human beings who, one moment before, were in full possession of health of body and mind, able to till the earth, care for their loved ones, and rejoice in God's sunshine, smashed out at one fell blow into a sickening spatter of blood and mangled bones! Pen cannot picture the revolting horrors of the siege, where thousands perish amid squalor, festering wounds, perpetual terror, and slow starvation! And these are the glories of war! This is war, shorn of the fanfare of trumpets, the flutter of flags, and the brave show of troops marching off to the beat of martial music and the cheers of an applauding multitude, while here and there among the spectators a tear rolls down the cheek of an aged mother, and the heart of a wife or sister is breaking.

It seems almost incredible that intelligent human beings are so easily blinded by tinsel and glitter, and it is by no means complimentary to the common sense of the multitude at large that this same shouting mob is as ready to weep tomorrow over the lonely grave on the far-off hillside, or over the shattered remnant of humanity that may come back, blind, maimed, his chances for life ruined and his happiness in living gone forever. Surely it is time that the world should awaken to a true understanding of what this horror means, and that the people of every civilized land should arise en masse to demand that some other way to the settlement of difficulties be arrived at, other than the voluntary, wholesale butchery. When the Hague Tribunal was inaugurated, it was dreamed that a golden era had dawned for Europe; the heart and reason of the world now call for a world's tribunal armed with a power that may be more than a name.

For the end of war—what is it? Upon the one side, a page written in history, a few dollars dropped into the coffers of those who never smelt the smoke of battle, a cloud of false glory thrown over the name of some half-dozen men, who must, after all, die as others, with the responsibility of having lived a life, useful or otherwise, upon them; upon the other side, the progress of two countries arrested for half a century, homes ruined, women and children left in penury, and upon a far-off plain, a weary succession of little green hillocks, "the tents of the camps of green," and a solitary shaft which has arisen to mark the spot where these thousands of nameless ones fell, "to lift one hero into fame." Can humanity, in these dawning years of the twentieth century, hesitate over the question as to whether the prize be worth the terrible cost? It would seem, indeed, high time that the teaching of the Nazarene, whose coming angels heralded with the song, "Peace on earth, good-will to men," should sink

more deeply into the hearts of those who dare to take His name upon their tongues, to the exclusion of this fierce lust of fight, worthy only of the naked savage or the fierce beast of the pathless jungle.

#### Letters to a Young Farmer.

You ask, "Cannot a class of cattle be had or bred that will fill the bill for profitable dairying while producing young stock suitable for the export beef trade, if well cared for?" By selecting either pure-bred cows, or good grades of one of the beef breeds, that are known to be good milkers, and mating them with bulls bred from deep-milking cows of the same breed, satisfactory results may be obtained, the male produce being converted into steers, and, with the females least desirable for dairy purposes, fed off for beef at two and a half to three years old. This problem, it is admitted, is difficult of satisfactory solution from the fact that the beef breeds have long been persistently bred for beef production, with little if any attention to the milking propensities of the cows, so that the proportion of good milkers from whose progeny stock bulls may be selected is small, and as sires of distinctly beef type have almost invariably been used in most pure-bred beef herds in this country in the last twenty years, the females are constantly getting farther away from the milking type rather than approaching it, and the dairy breeds have been bred for many years exclusively for milk production. The answer to the question resolves itself into this, that while there are profitable dual-purpose cows, their number is necessarily limited, and owing to the difficulty in getting sires of a suitable class to perpetuate the dual functions in the offspring, it is really a much more perplexing problem to breed or to judge this class of cattle than the special purpose classes. In England there are many herds of pure-bred and high-grade Shorthorns, and of some other breeds, in which the cows, as a rule, are heavy milkers, and though they do not carry much flesh while milking, as no good cow will, experience goes to show that when dry, and put on good feed, they will make flesh faster than any of the non-milking or light-milking sorts. Moreover, deep-milking cows of any breed are generally the best breeders and the most regular breeders. Indeed, no cow of any breed is "a good cow" in the full sense of the term unless she is a good milker. But, as before indicated, the difficulty at present is to secure both sires and dams of any of the breeds that are likely to produce and perpetuate the desirable class. Crossing the special milking with the special beef breeds presents a partial solution, and breeding the Jersey or Ayrshire bull to a good milking Shorthorn cow, for instance, is almost sure to produce a satisfactory milking cow of good size and feeding properties, while the male offspring converted into steers make good butchers' cattle for local trade, but as a rule not good enough for export cattle. But when this course of breeding is commenced, the only safe means is to continue to use bulls of the same breed, which will, of course, bring the progeny nearer to the milking type, and further from the beefing formation.

There are, it is true, some breeds, including the Red Polls and Brown Swiss, which their friends claim will fill the bill for dual-purpose cattle, the cows being heavy milkers as a rule, and good beef makers when not milking. The first named have the appearance of coming nearest the standard, and they have made some good records of milk production. The second are coarse-boned and have not the appearance of being heavy

milkers, although the few choice cows in the dairy test at St. Louis are doing excellent work.

The problem of which class of cattle it is most profitable to keep is, we admit, a somewhat perplexing one. It depends to some extent on the tastes of the man, the nature of his farm, and the nearness of his market. Some men dislike milking, while others would as soon do milking as any other farm work. The beef breeds, to do best, require a strong soil and rich pasturage. The dairy breeds, of course, will do their best on the same class of land and pasture, but being for the most part more active, will forage for themselves on thinner pastures more successfully. But, after all, the only way to get the best results from either class is to provide for a sufficiency of feed to keep them working nearly up to their full capacity, whether as beef-makers or producers of milk and butter. This is especially true of dairy cows, and largely true of young cattle of the beef class intended for the market for butchers' stock or the export trade. If you have a fancy for pure-bred cattle of either class, choose your breed, and begin by the judicious purchase of one or a few females and a bull of the best type, and keep good grades for the rest of your stock till your pure-breds have increased sufficiently to make up a herd large enough for your farm. If you have no special fancy for pure-breds, you may do equally well with good grades of either class, always seeking to improve them in the direction of your specialty by the use of well-selected, pure-bred sires of the breed your prefer, continuing to use bulls of the same breed, and retaining the best of the female progeny to replenish and improve the herd.

#### Who Pays Compensation for Compulsory Slaughter?

The above question has been brought to our notice by one of our readers, who cites the scale laid down under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act, quoted in our issue of August 11th. In brief, the Department of Agriculture (Federal) only pays compensation for hogs slaughtered on account of hog cholera, but MAY pay for such other diseases, e. g., *maladie du coit*, as the Minister may determine. No compensation is as yet paid for glanders. Hitherto, the municipalities have looked after this matter. Under the policy followed by the Veterinary Director-General no horse is slaughtered unless showing clinical symptoms (discharge from the eyes and nostrils, enlarged glands between the jaws, or farcy buds over the body) of glanders. All cohabitants not clinically affected are tested with mallein, but not slaughtered as the result of one test, but are re-tested, and the hardship is thus materially lessened. A glandered horse showing clinical symptoms should be slaughtered by the owner, not because such is demanded in the public interests, but because it is to his own interests. A discharging glandered horse should be considered as dangerous as dynamite, and should be decently interred as quickly as it can be after its death. Such a horse, permitted to live, is liable to infect other horses, and THE OWNER AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY, and self-preservation ought to dictate immediate slaughter. A discharging glandered horse has NO value. Personally, we believe that if compensation is paid for one contagious disease it should be for all animals compulsorily slaughtered, or else no compensation should be paid whatever. It is a question whether it would not be in the public interest to pay compensation for glanders, seeing that it would not take anything like the