

The Mail Bag

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permanent monument reaching down the years, and go far towards insuring a second century of peace and goodwill.

If a bridge is not needed, a compact might be amicably perfected to open up an international waterway sufficient to carry the largest ocean vessels from the Atlantic to the heads of our great inland lakes.

An international bridge or an international ocean vessel waterway would be an exceedingly fitting peace memorial, being symbolical of trade and traffic, which have played so large a part towards eliminating war between nations the world over.

We beg to say a word in regard to militarism in our Dominion. We would look upon its encroachment with alarm if we thought the wild and sinister apprehensions of the visionary promoters will ever be, in the least part, realized. As it is, we deplore the spending of so much of our money uselessly and foolishly, money which we need for our country's development along natural lines that make for a truer national greatness and permanence.

We also protest against military training in our schools and colleges, on the grounds that it tends to take our boys from the farms, where they are so greatly needed, draws them away from the pursuits of peace, initiates them into ways of vice, and instills into their minds a sham glory and a false patriotism.

It is encouraging to note, on the other hand, the forces that are making for peace. Every agricultural paper published in our land is dead against war, and the preparations for war; or rather alive against it. Labor unions denounce it. The laborer and the farmer, who generally have done the fighting in the past, have struck, not for higher wages, but for a holier calling; struck never to go back to the infamous slaughter; struck under a higher Leader than any earthly potentate.

The young men of our Society—the Society of Friends—would sooner go to prison—they did of old, they are doing it in Australia today—sooner than shoulder a gun and march out to shoot down a fellow being. By our Society, all men are brothers with a common Father, whose love flows equally to all. We take the "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus' chief pronouncement, as practicable and to be obeyed, and ask what did Jesus mean when he said, "Love your enemies?" We ask Colonel the Hon. Sam Hughes, personally, what did Jesus mean when he said, "Love your enemies?"

This militiamania epidemic will soon pass, like many another plague and pestilence. Those beautiful and substantial armories in a few years will be turned into firehalls and schoolhouses, for in "This Canada of Ours" right must prevail, the Prince of Peace shall rule, the God of Love is Omnipotent.

May all good people work and pray to hasten on that glorious day.

Signed on behalf of the Friends at Coldstream.

EDGAR M. ZAVITZ,
SAMUEL P. BROWN,
SAMUEL P. ZAVITZ.

THRESHERS' DIFFICULTIES

Editor, Guide:—I have read the letter from the Canadian Thresherman's Association in your issue of the 15th inst. They have pretty well covered the threshermen's difficulties, but as my brother and myself operate a threshing and plowing outfit as well as a farm in a new district in Saskatchewan, possibly I can add two or three to their list. They are by no means our own special difficulties, they are very prevalent.

1.—To get farmers to put teams on an outfit and leave them on till work is done. About seven-eighths of the farmers take their teams when their own threshing is done, except on a poor year when all want work, but then they want a thresher to cut his price when by rights he should raise it in order to clear himself.

2.—Because a farmer's threshing bill may run into some hundreds of dollars they count up the number of farmers one machine threshes and then they say either get another machine next year that that man is robbing them, and they

or buy one of their own, which generally is proof sufficient that the thresher did not rob them very bad.

3.—To give weight to satisfy farmers is a pretty hard thing to do. We always set our weigher, which is a Hartley, to weigh one pound per bushel overweight to allow for waste, etc., but that did not satisfy everyone. The government should inspect and test all weighers used, and those which it is practically impossible to keep in order to put them off the market.

The labor problem is one of the thresher's greatest difficulties, altho his supplies and some method to regulate the sale of machines or limit the number to the township or some such legislation is well worth trying for, as a machine cannot pay for itself and give a reasonable profit on the investment on an eighteen or twenty day run.

C. A. CATES

Qu'Appelle, Sask.

AGAINST MILITARISM

Editor, Guide:—I deeply distrust militarism, because its ideals are utterly opposed to democracy. Caste and class and autocratic rule on the one hand breeds arrogant stupidity, immeasurable conceit and carelessness of life when the lives and well-being of inferiors in rank are at stake, while subservience and blind obedience on the other hand destroy intelligence and initiative. Caste and class rules the English army to such an extent that men never expect to rise from the ranks. And what is true of England is true of Germany, of France, of Austria, of Russia.

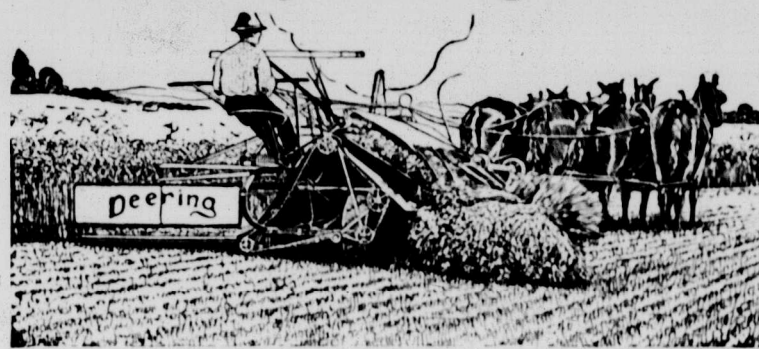
These countries take the flower of the boys of every family and impress them, at the age of twenty-one, into the army. They are put on long marches across country, without food. Many fall down faint from exhaustion, to be picked up by the ambulances. Ask those who have come thru these ordeals, and they will tell you their constitutions were broken for life. Just consider the utter, horrible cruelty of it; building up an army by destroying its units! The stupidity of it!

More than half their national incomes are spent in arming for war. The bread of their children, spent in destroying their best children. The labor of children who are made prematurely old, the labor of mothers in factory or field, who toil on with aching bones and breaking hearts and tear-stained eyes. This is the armed truce, the concert of Europe. This is more horrible than war. This is preparation for collapse. And now Canada is asked to take part in this ghastly carnival of waste and destruction. Canada is asked to put her millions into armaments, where she has no part in the counsels that make for war or peace. Canada is asked to support an army which, thru its officers—officers drawn from the aristocracy—refuses to be amenable to civil law and reasonable majority rule. Canada seems almost willing to purchase the guns which it seems not unlikely may be some day trained on her own children; may be used some-day to break down her young democratic aspirations.

Mothers and fathers in Germany, and France and Austria and Italy are urging their children, their boys of twelve to twenty, to escape to Canada, to Australia, to the United States, glad to see their children take up their homes among far away peoples with unknown languages and strange religions, so they may escape the army doom. And yet Canadian politicians are eager to follow the wake of aristocracy and plutocracy and draw us into the stream, the poisoned stream, of European folly.

Thousands and thousands of young men in Germany, in Austria, in every military country of Continental Europe, cut off—amputate—the digit finger of their right hands in order to escape the army, hell, and yet we talk lightly of war, seeing only its glamor, and among us are good men, brave men, but mistaken men who are supporting one of the most dangerous revolutionary outbreaks that has ever threatened the British Empire.

Surely it is time for us to pray for the spirit of interpretation, the spirit of moderation, the ability to understand other men's aspirations, and other men's viewpoints, and above all to see whither we ourselves are drifting.—J. W. S.

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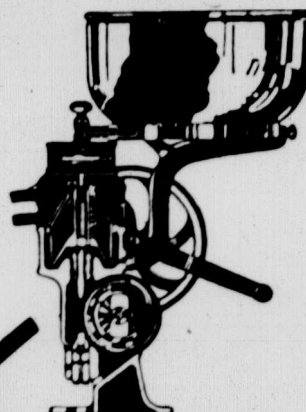
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