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THE CASUALTIES OF PEACE.

A MAN does not always meet Fate at the top of a breach or at the head of a charge. As Montaigne puts it, "He is oftenest surprised between the hedge and the ditch; he runs the hazard of his life against a hen-roost." More than one unscathed "veteran" of the Spanish-American war has since fallen victim to a fire-cracker in his own back yard.

One way and another, the death roll from gunpowder in piping times of peace is appallingly large. Last year, Fourth of July celebrations alone caused 163 deaths, to say nothing of 5,460 casualties. This year's orgy of smoke and gore is not yet fully reported upon. The fifty or more deaths listed up to Tuesday will probably be increased to one hundred when subsequent tetanus cases are counted in. However, as against 466 deaths in 1903, the 1909 list shows agitation for a "saner celebration of the Fourth" to have had some effect. Even though such things must be at every famous victory, carnage is scarcely essential to Independence Day's annual celebration.

A GUNPOWDER TREASON.

BUT there is a much more serious "gunpowder treason and plot" threatening the welfare of our neighbours to the South—the unrestricted sale and scarcely less restricted use of pocket firearms. Thinking men among them are alive to conditions that make it possible for more murders to be committed during one year in a single American city than in the whole of Great Britain. The editor of the Denver Post lately referred to a leading manufacturing firm as the "U. S. Murder-Promoting Arms Co." There is no stronger argument for the soundness of his contention than the idiotic retort which the company in question published in the advertising columns of a popular weekly.

"What brain-swampness to assume that pistols are bought for murder!" it airily pooh-poohs. "Pistols are bought for pleasure and for protection from foot pads, kidnapers, pickpockets, burglars and safe-blowers, dear Editor. And the constitution of the U. S. gives the right to bear arms"—to say nothing of the "unwritten law," it might have added,

Nor is this all. What though the theme of Admiral Urieu and Hon. James Bryce at the Champlain Tercentenary this week were that of international peace?—"Stop the making and selling of pistols and the Japs will land on the Pacific coast, and the British on the Atlantic, and it will be exit America." So the argument runs.

"My country—is this of thee?" might the bard now sing.

HUNDRETH UNTIL Peace hath her celebrations no less than War. Hon. ANNIVERSARY. Mackenzie King will not rest satisfied. Himself of rebellion-of-'37 stock—and proud of it—he is the framer of a Conciliation Act that has attracted attention the world over. In conferring the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the other day, upon Canada's young Minister of Labour, President Lowell of Harvard University referred to him as "the author of the wisest piece of legislation for securing industrial peace the world had ever seen."

But the peace to which the new Doctor of Philosophy made reference in his address of acknowledgment had not to do with industrial conditions specifically. Four years from now, he reminded his hearers, we will be celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent, which marked the conclusion of the war of 1812-1814. From that day to this swords have never been drawn, a shot has never been fired across the three thousand and more miles of boundary which separate British from American territory.

Apparent enthusiasm greeted the speaker's suggestion that, while other nations continue to talk of war, we of the new world begin to celebrate this triumph of peace; that we choose as the place of celebration that historic ground in the vicinity of Niagara, the place of conflict a hundred years ago, and on some near approach to that scene of beauty erect an international monument symbolic of amity and brotherhood.

It is altogether desirable that the suggestion may bear fruit in joint-action by the Governments at Ottawa and Washington.