

Editorial

Fight It Out Now

WHEN in this city lately, Dr. T. G. Soares, of Chicago, delivered a remarkable lecture on the war aims of Germany. By a stroke of good fortune *The Western Home Monthly* is able to give the general drift of the address, although it is impossible to quote figures and follow the language. Nevertheless, the summary will make good reading for every loyal Canadian.

The German conspiracy against civilization had one great object—world domination. But this objective was to be reached by three stages. During the first stage the central power was to be extended until it included Germany, Austro-Hungary, the Balkans, Turkey and portions of France and Russia, a territory with over a hundred million people. When these were united under Prussian leadership the Huns were to prepare for their next movement an attack on Great Britain. The third step is easily understood. South America and Canada were to become an easy prey to the victors, and the United States, well, the less said the better.

It is unfortunate, most unfortunate, for Prussian pride and Prussian hope that the people of the world would not permit the play to come off in its three pre-arranged acts. Little Belgium insisted upon entering the stage right from the beginning, and Great Britain without direction from the stage manager walked out on the boards during the very first act. Later on, the United States determined to take part in the production. The result is that the whole three acts are being played in one, and so far as Germany is concerned the thing is a hopeless muddle. It is really too bad that such a carefully prepared plot should not have gone through as arranged. But this is a common experience in the history of individuals, families and nations. As one of our own writers has said:

"The best laid schemes o' mice and men,
Gang aft agley."

That was a very ingenious conspiracy which was set down for the first act. The idea was no less than to approach Austro-Hungary and get her co-operation in lining up the Balkan States, Turkey and Greece. This was easy because of the Hohenzollern alliances. Only one thing stood in the way—little Serbia. It was indeed providential for Germany that the Archduke was murdered. It gave the all-sufficient justification for action on the part of Austria. It was to be expected of course, that Russia would oppose Austria's move against Serbia, but that did not worry a nation which for forty years had been preparing for war. Nor did trouble from France worry Germany. Rather was such trouble to be welcomed. The whole plan was to get these two countries into the war in order that at its close they might pay the total cost, leaving an unencumbered Germany free to prepare for the next stroke, the war on England. The scheme was big but worth a great risk. It was worth while having a straight roadway through to Persia and to have in subservience to the autocracy at Berlin a population of a hundred million, with millions more in conquered Russia as nothing better than slaves. Of course, it was not put to Austro-Hungary, Turkey and the Balkans in this way. They were to be helped by the union. Austria was to be aided in its difficulty with the Slav population of the eastern provinces. Turkey was to be aided against its great enemy Russia. Bulgaria was to get a slice of Serbia. Then when it was all settled Germany was to give them all the double cross. This is the Simon-pure German trick every time. The great founder of the German confederacy, Bismarck, was a clever statesman, and indeed a man of marvellous capacity, but he was completely lacking in honor and truthfulness. The Germans of to-day outdo him in this regard. Were the curtain to fall right now, Germany retaining what she has, the Kaiser would be king of Central Europe, and every other so-called ruler would be but his vassal. The scheme is not merely an independent Central Europe but an enlarged German empire, so that it may prepare for the next great fight, the fight with England.

Let us not think in our innocent way that in so far as Germany is concerned this is a war with France and Russia, not even a war to get a passage way through to Damascus and beyond. It is the first step in a war for world domination. If England does not crush Germany now, she must face her in twenty-five or thirty years, and face her all alone. If the United States and Canada do not join in at the present time they must be prepared to give independent opposition later on. If we do not work and fight and pray NOW, those who are our babies must be prepared for rapine and slaughter in the years to come. It is our great good fortune that we have the three acts in one. Nothing would suit Germany better than peace. What she wants is a rest in order to consolidate and prepare. But rest she must not have. It is a fight to the death. It is autocracy against democracy, devil against the Almighty. We can not delay the struggle. We must fight the next war NOW.

The Spirit of the Farmer

THERE is a spirit that animates every man who really and truly works. This year it should be the spirit of faith and hope and love. The farmer who sows should do so praying and believing that a kind Providence will reward his labor and send rain and sun to cheer the growing plants, he should add to his faith, the hope that before the year is out his friends on the front line will be victorious, and his children and loved ones saved from Hunnish cruelty and brutishness. Above all he should add the love which makes him willing to work day and night, not chiefly to make money, but to add to the happiness and comfort of his fellows and the glory of his nation. All work done in the right spirit is intensely religious. If done merely in the spirit of gain it is unholy.

The man who sows a field of wheat in love and who contemplates the growth of the plants from their early beginnings until harvest, finds comfort for his own soul. What a privilege to be a co-worker with the Master of the Universe! What a joy to be able to do something for the good of mankind!

The Spirit of Heroes By Tennyson

Let it go or stay, so I wake to the higher
aims
Of a land that has lost for a little her lust
of gold,
And love of a peace that was full of wrongs
and shames,
Horrible, hateful, monstrous, not to be
told;
And hail once more to the banner of battle
unroll'd!
Tho' many a light shall darken, and many
shall weep
For those that are crush'd in the clash
of jarring claims,
Yet God's just wrath shall be wreak'd on
a giant liar;
And many a darkness into the light shall
leap,
And shine in the sudden making
of splendid names,
And noble thought be freer under the sun,
And the heart of a people beat with one
desire;
For the peace, that I deem'd no peace, is
over and done,
And now by the side of the Black and the
Baltic deep,
And deathful-grinning mouths of the
fortress, flames
The blood-red blossom of war with a
heart of fire.
Let it flame or fade, and the war roll down
like a wind,
We have proved we have hearts in a cause,
we are noble still,
And myself have awaked, as it seems, to
the better mind;
It is better to fight for the good than to
rail at the ill;
I have felt with my native land, I am one
with my kind,
I embrace the purpose of God, and the
doom assign'd.

Every man on this earth was intended to be a producer. God created and man should create. There is no room in this world for the lounge, the waster, the destroyer. That is a most righteous law which demands of every able-bodied man that he be engaged in work. It is an equally sound law which imposes on every one the necessity of saving. Though just now we are in self-defence compelled to fight, the fighting itself we deplore. And so, as we sow, we can experience the joy of the worker, as we go about our work we can experience the joy of saving, and as we wage war we can do it in the joy of believing that our victory will mean the end of war.

He is a poor type of man who estimates his crop merely in dollars. He is a true patriot who estimates it in terms of happiness, food for the allies, salvation for a world.

The Little That Counts

LAST year the people of the allied nations were urged to give attention to home gardens. The report on the gardens in the United States has just been published, and it is quite likely that reports from other countries will be equally satisfactory. There were in America about 3,000,000 gardens aggregating 1,115,000 acres. It is estimated that the yield was worth \$350,000,000 or \$17.50 per family. It is also estimated that the housewives of the United States put up nearly half a billion quart jars of vegetables and fruits, or three times as much as they ever packed before in one year.

These figures should encourage the allies everywhere to persist in the policy of home gardening. The people of Western Canada have special opportunity to show what they can do. We have the soil, the broad acres, and people who are not afraid of work. Every boy and girl can join in the undertaking, and if the thing is carried out in a right way the occupation may be the means of developing in those who are engaged in it, not only a right attitude to labor, but a feeling of ardent patriotism. For there should go into the keeping of a garden not only the strength of the body, but all the determination of the will and all the warm love of the heart. Every gardener is more than a money-maker. He is, in proportion as he adds to the nation's food, a savior of his country.

Valued Criticism

THE *Western Home Monthly* welcomes most heartily such criticisms as are made from time to time of the articles that appear in its columns. Most of such criticisms have been exceedingly kind, and for this the *Monthly* is very thankful. None the less does it welcome the occasional article which comments unfavorably on views expressed editorially or by contributors. The editor does not always sympathize with the views of contributors. An article that stirs up thought is often better than one which utters generally accepted truth. Two articles that appeared in recent numbers have called for unusual critical comments, and according to custom the other side is given a hearing.

The first criticism is against a story, "Dorothy Perkins," which appeared in February. The brunt of the criticism is in these words: "You publish a story that puts a young woman employed in housework in the light of a bold bad girl because she happens to send a note and some flowers to a very much over-estimated V.C. You allow the story publication when the hero of it refers to the young woman as 'the Phillip's maid,' 'The girl they call Tilda' who by the way is 'abominably plain.'"

Now, of course, the young girl was not pictured as either bold or bad. Intellectually she was evidently in the writer's mind unsuited for life association with the over-estimated V.C. Morally and otherwise she may have been his superior. Would the couple have been well mated? Was Dorothy a more fitting mate, all things considered? Was she a more fitting mate for a V.C. who would use such terms in describing a "household help"? On the whole is not the story a reflection on the V.C. rather than on the "household help"? The story as told raises in a new way one of the most important and interesting of problems. What is the real basis for happy and contented marriage? The writer has in his own way attempted to suggest a solution. Is it right? The utterances of the characters are only side issues. They are the groundwork for forming judgments. A writer must surely be free to create characters some of whom we loathe and some of whom we love. You cannot rule Mephistopheles out of Faust, but you do not approve of him. On the whole the criticism seems to be somewhat misplaced. If the writer had been accused of maligning the holders of the V.C. there might have been some point in the criticism.

The second criticism has to do with an article in last issue entitled "To Marry or Not?" This is another problem and the unknown writer gives her own solution. It is very different from the German solution, and perhaps runs counter to established custom. The problem is, however, a very live one, and on that account must not be set to one side. It is wholly unnecessary in criticising the action of Mary to attribute unworthy motives to her. Why not do what is always the right thing in such cases, give the most lovely interpretation of the action possible? It is possible that Mary may have been of the type represented by Naomi Hannah and others of the class. It is only fair to think the kindest thought. The *Monthly* is not approving or donning Mary's judgment but urges that criticism should always be kind.

There is a story in the March issue to which no doubt great exception might be taken, if it were interpreted in the wrong way. It is an account of monstrous injustice in a supposed court in Alaska. Though over-drawn it yet represents what we find in many homes, churches, schools and communities—an attempt to meet all difficulties in a coarse thoughtless way, rather than to vary treatment in a humane spirit to suit individual conditions. Happily the white man's court described is far from typical. Our readers will go behind the incident and see what is implied in the illustration. It required a fiction writer—Charles Dickens—to redress evils in the courts, prisons and schools of England. It may be that the fiction writer of to-day may also be a preacher, even if his sermon is not a pleasant one to read.

These words are written to indicate that critical comments on what appears in the *Monthly* are always valued highly and considered fully. It is by getting letters such as these that a paper knows just how to meet the needs of its constituency.