

tarists of Europe is stopped by a resolute public opinion. There is no doubt that if the people realized what war means nowadays they would refuse to be stampeded into war by a subsidized, scare-mongering press, or to be led into it by bungling diplomats. Poets have woven around the wars of earlier times a certain glamor, and however brutal and disgusting the business of killing has always been, the personal encounters of former wars lent an air of dash and heroism. But where is the glory and glamor in a modern war? Regiments are fed to the artillery of the enemy as sheaves of grain are fed into the threshing-machine. Set the machine-gun going and it shoots out 240 bullets a minute, sweeping the horizon for many miles wherever directed. This is the age of specialized machinery. Instead of laboriously making pins or buttons one at a time, by hand, thousands are being turned out by machinery. So, instead of the hand-to-hand encounter of early times, or the short range fighting of the past generation, modern war has become wholesale butchery by machinery. Lyddite, cordite, powerful chemicals and deadly machine guns have turned the "field of honor" and those much-lauded scenes of romance and glory into a human slaughter house.

Exaggerated as this phrasing sounds it errs on the side of under-statement. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 saw most of its fighting between outposts, yet with the inferior rifles and guns of that day over 120,000 men were killed. The South African War was a comparatively minor one, yet it cost Britain \$1,115,000,000 and took 448,365 soldiers, of whom over 22,000 were killed and over 75,000 were sent home invalided. Soldiers are not supposed to have weaker nerves or more sensitive feelings than other men, but the horrors of the Russo-Japanese war were so gruesome and terrible that thousands of those soldiers went mad. The truth seems to be that war becomes more hellish every day. The atrocities of the Balkan War seem to have set a new record for diabolical cruelties. It is too soon to estimate the loss and waste, but so far the cost is put at \$1,300,000,000 and the loss in lives at 358,000. If that is not wholesale butchery, what term would better describe modern warfare? Is it not the wierdest travesty on the twentieth century statesmanship of Christendom that human life, which is so precious in time of peace that all the efforts of individuals and governments are bent to its preservation and enrichment, should in time of war become so worthless that it is poured out like water? What matter though thousands of husbands and heads of families perish so long as the armament trust sells enough arms and ammunition, or so long as Big Business gets certain trade concessions? Or, why object to war when it feeds the vanity of the professional soldier and clothes the diplomats with a petty personal pride?

We will not follow Lamszus through his sickening story of the battles fought, where no enemy could be seen save a distant woods belching forth fire and slaughter, nor through the fields strewn with dead, hideous with the cries of the wounded, the shrieks of the insane and the curses of the dying. How dangerous the truth about war is judged to be for the cause of militarism was shown by the authorities placing an interdict on "The Human Slaughter-House" in Hamburg. This action only gave the book more publicity and already 100,000 copies have been sold, and it is being circulated in eight European languages. The author points out not only the horror of murdering by wholesale, but the absurdity of it. The "enemies," he finds, have no desire to kill him, to burn his house, or to seize his country. Each opposing army is recruited of fathers, sons and husbands, men who love their homes and only left them for war when compelled by the authorities. In short, the

foes are as human and as good citizens as his comrades, and yet, through some awful blunder of so-called statesmen, or the greed of interests with a pull, hundreds of thousands of husbands, fathers and sons are called out in one country to murder a like number called out in the other country. Hitherto fine phrases such as "national honor" and "the glory of the fatherland" with a dash of military music have been enough to make these hundreds of thousands of troops march at the whim of a few men in high places. But as it becomes more generally understood what wars mean, especially modern wars, and how they are created to fatten a horde of jingo and commercial parasites, the people will demand to be "shown" before offering up their wealth and lives.

BINDER TWINE FROM FLAX STRAW

The Grain Growers' Grain Company has purchased the Canadian rights of a knotter attachment, which will use binder twine made from threshed flax straw and which can be substituted for the ordinary knotter on any binder. Instead of tying an ordinary knot in the twine this new device cuts the twine to the right length, draws it tightly around the sheaf, places one end of the twine across the other and fastens it with a metallic clamp, which is far more secure than any knot that could be tied. Many attempts have been made to manufacture binder twine from flax straw for use in the ordinary knotter, but each attempt has ended in failure, because twine for the ordinary knotter must be very smooth and of a uniform size, and this has not yet been secured from flax fibre, particularly from the ordinary threshed flax straw. This device is the invention of Mr. Ware of St. Paul, Minnesota. A company has been formed in Minneapolis and is manufacturing the knotter and also flax straw twine in Rounthwaite, Minnesota. The same company is arranging for factories at other points in the Western States. The Grain Growers' Grain Company had one of the Ware Knotter Attachments in actual operation on different binders at Headingly and Rosser last month, using the rough flax twine from the Rounthwaite factory. These demonstrations were made in the presence of the Grain Growers' Grain Company directors and many other prominent farmers, and all who saw it at work were satisfied that the sheaves tied with this coarse flax twine, by this new device, were quite as secure as those bound by the ordinary knotter—the knotter working to the entire satisfaction of those present. One of the complaints against flax twine in the past has been that insects and mice destroy it, but these pests have been completely circumvented by subjecting the twine to a treatment of tar. The success of this new attachment means that flax fibre twine will come into general use for binding western grain; and particularly as flax twine can be placed on the market for one-half the present price of Sisal and Manila binder twine. The metallic ribbon that provides the fasteners is included in the price of the twine. This invention is now past the experimental stage and has been used in Southern Minnesota, where the farmer pays \$5.00 for having it attached to his binder and \$2.00 per annum rental. It is not yet decided what methods the Grain Growers' Grain Company will employ in placing these knotters in the Prairie Provinces. The successful outcome of this new enterprise will mean several binder twine factories for the Canadian West, and a profitable use of enormous quantities of threshed flax straw, which now goes up in smoke. The American factory pays the farmer from five to six dollars per ton for their threshed flax straw, baled and loaded on the car. In the manufacture of this twine from flax straw there are numerous and valuable by-products, including oakum, up-

holstering material, and building material which is a valuable substitute for building paper. The prospects of this new industry are exceedingly bright, and its success will mean a tremendous saving to every grain grower—not only in the West, but all over Canada. The Grain Growers' Grain Company, for a consideration, has reserved the right, in case the flax twine is unsatisfactory in any respect, after testing it through the harvest of 1914, to cancel the contract with Mr. Ware. The officials of the company, however, are quite sanguine of its complete success. The Grain Growers' Grain Company is grappling with the farmers' problems one by one, and is steadily improving conditions for the Western farmers.

MUNICIPAL BONUSES

The question of bonusing industries by Western cities was one of the most important matters discussed at the annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade in Winnipeg last week. The matter was brought up by a representative of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, who moved a resolution expressing the opinion that the time had come when legislative restrictions upon the bonusing of industries throughout the West should be enforced and supplemented. There was a pretty warm discussion, but eventually the resolution was lost by a small majority. This was only to be expected when it is remembered that most of the Western Boards of Trade are dominated by real estate men, and it is a hopeful sign that the proposition found as much support as it did. As was pointed out by those who supported the motion, Western towns are frequently made the victims of unscrupulous bonus seekers. Manufacturers wishing to go into business in Western cities, where they propose to manufacture sash and doors, bricks, or some other commodity for which there is a good local market, are in the habit of going from one city to the next to see which will give them the largest bonus, and they are able to play upon the rivalry of the different cities to such an extent that they often get very valuable concessions. It is the same game that the railways worked with regard to the location of divisional points up to a few years ago, when it was stopped by provincial legislation. Divisional points are now being located wherever they are required, without any \$25,000 handouts by the ratepayers, and manufacturers who are going to engage in a necessary industry would do so whether they got a bonus or not, if they were not able to set rival towns bidding against one another. Of course, it is useless to blame the real estate men for favoring bonuses. The bonus comes out of the pockets of the citizens as a whole, and when an industry is established the owner of the adjoining subdivision sells his lots at a nice big profit. That is the main purpose of bonuses to industries.

Col. Sam Hughes goes on his way making Canada safe from the foreign invader. Three Ontario villages, Millbrook, Orono and Blackstock, having a combined population of 1,250 souls, are each to be blessed and protected with a drill hall, costing altogether \$30,000.

It is the patriotic duty of every farmer to work as hard as possible and earn as much as possible in order that he may pay more taxes into the public treasury, because Mackenzie and Mann will be in need of about \$20,000,000 more in another six months and Messrs. Borden and Laurier have not the heart to refuse them.

Prof. Adam Shortt, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, says that Satan invented and introduced the party system. Pretty hard on Old Nick, but then nobody cares about his feelings.

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