

There may still be wrongs enough in the world to keep the pessimist alive and kicking, but there are also hopeful indications that speak well for the future, none more strongly than that growth of a sense of justice and right which is everywhere visible. This is seen in the great struggle for justice in England, which has ranged such men as Lloyd-George and Asquith and Grey and Churchill with the masses in that supreme contest of caste which is bound to end in "the greatest good to the greatest number" in Britain. It is seen in the revolt against Trusts in the United States, and in the spirit made manifest in Canada to dig up graft, and trickery, and corruption. The revelation of irregularities at Quebec and St. John and Montreal, the present agitation for the suppression of race-track gambling, and reform of the criminal law—these things tell of the existence of lamentable conditions, but also of a disposition which, in popular parlance, "will not stand for them."

The modern world may appear to be material to excess; unquestionably it is grasping to excess, yet more and more its popular sentiment calls for honor and magnanimity. The most astounding discovery of modern times is made, but the discovery is cheapened by a dispute as vulgar as lamentable; public sympathy soon enough sways to the side of the contestant who most displays the attitude of the fair-minded gentleman. As New York Independent remarks, "It is of no great importance to the world which of two men was the first to reach the Pole, nor is it of vital importance to either of the claimants that his claim be accepted. But it is of vital importance that they should show themselves generous and manly."

And what the world demands of these eminent men, it demands, also, of less illustrious men in the less illustrious walks of life. However the citizen of questionable methods may appear to flourish, winning out in the end almost invariably comes to the generous and manly one.

The Canadian Peace and Arbitration Society, which was recently organized in Toronto as part of a movement which, it is hoped, will be world-wide, is distributing literature deprecating the military and naval expenditure of the present age, and setting forth strongly the necessity of not only talking about peace, but of working for it. We quote a few paragraphs:

"These vast preparations for war tend to make war. They create a profession in which the only chance of glory and promotion is war; while millions of citizens are reduced to mechanical automatons, whose only business is to be manipulated as a part of a colossal machine, scientifically designed for destruction of property and slaughter of men."

"The rest of the common people are crushed with ever-increasing burdens of taxation—robbed of the result of their toil—for immense and ever-growing armaments of destruction to slaughter their brother-workers who have done them no harm, with whom they have no sort of a quarrel."

"But worse still, such a vast—and ever vaster—proportion of the income of nations is spent on war, even in times of peace, that there are no funds to carry out reforms and steps of progress in industrial, sanitary, educational and other phases of civil-

ization, now called for by the advance of knowledge and scientific possibilities. One shot from one of a thousand guns costs more than the salary of a skilled teacher for one year! What if the amounts spent in war—and preparation for war—were turned into avenues that would benefit the people?"

The possibilities suggested by the

latter statement may be more evident, perhaps, on a glance at the accompanying illustrations from "Illustrated London News," which represent the appropriations of the great powers for military and naval purposes during the present year. The gross expenditure of the eight Powers, Britain, Germany, the United States, Russia, France, Austria-Hungary,

Italy and Japan, aggregate, it may be noted, for army and navy alone, the staggering total of about one and a half billion dollars per year.

Lord Charles Beresford, speaking in New York, not long ago, declared that if all the English-speaking countries in the world were to unite to prevent war, they would be successful. He pointed out that the English-speaking countries are of necessity trade countries, and that they must realize themselves best along commercial lines.

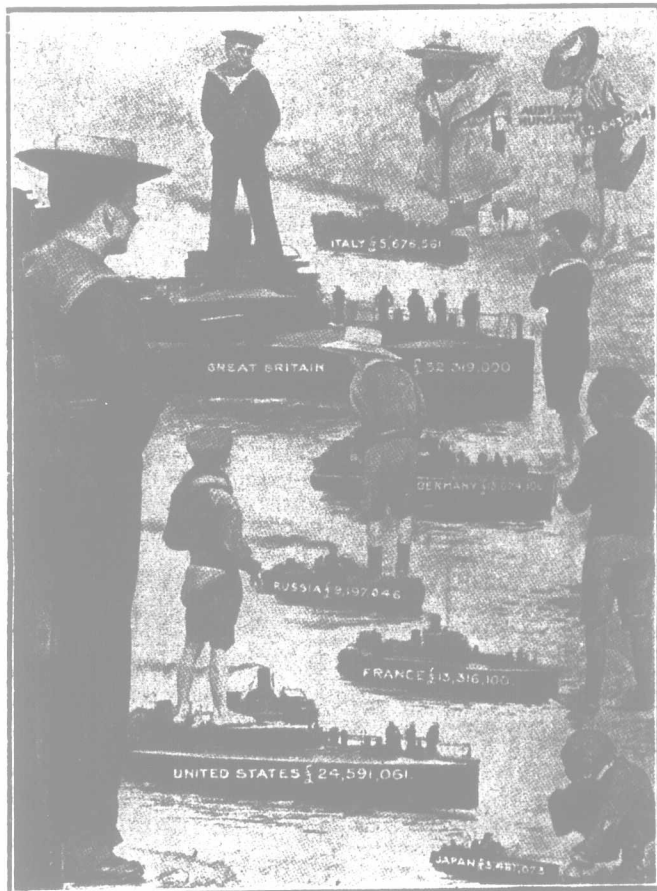
Such expression of opinion from such a quarter indicates that popular hatred of war has penetrated even the ranks of the privileged classes, the beneficiaries of the war system. The day of glory in war has passed, and the peace movement may find ready ground.

The President of the Canadian Society is Sir William Mulock, and the Secretary, Rev. C. S. Eby, to whom communications asking for literature, etc., may be addressed at the headquarters, Zion Church Parlors, Cor. College and Elizabeth Sts., Toronto, Ont.

A very successful school Fair was held in the West River School, two miles below Galt, Ont., on October 1st. Grain, vegetables and flowers, grown by the children at their homes, formed an interesting feature of the exhibit, illustrating well what boys and girls can do when thoroughly interested; while collections of weeds, weed seeds, wild flowers, insects, diseased plants, etc., all correctly mounted and labelled, spoke eloquently of the work of the teachers, Miss Freeborn, Miss Ford, and Miss Struthers, to whose energy and enthusiasm, joined with the co-operation of the trustees, much of the success of the fair was due. The proceedings were opened by Mr. Hart, of the Department of Agriculture; Prof. Hutt, of the O. A. C., who acted as judge, spoke some words of congratulation to the little exhibitors, and the remainder of the afternoon was given over to examining the exhibits, and to sports, in which not only the children, but also the farmers and their wives took part. An excellent luncheon, served by the ladies of the district, was by no means the least popular feature of the day.

It is to be hoped that this necessarily meagre account of the West River School Fair may yet suffice to inspire many rural teachers throughout the Dominion to "do likewise" next year. The value of such fairs cannot be easily estimated. It is no small thing for a child to learn on his own small plot, some of the great secrets of nature, and of the effects of tillage which makes man master of the soil. It is no small thing that he should thus early become interested in the world about him, and in love with the rural life. It is no small thing that a new avenue of common interest between child and parent, and parent and teacher, should be opened up; nor is it even a trifling thing that a new opportunity for neighborhood sociability be afforded. People need to mingle together frequently to avoid the "queerness" that sometimes comes of too much isolation.

Unquestionably, whether looked at from an educational, moral or social standpoint, the school Fair deserves every encouragement. Trustees and teachers will do well to give it a trial.



Annual Cost of the World's Navies.

This picture, based upon the appropriations of the respective Powers this year, does not indicate rank as a naval Power, but the size of the budget.



Annual Cost of the World's Armies.

The name of each Power is followed by the amount in cash appropriated for the army this year. The relative rank as a military Power is not, of course, indicated, except inferentially by the annual expenditure.