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THE HAGUE PEACE TRIBUNAL.

The Hague peace tribunal may sit in readiness to compose international quarrels, and the millions of Carnegie may rear a state temple for it, but the world is still for war, says the Examiner.

It is well that The Hague Tribunal should exist, continues our San Francisco contemporary, for it represents an ideal which the conscience of mankind tell it is right. Yet no fact is more obvious than that the nations prefer to live at a woeful depth below the moral plane to which they must climb ere they will be willing to carry their disputes into a court instead of to a battle field for settlement.

To make The Hague Tribunal a useful actuality rather than an aspiration for the future it is needed that the nations be civilized—that is to say, honest, just, peace-loving, Christian—everything they are not.

The individual man has given up carrying weapons asserting his claims at the point of the sword, and taking vengeance with his own hands. In the national aggregation men retain the sword and the characteristic of the ruffian. To despoil a weak neighbor, to eringe to a powerful one, to lie for advantage and not be ashamed, to profess high motives for base deeds—all these things the nations do, and habitually.

Regard Europe. There are more men under arms there today than ever before in history. Each country has its standing army and its navy for protection against the others. The only motive that can induce them to act in concert, seemingly, is the determination to prevent any one of them from becoming strong enough to endanger the balance of power—strong enough to be a menace to the armed peace of brigands pledged to refrain from aggression but ever under mutual suspicion and perfidious intentions.

That is the "Christian world" for which The Hague Tribunal has been set up, and set up at the suggestion of the czar of Russia, whose country is at the fore front as a robber power. The praises of peace coming from such a quarter have all the reality of a poem in laudation of the virtues of poverty composed by a pre-revolutionary French noble, living in luxury in Versailles on the wealth wrung from the hungry and ragged peasants on his distant estates—all the genuineness and effectiveness of an appeal by John D. Rockefeller Jr., to poor young men to be indifferent to the accumulation of this world's goods while striving for spiritual wealth.

No doubt the czar has a sentimental preference for a millennial era of peace, with the lion and the lamb lying down together at The Hague; but meantime Manchuria is to be absorbed, Japan to be fought and Russia's full share of dismembered China assured, if fighting can do it. Nero, who was not a Greek, or any other kind of a Christian, but slew all sorts impartially, had a fine sensibility. He was easily moved to tears at the theater.

When the world toils up to Christianity, real Christianity, the nations will knock with unmailed hands upon the door of the peace temple at The Hague, asking for justice, and only justice, but not before.

Nationally, mankind, despite all its advances, moral, intellectual and material, is yet barbarous in its controlling desires and in its practice. The most popular form of the cross is still the sword hilt.

SURPRISES IN WAR.

What novelty or what surprise will this east Asia war produce? There may be none, yet the chances would seem to be that one will be forthcoming, as in each of so many modern wars. Napoleon surprised all Europe with the flexibility of his military organizations and the celerity of their movements. The war of 1812 surprised the world with an amazing series of sea victories, due to improved navigation and the sighting of cannons. Our civil war revolutionized naval warfare with ironclads and turrets. The Austro-Prussian war of 1866 brought forward the perfected breechloader, while the great Franco-German war surprised the world with the deadly potency of rapid fire artillery. The Russo-Turkish war gave an illustration at Plevna of the value of the spade which enabled the thinned legions of Osman

to hold at bay and to repel with mighty slaughter the overwhelming myriads of the Russian army. The Boer war showed the efficiency of smokeless powder and long range arms, and the need of open formation in battle and great mobility of troops.

The present war, ought, we should think, to teach us some new lessons. The value of the torpedo, the torpedo boat and the torpedo boat destroyer should be more accurately demonstrated than ever before. Whether the submarine boat will be used and its efficiency ascertained is not known. Wireless telegraphy has its first opportunity of service in war. There is also a rare chance to compare the relative values of sea power and of land power. Nor should we overlook the fact, on one hand, that the newest of civilized nations and the oldest of Asiatic nations to enter the charmed circle of the "great powers" is for the first time to show its capacity in a great war, and, on the other hand, that the European power which of all is most populous, and which has by far the largest army, is now to show whether its military efficiency is commensurate with its physical bulk.

Already there have been some surprises. The Russians were surprised at Port Arthur. The world has been surprised at the readiness and aggressive energy of the Japanese and at the apparent unreadiness of Russia for a contest for which it was supposed she was particularly well prepared. But these things are merely opening flourishes. The real work of the war has not yet begun. When it is well under way, and by the time it is completed, what surprises will the world have had and what new lessons in the most terrible of the arts shall we have learned?

Our anti-American friend the Novoe Vremya and some others are reported to be much concerned because the United States gunboat Vicksburg did not join with the other neutrals at Chemulpo in protesting against the Japanese attack upon the Russian warships in that port, and to regard it as a manifestation of American unfriendliness toward Russia, says the New York Tribune. It would perhaps be more to the point to inquire, not why the Vicksburg did not protest, but why the others did so. Upon the fact of the case we can see no reason why any neutral vessel should have meddled with the affair. It was a fight between Japan and Russia, and it was the business of nobody else. The Russians are said to have begun the firing. Were the neutrals to demand that the Japanese should receive and suffer and not return the fire? That is preposterous. As for the plea that Korean harbors were neutral waters, that is untenable. Korea has been regarded by all, from the outset, as a part of the fighting ground of the war. There may yet be some details revealed which are now unknown to us, but upon the basis of all facts now known it seems to us that the Vicksburg acted with discretion and in accordance with the principles of neutrality.

Napoleon will keep Frederick the Great company on the grounds of the War College in Washington. The antis may object to these statues as an indication of militarism.

Dr. Parkhurst might find the lid off down in Santo Domingo. New Yorkers would at any rate be glad if he went there to see.

The names of the Russians and Japs are hard to pronounce, but they afford excellent opportunities for puns.

The allied powers will find that it was easier to get a judgment against Venezuela than it was to collect.

There must be shorter intervals between the acts if the far eastern war news is to stay on the first page.

It is said that a Chicago professor has been employed to look up the pedigree of Rockefeller's pet dog.

The Japs may be careless about the rules of war but they seem well informed on tactics and strategy.

King Peter is better known than many European sovereigns, but this fact does not console him.

Is the sacred image which the czar is sending to the troops in the far east contraband of war?

In a few years Senator Gorman will be known merely as the man who opposed the canal.

Bryan's partial indorsement has partially injured Hearst's presidential boom.

Santo Domingo cannot feel flattered that Uncle Sam is so slow in annexing her.

Opposition to President Roosevelt's nomination has become a mere reminiscence.

The Russians may soon have to try to force Japan to evacuate Manchuria.

Ex-Representative Shafroth's title is now the Very Honorable.

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