

The Way of Life

BRUCE BARTON

Stopping War

My friend Admiral Samuel McGowan was purchasing agent for the Navy during the World War. He saw something of the fine idealism and sacrifice which war calls forth. But he saw, also, how greed and profiteering and the basest sort of selfishness wrap themselves in the cloak of patriotism and proceed cold-bloodedly to exploit the public necessity.

He sends me his plan for preventing war, to which I am glad to give wide publicity.

"Amend the Constitution," he urges, "so as to require that before war can be declared or participated in (except only in the event of attack or invasion) there shall be a Referendum."

"That if a majority of the votes cast be for peace, there the matter ends; if for war, every able-bodied male citizen between the ages of 18 and 35 shall be drafted, and

"That from the day war is declared until peace is finally concluded, no price or wage shall exceed what it was 90 days prior to such declaration.

"That all profits in excess of 5 per cent shall be forfeited to the Government, and that no person, firm or corporation shall in peace-

time or war-time be received as a contractor who is not a manufacturer, or a regular dealer, in the articles to be supplied—regular dealer being none other than one who, at the time the offer is submitted, either owns outright the articles offered or dependably controls their source of supply."

I cannot see how any intelligent patriotic person can object to that proposal. If we had the sense and courage to write it into the Constitution at once we should destroy war propaganda, for no one would be so foolish as to spend money on propaganda when no money could possibly be made from war.

We should entirely remove the present premium on war and in its stead impose a very heavy penalty.

The silliness of war, under modern conditions of destructiveness, is almost as appalling as its horror. Napoleon liked to tell the story of the Dey of Algiers who, on hearing that the French were fitting out an expedition to destroy the town, sent word that if the king would give him half the money that the expedition would cost he would burn the town down himself.

Our experience with war costs and war debts ought to have taught us that the Dey was a pretty wise old owl!

ROUGH RIDERS



lecting the facts about murder in the United States reports that there are 77 cities in which there are more murders in proportion to population than in New York, and 39 that have a higher percentage of murders than Chicago. There are more murders in Memphis, Tennessee, in proportion to population, than in any other American city.

There is no such thing in any American city as gangs of murderers roaming at large and shooting total strangers because they don't like the color of their neckties, though some such impression of life in the big cities seems to be prevalent.

I have knocked around this world a good deal, and as a newspaper reporter have had to go into some pretty tough districts at all hours of day and night, but I never found it necessary to go armed, nor have I ever known of a sober, peaceful citizen tending strictly to his own business being killed except by a lunatic.

PROHIBITION

OULAHAN

A few days ago the President of the United States took time off from his arduous duties to attend the funeral of a newspaper reporter. A hundred or more of the highest officials in Washington, members of the Cabinet, foreign diplomats, joined Mr. and Mrs. Hoover in paying a last tribute to the memory of Richard Victor Oulahan. I think it is the only occasion on which a simple reporter of the news has been so honored.

Dick Oulahan could have held almost any public office he might have aspired to, he could have been editor-in-chief of almost any great newspaper, but he preferred to remain a reporter in the city of his birth, writing every day for the New York Times the news of Washington so truthfully and in such a dignified manner that he won the respect of everybody in public life, while his personal charm and character made presidents and ambassadors his personal friends.

Dick Oulahan was my schoolmate fifty years ago. His life and career were the model upon which many young newspaper men tried to shape their own.

Anti-prohibitionists are incurable optimists. Finland has just repealed its prohibition law and American "wets" are jubilant.

How little chance there is of any such action in this country is clearly indicated by a poll of the entire membership of both houses of Congress taken by International News Service. Only 155 members of the House of Representatives were willing even to submit the question of repeal to a popular referendum. It takes 218 to make a majority in the lower house of Congress. Thirty-two senators, or exactly one-third were in favor of a referendum. And the question of legalizing beer could muster only 125 representatives and 21 senators to its support.

I think that the proportion is a fair reflection of public sentiment in the United States. The anti-prohibitionists are indulging in what Emerson called "wishful thinking."

WAGES

MURDERS

With all the publicity that New York and Chicago gang murders have got the public has a notion that those cities must be dangerous places to live in. But an Alabama college professor who has been col-

compare "real wages" in European industry with American wages. "Real wages" means the actual purchasing power of the workers' earnings in terms of commodities. As was expected, the investigators report that living costs in European cities are excessively high and that few European workers are able to buy more than the bare necessities of life even in the best of times.

If this investigation results in increasing wages and giving overseas workers a greater purchasing power it will help a lot toward restoring economic prosperity in Europe and that will help all the rest of the world.

DAVIS

Several weeks ago in this column I called attention to the public career of Norman H. Davis and suggested that he was a good man to keep an eye on. President Hoover has just appointed him as one of the American delegates to the General Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva, February 2. Mr. Davis is already a member of the Finance Committee of the League of Nations. Few Americans are better informed on European affairs and international finance.

Mr. Davis is a Democrat, and if a Democrat should be elected President this year there is little doubt that he will hold a high position in the next administration.

Wheat Price Steady In Face of Inactivity

The first of the week, wheat prices drifted lower in sympathy with securities but showed a little more confidence the last of the week, making small net gains, reports Portland Grain Exchange for week ending January 9.

There has been no change in the local situation, the only business worth mentioning being about 800 tons of local wheat worked for shipment to California.

The export situation is still in the hands of Canada, Australia and Argentina. Australia and Canada are supplying the bulk of the supplies needed by the far east while Argentina is pressing offerings in Europe.

The grain markets need something to create activity that will bring them out of their coma and the only thing that will do this is confidence that general business is on the mend.

Portland Futures show net gains for the week as follows: May up 1-2c and July up 3-4c per bushel, closing at 63 and 63 3-4 respectively. Portland, Astoria and Longview visible supply 2,813,310 bushels. Portland car receipts for the week: wheat 255, flour 88, barley 2, corn 25, oats 2, hay 10.

O.S.C. MAN GETS POSITION.
Dr. F. A. Gillilan, professor of

pharmacy at Oregon State college, has been elected western representative of Phi Kappa Phi, national scholastic honor society. He will be in charge of business of this organization in the 11 western states. Phi Kappa Phi in the technical institutions corresponds to Phi Beta Kappa in the liberal arts colleges.

Merl Kirk was in town Tuesday from the Clark's canyon farm. He is pleased over the fine outlook for crops the coming season, there being promise of an abundance of moisture.

Agricultural Staff Men Plan More 1932 Service

How to coordinate work of the Oregon extension service, experiment station and resident instruction in agriculture so as to make this year's limited budgets return the greatest service to the farmers of the state, was considered at the annual agricultural staff conference at Oregon State college the first week in January. This was the first time that all three divisions

had met in such a unified all-staff conference to consider the problem at one time.

President W. J. Kerr in an address to the staff congratulated the county agents and home demonstration agents on the quality of their work in the past that led to retention of extension work in all of the 29 counties where it was in force. He urged every member of the group to redouble efforts to render the greatest service possible during these critical times for the agricultural industry.



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