Reduction of Land Forces

League of Nations Writer Contends that "A 2 Percent of Population" is All Army Necessary

A writer in an English review handles the question of the reduction of land forces in an original manner which even if it is not immediately practical expresses an ideal which is worth striving for.

This student takes the stand that the existence of huge standing armies is one of the chief causes of war and that until those armies are materially reduced there is little hope of permanent peace. He argues that all nations need a small standing army and an efficient but limited militia. "Riots, general strikes, organized crime and rebellion are still realities which must be faced and it would be pure insanity to depend on moral persuasion to deal with such eventualities. But it certainly doesn't need an army of 2,000,000 men out of a population of 40,000,000 to maintain internal peace."

He then goes on to contend that an army based on two per cent. of a country's population would be ample for all internal protection. Everything above such a figure he claims is absolutely unnecessary and is an incentive to military competition. If this figuring was literally applied it would give France an army of 80,000, Great Britain one of the same figure, Germany 120,000, the United States 240,000, and so on according to population.

The proposition sounds at first fairly feasible but on examination many difficulties arise. What for instance, would be the armed allotment for a country's foreign possessions and would France be altogether pleased with an arrangement which would give her late enemy even 40,000 more troops than she possessed?

Whilst these and other obstacles would have to be faced the writer deals in a forceful way with what must eventually be the basis of the reduction of land forces. The idea of aggression and the idea of defence against invasion must both be banished in international polity if permanent peace is to be secured. Aggression is becoming less and less a possibility as the interdependence of states increases but the bogey of defence against invasion still looms large.

It might be contended that there could be no defence necessary if there was no aggression but the present point of view of some nations appears to be that while they would not dream of making war on other states they must maintain big armies to protect themselves from some malignant but unstated enemy.

In the meantime it is gratifying to note that leading journals are tackling the great problems of peace and war with more directness and more sincerity than at any time in history. Such publicity is of immense value to the League of Nations and all other agencies which are helping to wage the great war against war.

Child Wives India's Curse Will Be No More

An Indian View of the New and We Trust, Enforceable Legislation Makes Cheerful Reading

NO MORE "SLAVES"

The horrible era of India's "Slaves of the Gods," as Katherine Mayo has called child wives, is brought to an end with the passage of a bill penalizing marriage for girls under fourteen and boys under sixteen. If the law is vigorously enforced, say its supporters, it will "make for a healthier happier India." An audacious step has been taken, according to some Indian writers, but it means the beginning of a new age in social reform. The law will soon take effect, we are told, and meanwhile it is being anathematized by old-fashioned people who regard it as an unwarranted interference with religion and custom. While some British and Indians in the country congratulate the Government of India for throwing its weight on the right side of the argument, other Indians deplore the Government's actions in giving their whole-hearted support to "so wanton an outrage on Hindu as well as Moslem feeling." These discordant views echo and re-echo in both Indian-edited and British edited journals. The enthusiasm of the reformers is reflected in The People (Lahore), whose observations are here presented in a slightly condensed form:

"The social reformer has reason to rejoice over the work of the Indian Legislative Assembly just concluded at Simla. The Sarda bill to abolish child marriage is perhaps of greater importance than all previous social-reform legislation. The passage of the bill by sixty-seven votes against fourteen inaugurates a new epoch in social reform in this country.

"It is said by critics the bill was passed with the aid of official and European votes. The fact is it would have been passed much earlier if European and official votes had not obstructed its passage. On the present occasion the bill would certainly have been accepted by the Assembly even if officials had kept aside.

"The threat had been held out that if the assembly passed the bill the Moslem members would walk out in protest. The threat was made good, but resulted merely in a feeble demonstration by no more than half a dozen Assembly Mussulmans. The number of Moslems who voted for the bill was much greater than that of the walkers-out, though not greater than those voting against it.

"Now there can be little doubt that the passage of the bill does hurt the religious susceptibilities of some people. Rightly or wrongly they understand some ancient texts to enjoin child marriage or to interdict legislation against it. But a text can be found against every good thing, against teaching the Darwinian theory. There must be a limit beyond which the most ancient texts can not be respected.

"Lives of women and children are more sacred than absurd injunctions contained in texts. Nobody objects to some people clinging to the most preposterous of texts and tenets if the effects are confined to these people themselves. But the nation can not be exposed to dysgenic influences and to all sorts of physical maladies out of regard for the notions of these people. The greatest triumph of the Sarda bill is to establish once for all that marriage laws are not above secular interference."

The People's editorial writer thus gages the effect that the legislation to abolish child marriage is bound to have:

"The Sarda bill will obliterate the worst of the Miss Mayo evils in India. It will immensely enhance India's prestige in the eyes of all civilized nations. It will, beyond doubt, add a good deal to the national efficiency of Indians. In its train will come a revision of other aspects of marriage legislation and all remnants of sex dominance wil have to be replaced by comradeship of the two sexes. The girls rescued from too early marriage will not be merely wasting time. They will equip themselves for a fuller life, and their influence is bound to be felt in social political and cultural fields."

How indignantly the orthodox Hindus regard the new legislation may be gathered from the report that meetings of protest against it are being held all over the country. These orthodox Hindus maintain that child marriage is enjoined by their religion. So they regard the new law as "infringing the elementary rights and privileges of a large section of his Imperial Majesty's Indian subjects." Resolutions condemning the action of the Indian Legislative Assembly were passed at a meeting at Tinnevelly in southern India, which are recorded in the Madras Hindu:

"This public meeting holds that marriage is a religious samskara (obligation or institution) for the Dwijas (the twice-born or the three higher casts, the Brahmans, Kshatriyas, and Vaishyas); that it should, therefore, continue to be performed according to the spiritual texts; that no temporal legislative body of the State is competent to make innovations in the said Samskara; that the Sarda marriage bill is a direct violation of the religious and the spiritual conception of the marriage dharma (religion) of the Dwijas; and that it should, therefore, be opposed by all legitimate and peaceful means."

The orthodox among the Moslems also regard the measure as an unwarranted "intrusion upon the customary law" applicable to them. Authorities on the Sheriat (Islamic law) cried themselves hoarse, but without effect. Finding opposition of no avail, Sir Abdul Qayum, a Moslem member of the Indian Legislative Assembly, declared that "various discordant parties" in the Legislature had collaborated to secure its passage. That remark is taken as a text by the British-owned and British-edited Madras Mail for an editorial pointing out the danger of such tactics. To quote:

"It must be conceded that in different conditions the collaboration which has made the passage of the Sarda bill possible may be employed to wreck like measures, or to impose rules and methods of life and conduct repugnant to the religion of important communities. Fortunately the voting on the Sarda bill revealed no class or communal bias. Members of each community were to be found in each division lobby various communities were represented among the "ayes' and the 'noes.'

"Democracy is notoriously fickle, and democracy needs often to be saved from itself by the application of the brake of caution. Sir Abdul Qayum appreciated the danger of joint majorities. If he be able to communicate his fear to those entrusted with the framing of India's future constitution, we may be spared the worst dangers of such majorities, and assured that every attack on custom and social habit shall be as fully considered. nd as elaborately discussed as the raising of the age of marriage has been. We may, too, see a little more kindly consideration shown to those defenders of orthodoxy who are as sincere in their beliefs as the most ardent of reformers."

Mr. Borley—"I passed by your place yesterday." Mr. Busiman—"I'm glad you did."

Surely We Can Take Exception to the Term "Sport"

A PICTURESQUE TRAGEDY OF THE NORTHLAND

Photograph here shows bag of deer taken in the Upper Ottawa River Valley, near Pembroke, Ont. All good fellows, no doubt, but many disagree with their viewpoint.

Poet Laureate Finishes Strong

Writes 190 Page Poem on 85th Birthday

England may be enjoying the last of her Poets Laureate. Rumor has it that Mr. MacDonald will appoint no successor to Robert Bridges, should his Government outlive the poet. Mr. Bridges has found no inspiration in the births, marriages and deaths of royalty, the recognition of which was the designed function of the office, and was scrupulously observed at least by Alfred Tennyson. Dr. Bridge's omissions may, however, be counted a minor offense in view of his latest activity. "There will be both savagery and war in the world of poetry," says the London Daily Express, "and the strike will be encouraged by none other than Dr. Robert Bridges, the Poet Laureate, the singer with the Trappist Muse." For without benefit of committee to support him, he has reopened the question of reformed English spelling,, and given The Daily Express its cue in writing "That where ther is and savagery, ther wil be war.":

"Dr. Bridges published recently, on his eighty-fifth birthday, 'The Testament of Beauty' (Oxford University Press) a poem of 190 pages dedicated to the King, a monumental work in which are passages of great power and sheer beauty. The book is a poetic revolution, the foundation of a new spelling which experts believe may revolutionize literature.

"The Laureate, silent so long, has exploded a bomb under English literature.

The poem is startling. At times it rivals Wordsworth in sugary simplicity sometimes it is as abstruse and tortured as Browning at his worst, again there are passages of such sweet truth that the reader draws his breath.

"But all through the poem, as if his pen were a lancet, Dr. Bridges has placed the language on the operating table and cut and carved at the spelling.

"The idiom is pseudo-phonetic. Silent letters go by the bord. 'Captive' is 'captiv,' 'will' is 'wil,' 'there' is ther," 'steadfast' is 'stedfast.' This new spelling irritates and jars like too much pepper in a plate of soup.

Dr. Bridges, however, has achieved a great work. There are lines which will go into any dictionary of quotations. "Sang his throbbing passion to immortal sleep' is perfect.

"'That where ther is any savagery ther wil be wor' is merely pen-picking at a platitude.

"Has Dr. Bridges written a masterpiece or started a crusade? It is for him to explain."

Stanley Bruce

Melbourne Argus: Mr. Bruce stands before Australia a beaten man, leader of a beaten party—beaten by compound of self-opinionated folly and self-interest. "Who breaks, pays," has never been truer than it will be of those who have sacrificed the plain vision of obvious facts to the chimera of hopeless expectations. Fallen from his great position, cast out of Parliament itself, Mr. Bruce shines more brightly in his determined and selfless following of the path of duty and the nation's true development than any of those who are now celebrating the victory. He leaves behind him a magnificent record of service and of achievement, but nothing in his career has more become him than his cheerful and unfaltering courage in facing facts and presenting them to ears however unwilling. "Hail and farewell," is all that can now be said to him. He is down, but he is right; and, being right, he and his cause shall rise again.

Square Deals at Round Tables

Hong Kong Weekly Press: (Sir Robert Ho Tung has appealed to Chiang Kai Shek, Yen Hsi Shan, Feng Yu Hsiang, and Chang Hsueh Liang to discuss their differences at a round-table conference). We fear there is little foundation for Sir Robert Ho Tung's optimism concerning a round-table settlement of the differences between the Big Four men, who appear to have nothing in common but mutual dislike and jealousy. The alternative is not necessarily war—at least not on a really serious scale. There are other ways of patching-up differences, and China may—we earnestly hope will—be spared another disruptive outbreak of civil war. True, such a settlement will leave the real cause of the trouble precisely where it was before. Until the armies are brought completely under civil control, the unhappy people of China appear doomed to be helpless pawns in the hands of rival War Lords. But how those without power are to wrest authority from those who have force at their command is a problem as yet unsolved.

Len' "So your engagement to Eva is off. And I thought she doted on you." "Yes, she did. But her father proved to be an antidote."

Many Graduates Work in Canada

Technical Service Council Reports Success at Annual Meeting

Toronto—Three hundred and forty Canadians, most of them graduates of Canadian universities, were placed during the year with Canadian manufacturing concerns and other business establishments by the Technical Service Council, according to reports submitted by Balmer Neilly, vice-chairman of the Executive Committee, at the annual meeting at the Council here recently.

Included among these graduates were 40 who after leaving Canadian universities went to live in other countries. They were brought back to Canada and placed in positions here. Forty young engineers from the British Isles were also placed in Canadian positions.

Encouraged by the success attained to date members of the Technical Service Council unanimously decided to continue and enlarge the scope of their efforts. The council was organized less than two years ago for the purpose of keeping Canadian-universities graduates in Canada ,and to bring the universities into closer touch with Canadian industrial, financial and transportation conditions. Among organizations co-operating with the council are those representing manufacturing ,banking, transportation, mining, departmental stores, engineering concerns, trust companies and other institutions.

The council reported that many Canadian industries employed men with specialized training for the first time during the year, and that a very small percentage of this year's graduating classes in science from Canadian universities have been obliged to leave Canada to find positions..

Sobriety and Prohibition

Calcutta Englishman: Scarcely less significant than the recent growth of illicit drinking in the United States is the change that has come over the social habits of England in the last fifteen years, during which period there has been a decline of 50 per cent. in the national consumption of beer and spirits. . . . The change is particularly noticeable to the Englishman who, after years abroad, returns home on leave; he is at once struck with the almost complete absence of drunkenness in the streets, which used to be a familiar Saturday night feature of industrial towns in the days gone by. Recently published statistics are illuminating in this respect; whereas in 1913 the number of convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales was 172,130, the figure had fallen to 55,641 in 1928.

ONE LADY EXHIBITOR ARRIVES FOR DOG SHOW

Miss Taylor arrives at Crystal Palace, London, with her sheep dogs for Metropolitan and Essex Canine.... Society's Championship Show.

South Africa Has Few Advantages

Missionary Doctor Finds Little to Compare With Canada

South Africa is not a country a Canadian would like, according to Dr. Alan B. Taylor, attached to a missionary hospital at Durban, South Africa, who is home on a year's furlough.

The people seemed to be affected by the climate, he pointed out, and some went native. They tried to bring out British soldiers after the war and settle them, but the climate got them and the practice was discontinued. Now a man is told he must have $15,000 if he comes to South Africa. If he has that, Dr. Taylor pointed out, he could do just as well with it in the other dominions.

The drought is a terrible thing, and four or five years of it in a row will clean a man out. If he has the cash and stamina to hold out, he will recoup the losses, Dr. Taylor said, but many get discouraged and move away.

LACK OF TRANSPORTATION.

Transportation as far as roads are concerned is far behind Canada. Farmers seem unwilling to give their land for a right of way, and the Government cannot afford to buy the roadway, and so no through motor highways exist in the more sparsely settled districts. There are no concession roads there, for the people pay no land tax and got the land originally for nothing, hence their ability to hang on to huge areas. And the farmer as yet can see no reason why a road through his property would do him any good.

Dr. Taylor refutes the statements that the African railways were superior.

"We have about five good trains out there for American tourists and the South Africans never see the inside of them," he said. "The rest of them cannot compare with yours. I have heard people say that they do not like your open sleepers; they are used to compartments, but that is a matter of taste. In South Africa, husbands and wives have to separate at night, all the ladies going in a compartment for ladies, where four or five sleep together, and all the men do likewise. There is no privacy in that, and in my opinion the Canadian system is much bette"

WONDERFUL HOTELS.

"Your hotels are wonderful compared to ours. Very few have baths attached to the rooms.

"Mrs. Taylor, who came from Cobden, Ont., originally, said that she admired the Canadian lighting fixtures. You have such pretty lamps here. If we hav one in the house we think it is a luxury, and that is all we can afford. We pay more than $10 a month for the electric lights in our house.

"Screens, too, which everybody has here, are not known out where we are. We just have to put up with insects, because we have no screens to keep them out."

Dr. Taylor admits he does not like the country much but so wrapped up in his work is he, that he proposes to return for another eight years and concedes that he may possibly end his days out there.

Speaking of the political situation, he believes that Herzog has cut into the Dutch supporters of Smuts for he seems to have many behind him who in the old days were back of the Botha-Smuts party.

Of Herzog he said: "They used to say there were two premiers in South Africa—Herzog and the last man he talked to."

Australian Work in the Antarctic

Cape Argus: The task of the Discovery in gathering knowledge which may prevent the extermination of the whale is of world-wide importance. Norwegian whalermen, who have often steamed into new seas during their hunts, declare that the vast waters of the Antarctic contain so many whales that there is no fear of the industry dying. They liken their floating factories to little shooting-boxes in an enormous forest teeming with game. Sir Douglas Mawson and other scientists do not share this view. The ways of the whale are so little known, in any case, that definite information may be worth millions of pounds.

(Since this was written the Discovery was destroyed by a gasoline explosion and her captain burned to death. Sir Douglas Manson escaped injury but lost the complete equipment of the expedition.—Ed.)

Signing the Optional Clause

Bombay Times of India: Scenes of great jubilation followed the signing of the Optional Clause by Britain and associated members of the Empire. There were "talkie" cameras—one of the disadvantages of postponing the event so long. Moreover, guns were fired. This, of course, is the Geneva idea of converting swords into plowshares. The practice is well known in India, and so long as everyone has ample warning few object. The firing of guns in peace time is no worse than submitting to a flash-light photograph before the hors-d'oevre.

Mrs. Flatbush—"Where have you been till this late hour?" Mr. Flatbush—"To the lecture as I told you before I went." Mrs. Flatbush—"But you couldn't be at a lecture as late as this." Mr. Flatbush—"Oh, yes, I could. You see, the lecturer stuttered."