

Anti-Military Pedagogy.

A League for the Suppression of Tin Soldiers has recently been founded in France. Its theory is that the savage instincts of the young are excited by the use of such toys. The boy who sets up a gaily painted soldier and then bowls him over with a marble is thereby training himself some day to march away to the sound of fife and drum. He may even be awakening those gory instincts which will make of him a Hannibal or a Napoleon to trench whole continents in blood. The paper doll is harmless, the toy fire engine only a nuisance, but death and destruction lurk in the tin soldier. It must be abolished.

This is, on its face, a momentous and at the same time a practical reform. It betokens Gallic finesse. The Czar attempted to eradicate war by calling a Peace Congress at The Hague. But the adult generation is hopelessly imbued with the martial spirit. The nations showed their unwillingness to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Ephraim is joined to his idols. He is to be let alone, but his sons are to be led aright. No youthful hearts are to be stirred at the sight of a martial array of glaring-eyed tin soldiers standing in battle line or ready to be blown from the mouth of a toy cannon in which a rubber band does duty for power. Harmless wholly sheep that beat when the string is pulled are to take the place of the war-inspiring toys.

It must be admitted that the League for the Suppression of Tin Soldiers is working along the lines of the new pedagogy. Good psychology demands that the twig be bent aright. The only question is whether the society is going far enough.

Why should the tin soldier be abolished when nothing is said against the toy cannon? Ought not the fife and drum to be made to follow in the train of the departing military gimcrack? The mimic battleship—both the one that trundles about on wheels and the other which navigates the mill pond—cannot consistently be allowed to remain. Noah's ark filled with curious wooden animals whose legs break off at unexpected moments would make safe substitutes. A thorough revision of the list of playthings should be made as soon as the league gets in running order. It must issue an index expurgatorius.

Societies affiliated with the League for the Suppression of Tin Soldiers will be organized throughout Europe



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and America. The dawn of the golden age is at hand. When children grow to maturity without coming in contact with the horrid influence of the military toy, nation will not longer war against nation. With these vicious martial figures removed from the nursery another generation may see the beginning of the thousand years of peace. The league is right. A bas le tin soldier! Vive le Noah's ark!—Kansas City Star.

Real Trouble With British Army.

Kipling, the poet of empire and the glorifier of the British army, says of his country's officers that they "are as good as good can be, because their training begins early, and God has arranged that a clean-run youth of the British middle classes shall, in the matter of backbone, brains and bowels, surpass all other youths." From the exuberant fancy of the romancer turn to the sober testimony of facts. "It has been within the last five years constantly officially reported that at musketry inspection some 70 or 80 per cent of the men did not know the distances to which their rifles were sighted on back and dial sights, and that officers and non-commissioned officers could not give correct commands for opening fire." This is not the biased opinion of a foreigner. It is a sentence from an English magazine article written by Lieutenant Colonel Pennington, formerly in command of the Second Battalion of the Northumbrian Fusiliers—the term battalion in England corresponding with regiment in the United States. Colonel Pennington's assertion seems almost incredible, yet it is not probable he has maliciously and untruthfully held up his brother officers to the derision of military men the world over, or that a magazine so careful of its reputation as the Fortnightly Review would stand sponsor for such an amazing charge unless it had full confidence in the writer. After reading Colonel Pennington's article it is easier to understand why disaster was reported from South Africa. Two sentences show the utter disorganization that prevails: "Commanding officers of battalions in England are unanimous in stating in general terms that they never see their battalions; and it follows that captains of companies rarely see their commanders. Under such conditions, to expect war efficiency is to expect a modern miracle." And this explains inefficient marksmanship: "The captains rarely see their companies for instructional purposes except during the limited period of some three weeks when an official curriculum of exercises is carried out, and again for a hurried fortnight when musketry is rushed through.—A Maurice Low, in Harper's Weekly.

Our Claim Against China.

The United States is going to make a claim on China for \$25,000,000 on account of damage to the life and property of citizens of the United States during the recent troubles in northern China. This amount is much smaller than the European nations will demand, but it is at least ten times as

great as anybody in this country would think of presenting any nation that was not a helpless nation. We venture to say that for all the damage the United States or its citizens have suffered in China, the United States would not dare to demand of any other nation than China more than \$2,500,000—at any rate we would not dare to enforce such a demand. The total number of officers and enlisted men of our army, killed in China, last year, was thirty-two, and sixty-three other deaths resulted. The number of wounded was 177. Thus the largest possible number on the casualty list is 272. If our government could collect from China \$10,000 for each man killed and wounded, the amount would be \$2,720,000. The losses of the missionaries cannot at the outside be expanded into more than \$500,000. It is said that the cost of our expedition must be paid for by China. The truth must be that \$10,000,000 would be an enormous sum for China to pay us for what happened last year. Fifty millions would be an ample sum to reimburse all the nations, and yet the prospect is that the Chinese will be asked to pay \$500,000,000.—Hartford Times.

The Income Tax.

It is gratifying to know that public opinion is fast crystallizing in favor of an income tax, as one among the most equitable ways in which revenues for the support of the government can be secured. Its adaptation to the needs of local government, as well as to those of the general government, is also becoming generally recognized. Congressman Grosvenor has publicly announced that "there is no fairer or more equitable tax than that which is levied upon profits and the gains of business." That a man with an income of ten thousand dollars a year should go untaxed, while the man with an income of but one thousand should be taxed to the extent of twenty per cent of that income, is an arrangement that cannot merit the approval of any honest citizen; still that is one of the results of our present system of taxation which we meet with every day. The democratic party, as a whole, has been advocating the basing a good portion of our tax levy upon incomes, for some time back. Now, with influential members of the republican party advocating the same thing, we may reasonably hope to see it soon adopted in some form.—Columbus Press-Post.

Municipal Ownership.

When Abraham Lincoln pleaded for a government by, of and for the people, it is probable he had no thought of the direct ownership and operation of public utilities by the public; the term, "public utilities," had been little quoted, if any, at that time, and was not so full of meaning as now. The leaven is growing, however, and the increasing popularity of the question of the municipal ownership of street railways, water, light, power and heating plants—a step in the direction of government ownership, is but a following out of the intent of Lincoln's "by, of and for the people." After all, may it not be that Bellamy drew his inspiration from the great commoner, who, in turn, was in truth a disciple of Jefferson. It is with much pleasure that we note the growth of our hobby and the tendency of the democracy to make it a national issue. Our other pet measure—the issue of all money direct by the government—was made a part of the platform in the campaign of 1900, and with the growth of public sentiment in favor of both these reforms, we hope to see them the successful issue of the future.—St. Louis Labor Compendium.

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