

tries so long and intimately united in the bonds of friendship. I have had opportunity to renew in this country an acquaintance with his excellency, the Japanese ambassador, which began nearly eight years ago in his far away home. I feel that both his country and ours are fortunate in having in the diplomatic service one so fully equipped for the duties that fall to an ambassador. While no one could surpass him in devotion to the interests of his countrymen, it would be equally impossible to surpass him in the courtesy and kindness of spirit which are so valuable in international affairs. He has set so high a standard that the president has been careful to select as our representative to Japan a man of the highest character, of large experience, and sincerely appreciative of the greatness and the progress of the country to which he goes.

"I am sure that Mr. Guthrie will meet the most exacting requirements of his great office, and that the delightful occasion in which we participate tonight may be regarded as fitly representing the amicable international relations which it will be the pleasure of these two gentlemen to maintain and strengthen."

A GOOD SUGGESTION

San Francisco, May 29, 1913.—Chas. W. Bryan, publisher The Commoner. Dear Sir: Do the people who voted for Woodrow Wilson realize the magnitude of the work they have chosen him to do; the difficult task he has on his hands just now and is so earnestly, faithfully and courageously seeking to perform in order that the common people may be relieved of the burden the republican party has made them carry for so many years? Do they realize that he needs their help? If they do it is their plain duty to demand from their senators that they give the president their support on the tariff bill now pending. It is the duty of every democratic county committee and all other democratic organizations to get busy right now to lend what aid they can. Let them call meetings and adopt resolutions calling their respective United States senators to give the president their prompt support. Let this be done all over the country at once. Will The Commoner help to wake the people up and make them understand that they must not desert their faithful leader in this time of need. He needs their help right now.

Let the senators hear from the people they have been chosen to represent in no mistaken words. Keep the wires hot. "Vox populi—vox Dei." Yours truly, ROBERT A. LAURIN.

NO TWILIGHT ZONE

Unless we misread the unanimous opinion of the United States supreme court in the Minneapolis rate case, the decision is neither a victory for the railroads nor a victory for the state.

The court refused to accept the contention of the roads that the rates fixed by the Minnesota commission were in effect a regulation of interstate commerce, although it held that in one instance the rates were confiscatory and hence invalid. On the other hand, the court rejected the extreme state rights contention that the rates were wholly within the province of the state and hence not subject to federal regulation or review.

The court declined to admit that there is a twilight zone in the regulation of commerce.—New York World.

PERTINENT

The New York World suggests that these questions be submitted by the senate committee to the distinguished lobbyists:

"How did you happen to enter the service in which you now are engaged, and when did the pay begin? Did you become an ex-congressman because you were a lobbyist, or a lobbyist because you were an ex-congressman?"

In the beginning it would be well for the senate and the house to withdraw floor privileges to ex-members who use their prestige to act as lobbyist to special interests.

SPEAKING OF CRIME

The New York Herald, protesting against reform legislation, prints a cartoon entitled, "The Crime of Being a Business Man." Now the Herald should print a companion picture entitled, "The Crime of Being a Consumer."

"Wars Are Not Paid For in War Times; The Bill Comes Later"

David Starr Jordan delivered the commencement day address at the Nebraska State University, Lincoln, Thursday, June 12. The Lincoln News prints the following report of Dr. Jordan's address:

"The great aim of the peace movement is to throw war into the background, to make it the last resort instead of the first resort in case of differences between nations and displace its hideous accessories with the courts and conferences that make for peace through law. There is but one form of peace which is enduring. This is the peace of law. The peace of force, won at such enormous costs of debt and treasure is but veiled or frustrated war.

"In the movement for peace, our nation which is the land of peace, notwithstanding its share of silent knaves and noisy fools, must take the lead in this matter. It is the sole international country, the sole federation of great nations into one democratic whole. The world is governed by public opinion. There is no other final court of appeal. To control public opinion we must enlighten it. Knowledge breeds virtue. The graduate of the university should be a missionary of peace, justice and democracy. And so, I bring before you today my appeal against war.

"I shall not speak of its horrors, though there is nothing else so horrible; not of its sorrows, though these have been woman's burden for thousands of years; not of its cost in money, as told by the endless caravan of ciphers—\$27,000,000,000—the accumulated debt of frustrated war for the last century of Europe.

"I shall speak, not of the waste of money, unparalleled in the history of this world, the earning of poor men's lives, spent in futile murder, but of the greatest waste of all—that of life itself.

"It is a fundamental fact of biology that the laws in heredity which apply to man are those which govern the lower animals as well. Like the seed is the harvest—this is the fundamental law. The men you breed from determine the future. Heredity runs level. No race of men nor animal has improved save through selection of the best for parentage. None has fallen save through the choice of inferior stock for parentage. Whatever influence may cause the destruction of the strong, the brave, the courageous, the enterprising, will ensure a generation which shall show these qualities in lower degree.

"Rome fell because the old Roman stock was for the most part banished or exterminated. There was no other cause. The Romans were gone and that was the end of it; while the sons of slaves, camp followers, scullions and peddlers filled the Eternal City. The republic fell when 'Vir gave place to Homo,' real men in Rome to mere beings. The empire fell when the barbarians filled the unoccupied city, unoccupied so far as the men of the old Roman type was concerned.

"We ask no other reason for the disappearance of Greece. Greek art, Greek philosophy, Greek literature, the perfection of form in thought, in action, in speech—all of these were impossible save to men of Greek blood; and when these had fallen in suicidal war, there was no longer the heredity which could replace them.

"Some twenty years ago, I visited the city of Novara in northern Italy. On the battlefield there the farmers had plowed up the skulls of the slain, had stacked them up until they formed a pyramid some fifteen feet high, with a little canopy which kept off the rain. These were the skulls of young men between eighteen and thirty-five years of age, young men from the farms and shops and schools, some from France, some from Italy, the rest from Austria. And as these were, according to custom, the best among the yeomanry, so in their homes since then the generations have arisen from inferior stock. By the character and fate of the common man and the opportunity offered to him the nations must be judged. On him the fate of the nation depends, and the waste of Novara is a waste which is enduring. It is like cutting the roots of a tree while its flowers and fruitage continue. The roots of today determine the fruitage of the future. Those nations who have lost their young men in war have in so far checked their own development.

"Not one Novara could work ruin to any na-

tion. But no Novara ever stood alone. In Lombardy is the little town of Magenta. You know the color we call Magenta, the hue of the blood that flowed out under the locust trees in the park, the blood that stained the river below the hard-fought bridge. Here in a cloister of the old church of Magenta you will find the pile of skulls—skulls of brave men. You can know it by the bullet holes which the spiders for half a century have vainly tried to heal.

"Let us recall the grand army of Moscow, 600,000 men, the finest body of men that ever stood in line. Let us recall the blasts of winter, the burning city, the lack of base of supplies, the hatred of the people of the invaded country. And after that let us see, with the historian, the pitiful retreat of the 20,000 men who remained of this great army.

"The inevitable result of all this must be the loss to the nation of the qualities which are sought for in the soldier. It leaves the nation crippled. The effect does not appear in the effacement of art or science or creative imagination. Men who excel in these regards are not drawn by preference or by conscription to the life of the soldier. If we cut the roots of a tree, we shall not affect, for a time at least the quality of its flower or fruit. We are limiting its future rather than changing its present. In like manner does war affect the life of the nation. It limits the future rather than checks the present.

"Those who fall in war are the young men of the nations, men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five; they are the men of courage, dash and recklessness, who value their lives as naught in the service of the nation. The men who are left are, for better and for worse, the reverse of all this, and it is they that determine what the future of the nation shall be. They hold its history in their grasp.

"However noble, encouraging, inspiring the history of modern Europe may be it is not the history we would have the right to expect from the development of its original elements. It is not the history that would have been made had these same elements been released from the shadow of reversed selection cast by fratricidal war. The angle of divergence between what might have been and what has been is measured by the parentage of strong, capable and courageous men slain on the bloody fields of glory.

"All this applies not to one nation alone nor to one group of nations, but in like degree to all nations that have sent forth their young men to the field of slaughter. As it was with Greece and Rome, with France and Spain, Mauritania and Turkestan, so has it been with Germany and England; so with all nations that have sent forth 'the best they breed' to foreign service, while retaining cautious, thrifty mediocrity to fill up the ranks at home.

"Three million, seven hundred thousand men fell in Napoleon's campaigns. No wonder the life of Europe is impoverished. No wonder that France is a wounded nation, as are all others whose men were caught up in that holocaust. Napoleon, it was said, 'has peopled hell with the elite of Europe.' Stacked up on the field, as at Novara, their skulls would make a pile thirty times as high as our own Washington monument. To this cause of reversed selection almost alone we may ascribe the social and personal deficiencies of the common folk of Europe. If we send forth the best we breed, there is no way by which those of the future shall be other than second best.

"In the break-up of the Roman empire, no province had a better future than Spain, and she, like others, had staked and lost her fortune in war.

"This is Castile,' says a writer. 'She makes men and wastes them.' 'This sublime and terrible phrase,' says Captain Calkins, 'sums up the whole of Spanish history.'

"What shall we say of England and of her place in the history of war? England has made this a British world. Her young men have gone to all regions where free men can live. She has carried the British peace to all barbarous lands and she has made it possible for civilized men to trade and pray with savages. The activities of Englishmen have been greater by manifold than within the little island from which Englishmen set forth to inherit the earth.

"The foreign service of England for a hundred years has furnished careers for the sons