

not far from where the instinct of natural humanity and reason would begin: that war is an evil, coming of evil; that it may be thrilling to our nerves and engrossing of our passions even as many other evils; that it may have its place as an evil, but is to be prevented as an evil and cured as an evil if possible; that if good has ever come of it, this is because the world is under good government, which can bring good out of all evil; of which war is indeed the greatest witness, being man's utmost effort to unthroned that goodness, but an effort spent in vain; and that as man or nation, our best good has come to us in far other ways.

FRIEND TO BUTTER.

Mr. N. S. Andrews, of Dubuque Iowa, in today's

CONSERVATIVE says:

"We do not sanction the fostering of one manufactured product to the detriment of another, nor do we sanction the manufacture of any substitute which is to go upon the market as the genuine article.

"The butter producer does not object to the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, providing it is known and sold as oleomargarine. It is the deception and fraud practiced that is causing this agitation by the producers and consumers through the butter maker."

Mr. Andrews seems unaware that congress passed, August 2d, 1886, an act entitled: "An act imposing a tax upon and regulating the manufacture and importation and exportation of oleomargarine." Section 3 of this act imposes a special tax of \$600 for manufacturers, \$480 for wholesalers and \$48 for retailers. Section 6 stipulates:

"That all oleomargarine shall be packed by the manufacturer thereof in firkins, tubs, or other wooden packages not before used for that purpose, each containing not less than ten pounds, and marked, stamped and branded as the commissioner of internal revenue, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, shall prescribe."

Section 8 imposes a tax of two cents per pound upon every pound manufactured, to be paid

Tax Per Pound. by the manufacturer. Heavy penalties are provided for a violation of any of the provisions of the law. If the butter men wish only to prevent fraud and deception, the present law will suffice. Why duplicate laws already in force?

Mr. Andrews objects to THE CONSERVATIVE'S limitation on buttermakers. THE CONSERVATIVE, in its classification of buttermakers who were demanding special legislation, meant to include only that small per cent, those who raised the purse of nearly \$20,000 to lobby their bill through congress. The farmers and those trying to do a legitimate dairy business had no part in this. The boodle methods of the butter men give a clue

to the character of the legislation they demand. Honest measures do not require Senator Clark-of-Montana methods.

Mr. Andrews asks for an enumeration of all the ingredients of oleomargarine.

Ingredients. They are: Cream, 25 to 40 per cent;

neutral lard; cotton seed oil and oil made from beef fat. All of these government chemists have analyzed and found to be healthful food products. Oleomargarine is manufactured only in government inspected factories. The revenue commissioner of Illinois testifies that the laws relative to taxation and branding are most rigidly enforced, notwithstanding Hoard's Dairyman to the contrary.

Mr. Andrews says: "The only important legislation asked for is that oleomargarine shall not be colored in imitation of genuine butter." Evidently Mr. Andrews regards the demand of the butter men for a tax of ten cents per pound on oleomargarine as *unimportant* legislation. It would be a prohibitive tax and would completely stamp out the oleomargarine industry. How can Mr. Andrews endorse this demand if he really meant: "We do not sanction the fostering of one manufactured product to the detriment of another?"

Oleomargarine is not colored in imitation of *genuine* butter. The natural color of creamery butter is, in winter time, a pale uninviting hue that would not command ten cents per pound. Let the butter men stop coloring their product and there would be no confusion with oleomargarine. Why should the buttermakers be given a monopoly on the use of yellow dyeing materials? These substances for coloring butter are advertised in dairy and farm journals all over the country.

CRIME AND FASHION.

A dispatch from Milford, Del., says that a contract has

been closed there for 20,000 birds to be killed for New York milliners at from 10 to 50 cents each. The contract calls for meadow larks, bluebirds, red-wing blackbirds, crow blackbirds, English sparrows, and baby owls. Stated in the plainest language, this contract calls for the commission of a crime of a cruel kind—a crime made possible under the laws of Delaware but none the less a crime and none the less disgraceful to the state that its laws make the crime possible.

Such a wholesale slaughter of bird life as that contemplated by this contract is a murder of the innocents and a robbery of the state. It sets a premium upon cruelty, and as these birds are of the insect-destroying class it robs the farmers of protection supplied to them by nature. It also robs all the people of one of the most charming accessories of nature. It is, therefore, a crime against

society tolerated by the laws of Delaware.

The aggravating feature of this wholesale slaughter is that it is to be committed to gratify female vanity, human selfishness, and human greed. The women who will wear the plumage of these thousands of birds will not have committed murder themselves, but they are responsible for it. If they should refuse to adorn themselves with the feathers the lives of the birds would be spared. They make the demand, and the milliners gratify it by blindly following the edicts of fashion mongers. The latter plan the slaughter. The milliners agree to purchase the plumage because they know the women will consent to wear it. Fashion blunts all kindly feeling and shows no mercy. Birds are not only killed outright, but birds and other animals are tortured in order to secure their feathers and skins for female adornment.

Female fashions are rapidly depopulating the bird world. The song birds are specially noted for their beautiful plumage and are rapidly disappearing, and now the bird murderers are beginning their destructive work in other directions. The sea birds, and especially the gulls, are vanishing from the Atlantic coast, thousands of them having been slaughtered every year to supply the demand for female adornment and to gratify female vanity. If the various states do not soon enact laws, with heavy penalties attached, forbidding the destruction of birds, bird life will soon become extinct.—Chicago Tribune.

MANAGER DODDRIDGE.

The reliable and readable St. Joseph News of the

14th instant remarks:—

"The resignation of W. B. Doddridge as general manager of the Missouri Pacific railway system is one of the surprises of the season, although such a thing has been hinted at for several months."

Many good citizens, sensible people and admirers of the character and ability of Mr. Doddridge have wondered why he did not sever his relations with the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company long ago. That corporation needed more instead of less Doddridges. In Nebraska he has a dozen friends where the Missouri Pacific Company has one.

The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe has secured such satisfactory results from its experiments in tree planting for telegraph pole and tie timber that it is stated that the work will be carried on to a still greater extent. This road planted 1,280 acres in catalpas fifteen years ago. The total expense was \$128,000; but it is estimated by the railroad officials that in ten years more the tract will have produced \$2,560,000 worth of poles, ties and posts.—The Railway Age.