

The Farmington Enterprise Established 1886 Hyman Levinson, Publisher Chas. J. Lehmann, Mgr. Commercial Printing Dept. Published Thursday of each week and entered at the Post Office at Farmington, Oakland Co., Mich., as second class mail matter. Subscription Price One year in the U. S. \$1.50

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's Note: The writer of the letter printed below, "The Critic," is a resident of this section interested in literary efforts of two regular contributors to the Enterprise, Miss Marie Walling and Judge John J. Schulte. Publication of the first letter written by "The Critic" was refused because his real identity was unknown. Since that time "The Critic" has revealed his identity to the Editor, and his original letter was printed last week.

In the letter printed below, "The Critic" takes up the question of international law and offers some interesting thoughts on the problem of prevention of war in the future. Other readers are invited to discuss this or any other topic that interests them.

TWO DIFFERENT ANALYSES OF THE CAUSE AND THE PREVENTION OF WAR

We agree with Judge Schulte's contention that the elaboration of international law, and the establishment of international law courts are among the essential conditions of world peace. At the same time there arises in our mind the question of law enforcement. It may be true that the average individual has an inherent respect for law—but will respect prove sufficient in all cases? What would happen to the authority of any of our law-courts if behind them were not the constant threat of physical force? Behind international law and law-courts must there not be an organization of physical force prepared to act effectively at all times? We do not mean that it would often have to act—the threat alone would normally suffice to bring an unruly nation to its senses. Great democracies may be depended upon to respect international law and law-courts, but how about such nations as modern Italy under the rule of dictators? What does Mussolini care for international law? Let us admit frankly that we Americans have an unfortunate weakness for attempting the solution of our problems by simply making laws—sometimes just impractical, idealistic laws, incompatible with human nature, and therefore unenforceable—and then self-complacently letting matters rest. If there were a Vesuvius in America, somebody would have a bill in congress forbidding its eruption. We fear that year is a Vesuvius which law only will not suffice to quell.

We believe that the final disappearance of war as the principal method of settling international disputes will come about as the result of the combined working of a number of factors among which law and law-courts will occupy a prominent but not exclusive place. We shall now summarize two different solutions of the problem as propounded by certain distinguished English thinkers. It will be noticed that these proposed solutions do not conflict essentially with each other, nor with the solution outlined by Judge Schulte.

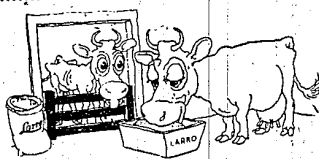
Most of us will admit that Bertrand Russell is one of the keenest thinkers of our day. In his book, "Why Men Fight" he argues that it is preoccupation with possessions more than anything else that prevents men from living freely and nobly. It is this lust for possessions—covetousness—that leads nations into war. A nation is at present very largely an embodiment of possessive impulses; internally, it protects the rich against the poor; externally, it uses force for the exploitation of inferior races, and for competition with other nations. Antithesis with the possessive impulse is the creative impulse. Possession means taking, or keeping some good thing which another is prevented from enjoying; creation means putting into the world a good thing which otherwise no one would be able to enjoy. The supreme principle which both in politics and in private life, should be to promote all that is creative, and so diminish the impulses and desires that center around possession. In short, people should turn more to making and producing things instead of living by getting things away from others. So much for Bertrand Russell's theory.

There is another group of thinkers extending from Malthus down to Havelock Ellis who regard over-population as the chief cause of war. They point out that those great migrations which have devastated Europe during the historical period have been due to the unrestricted expansion of

barbarous races. Hlinders Patrie says, "We deal lightly and coldly with the abstract facts, but these migrations represent the most terrible tragedies of history, the wreck of the whole system of civilization, protracted starvation, wholesale massacres. We must realize that these vast expansions are not confined to the remote past, but are at work in our own day producing the same terrible results. The nations which took the leading part in drawing on the World War, or were most prepared to welcome it, were those nations with the highest birth-rates in Europe—namely, Russia, Austria, Germany, and Serbia. The most legitimate apology yet made for Germany's crime against civilization is that it was necessitated by the expansion due to an abnormally high birth-rate in Germany in recent times. When human beings are produced faster than wealth can be produced, poverty is an inevitable consequence; and when ordinary death and disease fail to keep population in check, war steps in and completes the ghastly business. Is not this the direction in which modern Italy is marching under the dictatorship of Mussolini? May we not conclude that one phase in the prevention of future wars will be the intelligent control of human reproduction? It would be interesting to know what our readers think about the problem of war and world peace. Comments are invited.

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EDITORIAL

THE FOURTH OF JULY

One hundred and fifty-one years ago this week, fifty-four representatives of the American colonies gathered to discuss the serious question of government. Seeking the liberty under free government which had been denied them, they unannouncedly adopted, on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence.

The Declaration and the struggle which resulted from it brought to the colonies the liberty they sought. Their first concern after the struggle ended was the setting up of a new government which would guard and preserve that liberty while restraining the individual within the bounds of a generally-accepted code of law. The code was our Constitution, ratified September 17, 1787.

In later years, July Fourth was set aside for celebration of the birthday of liberty in America, and the day is still regarded as the anniversary of the birth of the United States. In some manner, the tradition of fireworks grew up. July Fourth became a day on which parents reluctantly allowed their children to shoot off fireworks, guns, and toy canons.

What was at first a day of joyous celebration became, with the growth of cities and increasing density of population, a menace to life and limb. The liberty of promiscuous shooting of high-power fireworks became a real danger. Just as the colonists saw the folly of liberty without government to protect that liberty, so the American people learned that liberty without shooting fireworks without restraint was a very real menace to large numbers of our people.

The result was regulatory laws. The 12-inch firecracker was barred and others were banned one by one, less harmful devices taking their place. More popular each year are the community displays of fireworks in the evening. The American people have learned the danger that lies in unbridled liberty with fireworks.

FARMING TODAY

Those who believe that "farming doesn't pay any more," may well ponder on the record of Harry N. McCracken, of whom Farmington township and the entire county may well be proud. Mr. McCracken will be the first Oakland County farmer to receive federal compensation for meeting all requirements in cleaning up corn stubble and refuse of a year ago. He cleaned up 20 acres in the fight against the corn borer.

Mr. McCracken is a scientific farmer, and a conspicuously successful one, successful at a time when many are easily led to believe that farming is less profitable than other occupations. Mr. McCracken has not labored harder, perhaps, than most farmers but certainly he has worked with a high degree of intelligence. It is more than a coincidence that a highly successful farmer-owner should be first to win this government award. The farmer of today who tills the soil intelligently and scientifically takes advantage of the continuous aid of a friendly government, as well-rewarded as any man in any other business.

Twins and triplets were born within the space of eleven months to a woman in Altry, Ireland, which partially explains the increasing supply of policemen in this country.

What has become of the old-fashioned householder who used to spend his spare time in the garden? Even the wisest men go at life somewhat blindly—they admit they can't quite solve the riddle. In the survival of the fittest we fear the automobile will win out against the pedestrian. A business career never lowered the stature of any real gentleman.

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