

propose to the United States Government a convention to see if terms of peace with the United States could not be agreed upon.

But the response of the Allies should not discourage President Wilson. Assuming for the sake of argument that all the charges against Germany and Austria are true, they do not constitute a reason for starving innocent women and children by thousands, for killing soldiers by tens of thousands, if any reasonable terms of peace can be reached and agreed upon.

It seems plainer and plainer that a conference of the neutral nations should be called, to see if such rules cannot be formulated that when adopted and accepted as part of an international code, there could be rules laid down which all the belligerents might accept.

In a crude form something like the following:

Article 1.—The Hague tribunal shall be the parliament of all nations to be in perpetual session.

Article 2.—It shall have a special committee on arbitration composed of seventeen members.

Article 3.—When two nations have irresistible differences they shall not go to war, but must submit their respective claims to this committee for hearing, which committee shall then sit as a court to hear evidence and arguments.

Article 4.—The decision of this court shall be submitted to the whole tribunal and its decision must govern.

Article 5.—There shall be no offensive and defensive action between individual nations, but all nations must be in alliance to make perpetual the peace of the world.

Article 6.—If any nation decides to go to war without the consent of the tribunal, such nation shall be declared an outlaw and shall be pursued by all nations with war, boycott and ostracism.

Article 7.—The armies of all nations shall be reduced to . . . per cent of the population of each nation.

Article 8.—The warships of the world's navies shall be regulated in numbers and tonnage in the same proportion for each nation as controls its standing army.

Article 9.—Neither Article 7 or 8 shall be construed to put any limitations on any nation giving its youths military training, to make effective national policies.

Something like the above, universally accepted, would enable great nations to reduce their expenses by millions and tens of millions annually and enable them to begin their trade expansion, and would cure the perpetual anxiety of weak nations.

It would open the Dardanelles to Russian ships, make unnecessary the fortifying of the Panama canal zone, turn at once millions of men now supported in standing armies into wealth producers, reduce the expenses of the world by uncounted millions—in short be to the world a transformation and give to Christianity more than has been conceded to it in all the two thousand years since the cross began to illuminate the earth and soften and exalt the hearts of men.

A Dismal Picture

OUR friend, Jerold Letcher, has become the feature in the office of secretary of state.

His picture as published in the Herald-Republican would never be recognized by his oldest friends in Missouri, but the friends here who know him best will construe it to mean that he was under a pressure when he sat for it, but that from its frame work the real Letcher could be built up around it. The announcement that he will be the real thing in the office of the secretary of state will be a guarantee that the office will be run on the dead square and with an ability that will never grow lax nor fail to meet every requirement. But that it was a vagrant kodak is

manifest and for the credit of his new office the picture should be supplemented by one that his own wife would know.

War's New Requirements

THOSE who read Sir Douglas Haig's report of the Somme battle, which was cabled a week ago, must have noticed especially what he said of the air craft in his army and how his troops had learned to stand off the liquid fire and poisonous gas of the enemy. The air craft had watched everything and sent signals of what was needed and the danger points in the enemies' lines. He said: "Great fertility of invention has been shown and great credit is due to the special personnel employed for the rapid success with which their arms have been developed and perfected and for the devotion to duty displayed in difficult and dangerous service. The army owes thanks to the chemists, physiologists and physicists of the highest rank who devoted their energies to enable us to surpass the enemy in the use of means of warfare which took the civilized world by surprise. Our own experience of the numerous experiments and trials necessary before gas and flame could be used, of the great preparations which had to be made for their manufacture and of the special training required for the persons employed, show that the employment of such methods by the Germans was not the result of desperate decision but had been prepared deliberately.

Since we have been compelled in self-defense to use similar methods, it is satisfactory to be able to record on the evidence of prisoners, documents captured and our own observations that the enemy has suffered heavy casualties from our gas attacks, while the means of protection adopted by us proved thoroughly effective."

Some months ago, when from Washington there were daily shrieks over the necessity of a better preparedness, we pointed out that the American people never lacked a swift response when soldiers were needed, but asked what the army department was doing to have the means at hand to provide soldiers effectively for actual war. Our thought was that had the same zeal been manifested that is being manifested in European armies, when Villa made his raid upon Columbus, our aeroplanes would have been sleuths on his track the next morning and he never would have escaped.

Our belief is that military training should be a part of the curriculum of all our higher public schools, high schools and universities, that the people generally might become familiar with the simpler duties of the soldier, and that enough officers might be on hand, in the event of a sudden war, to train the armies that might be needed, but that in Washington and in the regular army, there should be a constant effort to perfect soldiers in all modern devices and to try to invent new devices for making armies more destructive. For this special premiums should be paid, which would make every chemist and every inventor alert to earn the reward. If wars can only be stopped by such devices for destroying human life as human nature cannot stand before, then rewards for the invention of such devices should be offered.

War is no longer confined to the earth and the ocean; the air and the deep sea are now included, and the only safety for nations is to be prepared in every way and in every place, for what may come. The most alert soldier and the most alert trained sailor in the nation should be at the head of the army and navy departments, especially of our government.

The New Year

IT was a white New Year's day as well as Christmas, and the new year is filled with promises of good for Utah; mines, fields, ranges,

orchards are all in evidence for profits to owners; the demand for workers is insured, with fair rewards offered, cooks and housewives are drawing more reward than were given learned professors a few years ago, and what is true of Utah is true in every state. Why should not the American people be exultant in the beginning of this new year? According to an act of the English parliament the world was created 4004 years before the coming of the Messiah. That would make this present New Year the 5,921st since the beginning and this last one is more filled with promise than any preceding one. And this is a reminder to letter writers to be sure to date their missives 1917.

For Cheaper Food

THE rural banks, we are told, are for the benefit of the farmers. Why not expand that idea in Utah for the benefit of those who are not farmers but would like to be?

A very large area of the farming lands of Utah under cultivation have been diverted to the raising of sugar beets. This is one cause of the greatly increased cost of farm food products. But there is plenty of land left, which, with facilities for irrigation added, would be available for increasing the food supply; there are, despite the scarcity of labor, plenty of men to be found who would be glad to do farm work. Why can not some of these now barren lands be brought under cultivation and thus reduce the cost of the simpler farm foods?

Why cannot the state intervene in behalf of all classes of people, by becoming a farmer itself? The penitentiary is filled with lusty scoundrels who might be made farmers. Why should they not earn their board by producing more food, or by making the reservoirs and ditches necessary to bring now arid lands under cultivation? Why not have a state farm which would not only be self-supporting, but which would add to Utah a food supply which would reduce the cost of food?

Cannot our new governor and the incoming Legislature work this problem to a solution and start a state farm? The general government would help in carrying water to such a tract. Why not make a move for cheaper food?

THE inauguration ceremonies were simple, impressive and beautiful. But Governor and Mrs. Spry should have walked in front of Governor-elect Bamberger and Mrs. Bamberger up the steps, for Governor Spry was still governor. Coming out of the capitol the order should have been reversed. The outgoing president rides on the right of the incoming president to the capitol, on the left upon returning.

IT would have been an innovation, but it would have been beautiful, could Governor Bamberger, after he took the solemn oath of office, have stretched forth his hands and repeated the magnificent prayer that Solomon offered at the dedication of the Great Temple.

But then, maybe, our governor cannot repeat that prayer.

IT is queer that Ex-Governor Hunt of Arizona should want to advertise himself as a churl to all the world on going out of office. His procedure ought to make every member of his own party resolve that never again should he be put in a position where he could disgrace himself and his party.

WHEN Ex-Governor Spry thinks it all over he should be content and he might hum to himself the words of the old king: "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off."