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Editorial and Business Office,

Search For Peace

About 4,000 years ago a dreamy poet, in the ancient land of Sumer was theorizing upon the imaginary wonders of everlasting Peace on Earth. He inscribed his thoughts upon a tablet made of clay. This tablet was unearthed 50 years ago by a University of Pennsylvania expedition and was translated by Dr. S. N. Kramer of that seat of learning. This Sumerian rhapsody pictures a world free from want and fear; a world of security in which the decrees of the rulers are righteous and just; a universal God worshiped in a universal tongue; peace on earth and a union of all peoples in one harmonious whole.

This charming visionary was apparently not as optimistic as was the tenor of his verse, for he appears to have been writing of a Utopean period which did not, had not, but might have existed. "At the time of writing" his country seems to have been involved in the perennial pastime of warfare, which then—as now — makes life only about half worth living.

Is it not extraordinary that of all the great men—and women—who have lived since, and before, that day, there have been so many who could wage glorious warfare—but so few who could keep the peace? Is it not incredible that knowing the devastation which war creates the great leaders of world thought and culture have been unable to devise a means of preventing it?

If the world was completely ignorant of the "past performances" of the god called "Mars," and had no record of the millions upon millions of human lives which have been sacrificed to his insatiable hunger, it would be reasonably understandable that the world could become involved in such a holocaust as humanity is suffering today. But the world knows what war means. It has a record of destruction dating back 5,000 years. It has only to look 25 years to find these pitiful statistics: Total mobilized forces — 65,038,810. Killed and died—8,538,315. Wounded casualties—21,219,452. Prisoners and missing—7,750,919. Total casualties—37,494,186.

Thank God the fighting forces have not fared that badly as yet in World War II; but they are on the way toward that ghastly record if the reports of losses on the Russian front are to be fully credited.

Civilization is still in its swaddling clothes, but it is nevertheless old enough to know that it may never get out of them unless it devises some scheme to put an end to the slaughter caused by warfare.

This war, Heaven knows, is serious enough, but try to conceive what a world war fought 50 years from now would be like. One fleet of great airships could land a huge, fully equipped, army overnight in almost any part of the earth. Another could carry enough high explosives—of even today's vintage—to destroy New York or London or Berlin, and every soul in those cities, in one round trip. A war like that could very easily break down the control which keeps us functioning and bring on a world-wide state of anarchy from which we might never recover.

It is possible to put an end to warfare; but it requires a combination of brains and selflessness which the world has never yet known. Will the sufferings of this war bring forth the man who possesses that combination?

3rd WAR LOAN
Buy More Bonds

'Mission to Moscow'

MORE SHOE LEATHER ALLOTTED TO CIVILIANS

The War Production Board this week channeled to civilians additional supplies of sole leather for shoe repairs.

In a directive to sole-leather cutters, the WPB ordered delivery of quantities during the current month "over and above what they normally would supply."

Cutters are required to give the directive their highest delivery priority and are prohibited from selling or delivering any leather until terms of the directive are met.

"Give Him Both Barrels Son"

★From six to sixteen (and over and under) America's youngsters are helping to fight the war.

They're buying War Bonds and Stamps with the money they get for collected junk.

They're making it easy for others to buy War Stamps when they deliver newspapers.

They're studying to take their places in the ranks of America's fighting men when their call comes.

They're All-Out for America—and we're all-out for them and their Schools at War Program.

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