

men and markets, or transport, or other consequences of our youth, size and isolation. The fundamental problem, here as elsewhere, is the reconciliation of these opposing forces. Time and industrial peace would solve the minor problems, were this one solved. But this is only a re-statement of the problem, not a solution. It remains to inquire by what means such a reconciliation would be effected.

Means of Reconciliation.

Let us consider a parallel case. Was it not a similar problem, and on an equally gigantic scale, that brought into being the League of Nations? The League of Nations in an attempt to solve the problem of international war. The grim alternative is war and yet more war, increasingly horrible and increasingly efficient in wholesale destruction, till civilisation has destroyed itself. Men have come to see that the one possible solution of the age-old problem of war is the creation of a spirit of brotherhood. Few would deny that, though some might deny its practicability.

The League of Nations aims to create, and to give expression to, such a spirit of brotherhood. It is aiming in the field of international relations, at the enormous task of changing the ideals of governments. Its success and failure will in the end depend on how far the average man, the individual, is imbued with the same spirit. And that is the bed-rock difficulty. Is it possible to change human nature?

Before we attempt to discuss that, let us turn back from the international to the industrial problem. Is not the parallel clear? The world of industry is a world at war, with intervals of truce. It has its alliances, its combines, its trusts, its national and international unions of workers. The industrial problem, like the international one is: How, by the removal of injustices, to bring permanent peace to all these conflicting forces.

To create industrial peace, to substitute co-operation for the strike and the lock-out, team-work for tariff wars and dumping and the cut-throat tactics of international trade—is this quite hopeless—just a beautiful dream? The League of Nations gives every sign of being a great vision realised. It has had already an effect unparalleled in history. But not yet can we be sure of its final success. That depends, as does industrial peace, on whether human nature is capable of improvement.

Is Human Nature Unchangeable.

The majority of people do believe that human nature is unchangeable. On what do they base this belief?

Not on evolution, for the whole story of evolution is a story of change.

Not on religion. The central core of the teaching of Christ was the possibility of transmuting human dross into gold. (Men, comfortable in their ordinary selfish-

ness, have chosen to ignore His insistence in the spirit of brotherhood, that we in the twentieth century are beginning to glimpse as a solution of all our problems.)

Not even on history do the sceptics base their claim. As a world-famous lecturer said in Sydney the other day: "If I'd gone to one of those Italian city States of 500 years ago, and told them that one day their walls would crumble, and Milanese and Florentines would be living together under one nationality, they would no more have believed me than you will believe me when I say that the vast walls of armament which encase the Powers to-day will crumble and pass, that people will realise an ideal of fellowship greater a million times than the savage impulses of suspicion and distrust."

All through the ages there was never a great cause preached, never a great ideal held up before the people, but found its followers. It was the same in the Great War. The men who went did not go only for fun or adventure or because it was the expected thing. These motives played their part, but they saw the war as a righteous thing, a defence of something weak, a needful opposition to something cruel and arrogant.

On what grounds then, would it be claimed that the great masses serving in one way or another in the armies of industry are incapable of being roused by a great ideal—the ideal of peace in industry—common service for the common weal? Are they of different flesh from the Crusaders or the early Christians, or the tommies in the last war?

The Challenge to Australia.

But men will not be roused to a spirit of brotherhood by words. It needed the Great War to produce the League of Nations. Let us hope that peace in industry may not have to be bought at so costly a price. The leaders of Labour and Capital are waking to the dangers of industrial warfare, are growing weary of incessant strife. Let Australia take the lead. Let her create a League of Industry, in which every great group of workers and of employers shall be represented. Let the aim of the League be to remove injustices and preserve peace. Let its members be fired with the whole-hearted will that ever finds the way.

And behind the League of Industry must be a body of goodwill and belief from the rank and file of the nation. To create this, to maintain this, is the task of those who see visions and dream dreams. They it is who will convince, persuade, inspire, and just as a little boy, skilfully guided, directs his pugnacious instincts into constructive channels, so the grown-up children, shown a loftier ideal, will turn from the suicidal folly of warfare to the beauty and benefits of peace.

Let us have the courage of our ideals.

The Brightest Pictures in Australia are in "The Western Mail."