

himself made several during the war when disagreeable necessities arose. The Viscount insisted that the closest of relations should be maintained between the Allies, especially Great Britain, France and Italy. The only reference he made to the United States was that he preferred to wait until the new President had made a declaration of his foreign policy. Another war would be infinitely worse than the last one, he declared, and would certainly destroy Europe's civilization. It is accordingly necessary that the League watch over international armaments. It has been said the League is utopian. My answer to this is, that I prefer the chance of utopian to certain destruction.

Washington, Jan. 5th.—Senator Walsh tonight issued a statement outlining the arguments he placed before the senate foreign relations committee today, relative to world disarmament. He emphasized that the world now was spending millions of dollars for war purposes and had two million men under arms. If half this useless expenditure were saved Europe would have abundance of capital with which to restore her industries ruined by the war, and if she released a million men from her armies her productive capacity, with abundance of capital would be so increased that the economic troubles which now perplex the world would pass away like mist before the morning sun. He also said that he told the committee that, if the present naval construction programme of the United States and Great Britain should be continued, the United States Navy would be as formidable as the British by 1924. But as we have a very big construction programme and Great Britain a very modest one, he added, the effect of the Borah resolution which simply contemplates cutting the naval construction plans of Great Britain, the United States and Japan 50%, would operate to postpone if it did not indefinitely postpone the time when Great Britain would no longer be "mistress of the seas". Senator Walsh argued that a general reduction would permit such a readjustment as would make the strength of the United States at least that of Great Britain. He opposed the suggestion of a proportionate reduction on similar grounds. The committee adjourned the subject, to the call of the Chairman.

London, Jan. 5th.—The Manchester Guardian discussing the signs now apparent that a reduction of naval armament may become a live practical question, says: "How absurd the idea is of our building against an American Navy has just been shown by the report, apparently well authenticated, that Canada is concerting with the United States on a common naval policy in the Pacific. Australia and New Zealand would adhere to it, if given a chance. The Guardian admits that it would be folly to deny that an emergency might

arise in which Japan and the United States might be drawn against each other, and does not conceal its appreciation of certain possibilities of danger. From this it argues that there is all the more reason therefore why the Govts. and peoples should get together, in a universal league of peoples.

Washington, Jan. 7th.—Opposing all plans for cutting down the naval strength of the United States through disarmament agreements with other countries, representative Britten of Illinois, Republican member of the House Naval Affairs Committee yesterday introduced a joint resolution to direct the Navy Department to proceed at once with its big building programme. Coming on the heels of the naval reduction movement in the Senate, the Britten Resolution was designed by its author to put squarely before Congress the question whether this country should endeavour to join with Britain and Japan in a "naval holiday", or go ahead with the construction of the ships.

London, Jan. 7th.—Lord Milner today resigned his portfolio as Secretary for the Colonies. His successor has not yet been announced.

New York, Jan. 7th.—More than 1,000 forged permits, upon which millions of gallons of whiskey were illegally withdrawn from bonded warehouses and brought here, have been discovered by agents of the Internal Revenue Bureau. The amount called for by these permits was said to range from one barrel to 10,000 cases. It is estimated that the value of whiskey, illegally released amounts to \$100,000,000 retail value.

POISONS YIELD VALUABLE REMEDIES

Many of the most valuable remedies known to medical science are rank poisons that would quickly produce death if administered by some one who knows nothing of medicine. Among these poisons is physostigmine, the active principle of the calabar bean. This bean is a native of Africa and is a sort of third cousin to the familiar kidney bean. So powerful is the narcotic poison in it that eating half a dozen means practically certain death. In Africa it has been called the "ordeal bean" because it is sometimes administered to suspected witches. If the accused person vomits forth the poison he is regarded as innocent. If he dies the inference is that he is guilty.

Sir Thomas Frazer, a Scottish physician who died a short time ago, discovered that the poisonous principle of calabar beans is a valuable remedy for treating the eye in some cases, producing contraction of the pupil. It is also used as a remedy for lockjaw, neuralgia and rheumatism.

Another remedy that Dr. Frazer made

available for treating disease is a poison called stropanthus. This substance was first discovered by savages who used it to poison the tips of their arrows and thus make certain that their victims would die. Dr. Frazer found that although it is a deadly poison, it is a valuable remedial agent for the treatment of certain heart affection. His investigations in connection with these two drugs have brought untold benefits to many sufferers. — *The Pathfinder* Dec. 25th.

Germany when she gets to doing business at the old stand again, is likely to find a lot of her trade taken away. Before the war Germany was a nation that devoted infinite pains to perfecting all sorts of little industries and securing a practical monopoly of the market. For instance most of the bronze or gilt powder that the world used was produced in Germany. Now we note that the DuPont Co. is making it in this country, of finer grade than the Germans ever produced, and at such low prices that they will have a hard time competing. However, in many lines of trade the Germans will still be paramount and it will be a blessing when they get to producing again and supplying the rest of the world with the thousand and one articles that they can produce more cheaply than anyone else. — *Ibid.*

SUGAR NOTES

The estimated world tonnage of sugar for the year 1920-21 is 16,775,000 tons. Last year it was 15,376,500 and that would mean that this year, the crop is about 1,500,000 tons more. As is well known, the sugar crop has been gradually declining since 1913-14 when it had reached the peak of 18,667,000 long tons. The increase is mostly in beet sugar producing countries so that the beet apparently is coming into its own again of about 30 per cent. Cane shows a gain of 4 per cent. In Canada the beet crop doubled. South American countries show cane sugar gains. China is also tabulating her sugar production "some claim," for the first time in her history. The land of the Rising Sun has been trying to get up before day for some time in the sugar industry but with its sleep of aeons it has had a hard time in awakening, though at last there is a renaissance in learning, in science, and in the development of nationalism which will yet bring China to the fore as a sugar producing land. — *Louisiana Planter* Dec. 18th.

Montana beet growers will get \$1,000,000 for their output this year. The Great Western Company is paying out this amount and it is only one twenty-fifth of what they are paying out here and there. — *Ibid.*