

commerce and finance tend to peace, and that war is dying "because it cannot pay its way"? Certainly the author has signally failed to make clear his opinion as to the effect of economic forces in causing or preventing war.

Several other economic dicta seem equally inconsistent with the general tenor and purpose of the book: notably the admission (page 78) that "tariff protection . . . may have increased the aggregate of national wealth" (through diverting capital into less productive industries); the statement (page 80) that "if anyone grows rich in a community the whole community is the richer for it" (regardless of how he gets it); and finally, the declaration (page 73) that "the cost of high living falls on the man who lives high" (even though it does check the increase of capital). All of these strike the reader with surprise, coming from the accomplished author of *The Fate of Ictiodoeum*.

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*The Audacious War.* By CLARENCE W. BARRON. Boston, The Houghton Mifflin Company, 1915.—192 pp.

During the winter, the *Wall Street Journal* and several other financial papers published a series of articles describing what Mr. Barron saw and heard in England and France. These articles are reprinted with little change in the book now before us, bearing date of February 15, 1915.

The cause of the war is declared to have been economic, specifically the Bagdad railroad and the commercial treaty which Germany forced on Russia after the Japanese war, thereby turning Russia into an economic province of Germany. This treaty expiring in 1916, Russia was unwilling to renew, but required eighteen months more to complete her preparations for resistance. Germany, on the other hand, according to the author, was resolved to force its renewal at the point of the bayonet, and preferred not to wait until Russian preparations should be complete; hence the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia, the German ultimatum to Russia demanding demobilization within twelve hours, and the German declaration of war on Russia a number of days before the Russian ambassador had even been withdrawn from Vienna. The bulk of the book consists of summary discussions of war finances, especially in England and France.

The author is distinctly anti-German in point of view, though claiming to know Germany better than France, and predicts for the allies speedy triumphs which events have signally failed to justify.

On the general subject of military preparation he seems not to know his own mind. In one place he declares: "The United States does not protect its trade or its citizens anywhere in the world today. It shivers in war time and borrows of everybody else when it has a panic of its own. There is only one way to make trade, and that is to pay and protect" (page 120). And again: "The United States may be dwelling in a fool's paradise from the political, military and economic point of view." On the other hand, after recalling that the German ambassador at Washington asked who could question the right of Germany to take Canada and the British West Indies, and after likewise recounting what happened to Belgium, the author declares, "Uncle Sam only smiles and frowns, *and the smile and frown are potential.*" In line with this assumed potency of the frown of unarmed America, the author also maintains that "for the United States to rush into the maelstrom of war, with organization of armies and the building of armaments, is to invite its own destruction." The reader is thus left in doubt whether Mr. Barron is a member of the Security League or of the Bryan non-resistance party.

Perhaps the explanation of these inconsistencies is the belief that in some manner nowhere clearly explained, this war is to be followed by the age of perpetual peace whose advent idealists in the past have so often and vainly announced.

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*Economic Aspects of the War.* By EDWIN J. CLAPP. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1915.—xiv, 340 pp.

Professor Clapp's study of the effects of European interference with our trade during the war has already received wide attention in the press. Starting with a brief statement of neutral rights as they were supposed to exist previous to the war, the author traces in detail the story of arbitrary changes of sea law that have marked the present struggle, and indicates in each case the manner in which neutrals have been made to suffer. Inasmuch as Great Britain has held the seas, it is chiefly with her infractions of the older rules that he is concerned, and his book has in consequence a decidedly anti-British flavor.

It is Professor Clapp's contention that Great Britain's attempted blockade of Germany is, in international law, no blockade and that it is a failure so far as bringing Germany to terms is concerned. He holds that the losses entailed by British interference with both our export and our import trade have fallen more heavily on the United States