

MISCELLANEOUS.

PREVENTION OF WAR.

A very simple—and, if it were possible to introduce, a very efficient—method to prevent war in the future has been proposed in several quarters. It is thus expressed in a statement of principles issued by the Society to Eliminate Economic Causes of War:

“The surest way to prevent war is to remove the temptation to war. This can best be done by providing the means by which nations can secure and retain peacefully through some representative organization the ends which they would otherwise seek to secure through war. Although the world cannot remain in *statu quo*, there must be a more efficient means of determining policies and bringing about changes than by resort to war.

“It is generally agreed that the causes of war in modern times are largely matters of commerce and trade. If some method can be found by which international trade routes shall become neutral and further unfair legislation by one nation against another shall cease, a long step toward the elimination of wars will have been taken.

“The present disturbed condition of the world's trade makes this a favorable moment for the consideration of a plan based upon justice, economy and security. The neutralization of trade routes and the prevention of additional legislation by any one country against the people or trade of any other country, excepting by consent of a representative international commission, supported by international force, presents such a method.

“This plan provides security and opportunity for all, eliminates the necessity for the control of the seas by any one power, and the opposition to such control by any other. It provides, what perhaps no other plan does, an incentive to states to combine. Nations will naturally combine to protect the neutrality of trade routes and the joint regulation of the extension of national barriers—once such neutrality and joint regulation has been secured—as the easiest and cheapest method of protection. Commercial alliance appeals where political alliance does not.

“The plan involves the yielding of some so-called sovereign rights; but this is more than offset by an ultimate advantage of almost incalculable value. Unless nations are willing to join in a movement for international protection they must continue to compete in expenditures for national defense. There is no half-way ground.”—*Society to Eliminate Economic Causes of War, Wellesley Hills, Mass.*

Another advocate of an international government for the prevention of war is P. F. Schulte of Cedar Rapids, Iowa (Box 43).

There is no doubt that if an international government could be established there could be peace over all the world. It is a matter of course that England would have to guarantee the neutrality of international trade routes by delivering Gibraltar, Malta, the Suez Canal, Aden and other stations into the hands of the international government. The United States would have to do the same with the Panama Canal, and the armies of the great military powers ought to be sworn in for police service by the established international authorities, whoever they might be. As soon as such an arrangement is perfected peace will be assured, and it were better to delay discussion of these detailed plans until such an international government exists.