

From Page 307

A person who accepts this belief will ignore practical avenues for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

"To those who believe that man's 'aggressive instincts' cause a war, let us ask this question: Whose aggressive instincts? Those of the men who fight the war, or those whose acts lead into the war? There is a confusion of thinking here for many people. Only superficially is a war like two men fighting. When two men get into a *personal* fight, each knows why he is fighting and has the alternative of not fighting if the stakes are not worth his efforts. In case of war, on the other hand, the psychologist sees people fighting who are (for the most part) prevented from knowing the real reasons for the war, and are instead artificially motivated by propaganda composed (as we now know) in many cases of utter falsehoods.

"Even if wars were like individual conflicts, the psychologist might still ask the question: Does society tolerate the settling of individual disputes by fighting? It does not. Human beings have accepted courts of law in place of the primitive 'eye for an eye.' No one frets because his impulses to fight over property, differences of opinion, and such matters, are suppressed. Nor is any harm done to individuals by this interference. Then why should we say that because of human nature, nations *must* fight? Psychologists see the possibilities of adequate techniques which can and should be established to keep the world at peace.

"From any viewpoint, the damages of war are tremendous. We, as psychologists, note particularly the great increase in numbers of mental breakdowns, the ruin of many personalities through shocks and strains, the irremediable harm done to those who are mangled

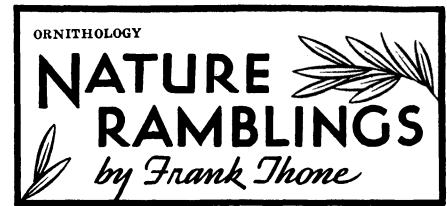
and disfigured, the devastation of economic depressions which follow war—these alone are sufficient, we think, to overbalance any conceivable benefits from war.

"But we must add to these the great loss of human values, the destruction of our moral standards, which are an inevitable part of war. We spend years teaching our children the sanctity of human life, the rights of other people to freedom of action, possession of property, etc. We punish violators severely. But, as soon as war is declared, we tell young men to kill, maim and hurt other men; to destroy homes and lay waste cities; to bomb and gas women and children. Such actions inevitably leave their marks upon the characters of these men. Indeed, we know from the post-war years that such damage to personalities was done, and that it can never be completely undone.

"War is not inevitable, psychologically. It is not part of human nature. It is fought by men who often do not know why they are fighting, doing things which are repulsive to them but which they have been told they must do. It can be prevented. If we learn how to discount the propaganda of warmakers and how to insist upon the peaceable adjustment of international conflicts (as we have upon the peaceable adjustment of individual conflicts), there is no psychological reason for wars to continue.

"This statement is issued by the Council of Directors of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, a national organization of psychologists formed for the purpose of studying social problems and spreading psychologically correct interpretations of them. It is specifically emphasized that this is the statement of the *entire* Council."

Science News Letter, November 13, 1937



Housing Program

WILDLIFE conservation is usually thought of in terms of big areas of land and water, under national or state administration, and with staffs of scientifically trained specialists to take care of them. A great many people have got into the notion that in such matters they may, even must, "let Uncle Sam do it."

This idea is true enough, for some species and for certain particular purposes. You cannot build herds of elk or bison on half-acre lots, and if you want to restore wild geese and ducks to the point where thousands of sportsmen can get good shooting again you will have to plan lakes and marshes in terms of townships.

But the little lives of the thickets, especially the small birds that everybody loves, can be fostered successfully in town parks and picnic grounds, along highways and railroad rights-of-way, even in semi-rural back yards. All it requires is a little intelligent cooperation with nature. Give the birds homesites of the kinds they like, and you will not lack for feathered tenants.

A surprisingly large number of practical pointers are crowded into the few pages of a new Department of Agriculture pamphlet entitled *Local Bird Refuges*, by W. A. McAtee of the Bureau of Biological Survey (Farmers' Bulletin No. 1644). Supplementary mimeographed sheets tell the best species of trees and shrubs to plant, according to the country's ten bio-climatic regions.

Tolerate volunteer thickets like sumac and wild plum; don't keep the ground mowed bare along roadsides; plant desirable food-bearing bushes where they are lacking; suppress the starved stray cat, are a few of the broad general suggestions good everywhere.

Science News Letter, November 13, 1937

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