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Editorial Comment

This is the season of "Peace on earth and goodwill toward men," but however earnestly we wish for it, the world is unhappily not living up to that ideal at the moment. Writing in a British community far removed from the European conflict we are able to extend the old-time greetings to our readers and hope for happier circumstances when next Christmas comes round. The Year 1914 will stand out as one of the most momentous in the history of western civilisation. Great forces equipped with the tremendous resources of modern science, came to the point of clash and conflict, and swiftly the methods of the middle ages were adopted in settling this life-and-death struggle. Britain and her allies are carrying on the struggle with a chivalrous regard for non-combatants, and an honourable resolve to "play the game," but our highly civilised enemy seems at one plunge to have dropped back into the pit of barbarism; some of its warlike methods would shame a savage. Peace when it comes, will see the end of this kind of bloodthirsty militarism, and we may hope that the world will have had such a lesson of the horrors of war that other methods of settling international differences will be permanently accepted.

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The year's record contains many achievements in peaceful pursuits. It has seen the triumphant culmination of the labour of years in the completion of a ship canal across the Isthmus of Panama, opening up a new trade route which will probably affect the world's commerce even more than the construction of the Suez canal. All honour to the great democracy which, undeterred by the failure of the pioneers in the enterprise, conquered not only engineering difficulties, but the tremendous handicap of climatic diseases, in bringing this monumental work to a successful issue. The new science of aviation has firmly established itself, not as a commercial success but as a reliable and invaluable reconnaissance branch of the army in the field. The lighter than air machine, on the other hand, seems to have come badly out of the severe test of actual