

## Is A Second World War At Hand?

# Who, Confronted By A Fascist Hitler, Would Advocate Disarmament?--Who Except A Christ?

**I**S the world moving toward another bloody catastrophe? I suppose I yearn for peace as much as anyone. That does not mean that I want to live a life free from conflict, or that I believe humanity can healthfully live free of conflict, but it does mean that it appears to me as if bloody conflict in the years that are coming will almost bring about the downfall of what we call our civilisation.

There will always be conflict in society, the clash of will and idea, the ceaseless effort of dreamers and doers to persuade lethargic masses that there are better and happier states of society; the destroyer and recreator will always be at war with the status quo. And humanity will be engaged in an endless effort to tame and bring elements to its purpose, to bridle and ride the unbridleable and unrideable, to career through space on some scientific equivalent to the witches' broomstick.

Life, pacifists notwithstanding, is never peaceful. Why, every intelligent unit in society is of himself or herself a battlefield. There is a phrase: "a law of the members that is at war with the law of the mind." There is a war in every human breast, and the most sensitive and intelligent at times knows the greatest devastation as saint and sinner, or, if you believe religion to be merely psychology, as the biological, the physical, Adam and Eve moulded in the environment of primeval conflicts with the Adam and Eve as patterned by the environment of the day in which they live.

For is it not true that we change the economic and the cultural inheritance of the human family far more rapidly than the biological? Hence there is conflict between biological man, man gifted for primeval society—and therefore man born in sin—and environmental man, man living in society, trying to tame unsocial, biological urges with cultures and religions. Man is, and always will be while he lives, the warrior: a physical pacifist would be a corpse.

Alex. Carrel in "Man, the Unknown," shows man's cells at war, but to conserve life. If we live a mental life we know how we are



Spencer Digby, photo.

"War when started will be a bloody suicide in which society runs the risk of perishing," says John A. Lee (above) on this page.

torn between subconscious impulse and conscious scruple which some call God and some accept as an environmental pattern at war with a biological urge. What a war is within the really great minds, what sinners in themselves had most of the saints to overcome. What a war against other forms of life, against the organic and the inorganic forces massed to encompass his destruction man wages, must wage. But all for the purpose of conserving life.

Man alive is, has been, always will be, the warrior, to defend, to expand his life and the life of society. And in certain moods man is always warrior-like in regard to other men, except that he be "Christ-like" and prefer death and renunciation to living. Vicarious Atonement would suggest that human frailty is understood and that "crucifixion" is accepted voluntarily only by Gods who find in the eternal triumph of a spiritual ideal something far greater than the temporal life after which mere humans hanker.

So then, you will say, Mr. Lee, you view with great satisfaction the piling up of armament and dynamite?

No. For man has been and is a warrior to live, but the machine age and the private profit incentive in the use of machinery has given uncanny emphasis not to survival but to murder and the reduplication of murdering machines. The society in which we live is kept function- (Continued next page.)

## WHAT NEXT?

**WHAT** next? In a changing world this is the most insistent question of the day. The "Radio Record" has secured answers to this question from prominent New Zealanders, the first, "Is A Second World War at Hand?" being written by John A. Lee, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Prime Minister and author of "Children of the Poor." Next week's article on the future of religion has been written by Canon Charles Perry, of Christchurch.