

PEACE ON EARTH

BAH! THERE CAN'T BE NO SUCH THING



PEACE? Who ever heard of such a thing? Not while there is K. P. duty to be done in the world or an alarm clock call to fatigue service.

"Good will towards men" might be abstractly possible on a coral island with a boar for an only companion but that "Peace on earth" stuff—

Ex-Editor Cale Fluhart talks on this subject for Abe Martin, noted Indiana humorist, in The Indianapolis News, in a discussion with those seated about the glowing fire in the rural blacksmith shop.

"Peace is an ole, ole word an' one frequently employed by th' uathink-in'. We hear it often t' day! Peace! Webster says this o' peace: 'Rest or tranquillity; calm; freedom from war or disturbance.' All o' these make fer a condition o' peace. But, my friends, peace is a relative term. I don't mean by that that peace is synonymous with relatives. But when we git right down t' business an' analyze things, we realize that peace whatever it may be is a myth.

I doubt if anybuddy ever reached that glorious condition o' body an' mind when it could truthfully be said of him that he wuz at peace unless he wuz dead—an' then it's only mere speculation. We hear o' connubial peace an' happiness.

Ther's little spasms o' peace an' moments o' happiness, but ther mighty fleetin' an' all put t'gether they comprise a mighty small per cent. o' th' whole, ten, or twenty an' sometimes fifty or more years o' harnessed life. Even in flats with no prattle o' children t' disturb th' quiet, no ashes, no drudgery beyond th' occasional openin' of a can o' this or that, the's no such thing as real peace.

Ther's allus too much o' somethin' or somethin' lackin' in ever' life. Business peace! Business would rot without competition an' worry. Industrial peace! That's a joke. Ther'll never be industrial peace till workers fix ther own wages an' then ther won't be peace. Ther'll be no labor peace fire eaters, office seekers, civil service, newspapers, alarmists, salaried reformers, incompetents, grafters, southern senators, western Progressives, eastern reactionaries an' middle west mugwumps, Roman candles an' periodical elections!

Any feller that's tried t' raise a family 'll not be easily taken in by any program o' world peace—even any feller that's ever been almost married 'll smile at th' very suggestion of it. I wuz talkin' t' an unbreller mender only a few days ago along this very line o' thought. He said t' me, 'Stranger, I thought when my wife skipped out my troubles wuz

over, but I've come t' believe that it haint intended fer folks t' be at peace. Ever' since th' war begun an' Kiaochou wuz siezed by th' Japs, I've worried day an' night about th' final disposition o' that German port'. Gentlemen, the's a feller who t' all appearances wuz perfectly tranquil an' calm. He quietly plies his trade with no incumbrances o' any kind save a bundle o' handles. No family, no newspaper, no ashes, no relatives, no politics, no friends, no lodge dues, no home, no hotel, no car fare, no entanglin' alliances, no watch t' wind, no address, no underwear t' change, no ambitions, no second hand car, no favorite author an' no nothin', yit he found somethin' t' worry about—somethin' t' destroy his peace an' it'll be th' same with nations!"

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