

DO WOMEN HATE WAR?

Is it true that women hate war? Or is that one of those human fictions that are accepted because so often repeated?

She should hate it. War destroys the very reason for her being - her child. It breaks down the centre which she creates for the care of this child. But, through all the ages, women have sacrificed sons and homes to the God of War - and they have called their sacrifices glorious. When the God of War came they rejoiced in his trappings, his music, his uniform. And after he had passed on they have done more to keep alive the hatreds that brought him into the field than man himself.

If the avowed hatred of women for war is to be more than a barren emotion, her attack must take on new and more practical forms. She cannot end war by passing resolutions, organizing peace societies, putting up posters - she must get down to cases. No war without its cause. Disputes, misunderstandings, conflicting interests, world old prejudices, fanaticism, jealousy, greed - these are the seeds of war.

If woman means it when she says that she hates war, she has a first imperative duty, and that is, to see to it that these things are watched and uprooted as they raise their ugly heads. She must do her part in finding a way to effectively reach them as she would reach the same kind of thing in the group where she presides. Is woman serious enough in her campaign against war

to make the sacrifice of partisanship, of dogma, of her national prejudices and traditions, and help build up an international machinery which is always - not intermittently but always - on the job of watching the sprouting of the seeds that make for war between nations, - a machinery which cries aloud when a dispute arises and runs to its settlement as one would run to extinguish a blaze that shows itself in house or block.

What this means is the realization of a dream as old as man - a union of the nations to handle their inter-related affairs - a league, an association of nations, call it what you will.

But that is not enough. No machinery functions unless it has the will to function. And it is the creation of the will to end wars that is a prime concern of women. How are men and women in this world to be so disciplined that they will desire the peaceful rather than the warlike settlement? Can we build up common sense, patience, good will in human beings to the point where they will instinctively insist that the international machinery which they have created can and must function for peace? Can we build up faith sufficient in this international machinery to prevent the people of a nation which believes it has a complaint against another nation taking punishment or vengeance into its own hands? There is the crux of your problem - to bring nations to a point where they will not, and will not desire to play the "White Cap."

Faith in the ability of man to rule himself, a real, not an emotional preference for peace to war, and an international machinery through which this faith and preference may operate - these alone will make effective that hate of war which in times of peace woman loudly asserts. Her contribution to these are the touch stones by which it will be proved whether she means it or not when she cries "Down with War!"