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EDITORIAL

AN INT'L TRUST THAT INSURES INT'L WAR.

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BACK from attendance at the Metallurgical Congress at Brussels where, in point of fact, the International Steel Trust was launched, J.A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel Corporation, and Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem Steel ditto, were emphatic in the assertion that the Congress had laid the foundation for international peace. The gentlemen did not adduce the fact of their returning with Italian armor contracts in their pockets as proof of their assertion. It was well they did not. There is a limit in doublefacedness.

Much is sure to be made of the circumstance that the International Steel Trust will furnish rails for railroads. The argument, already foreshadowed, will be to the effect that railroads promote intercourse; intercourse commerce; commerce peace. Hence the Trust, being an international producer of rails, is a promoter of peace. Nothing, of course, is said about "military roads," such as a double-track one across Siberia, and a lot of manytrack ones from Asia Minor eastward. But leaving aside this discrepancy, the Italian armor contracts tell a tale to which there is no discrepancy.

Armor plate promotes no intercourse; foments no commerce; encourages no peace. Armor plate checks intercourse; paralyzes commerce; knocks peace on the head. Armor plate is profitable. This Trust staple must find a market. Where the market is not ready at hand it must be "accelerated." The long and short of the story is that the newly created Trust, already a national instigator of war—how much so may be gathered from the Steel and Iron King Carnegie's prominence at "Peace Conferences"—will henceforth be an international prodder of hostilities.

In all of which is realized an up-to-date instance of the contradictions that are inherent in the capitalist system. Commerce requires peace, yet it superinduces war "to open markets"; and now an International Trust, supposedly a snuffer-out of war

is an earnest of International hostilities.

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