

WOULD ABOLISH "PUBLIC OPINION" COLUMN

To the Editor,

Sir,—Would you allow me a plea for the abolition of the "Public Opinion" column for as long as there is shortage of newsprint! Ordinarily, with plenty of paper space, "Public Opinion" might serve occasionally even useful purpose. But, with the present shortage of space, it seems to be extravagant to let a person use half a column of valuable space for no other purpose but to inflict on the world his personal state of mind, which is 500 years behind the times, or it might be used even for worse purposes than that. I appeal to the earnest seekers of truth to abstain from discussing world problems in the "Public Opinion" column. You can prove nothing in a few lines allowed to you. It is only one word against another word, and in consequence a sterling truth will appear to have no more value than a deliberate lie. Anyhow, "Public Opinion" in a newspaper is a luxury, and in time of austerity we must be satisfied if a newspaper is, for once, what its name stands for—the paper of news. If the editor is anxious to preserve the tradition of "Public Opinion," I would suggest to confine it to items of local interest, particularly economic problems.—Yours, etc.,

S. SUTCHKOFF.

Edith Creek.

[The open columns of a newspaper serve a quite important purpose in the opportunity presented to the "man in the street" to state his views—the only opportunity he has, in most instances. Such publicity is in many cases a valuable guide to public opinion. Our correspondent is giving expression to "his personal state of mind" by proposing that the column be cut out. Does he suggest that world problems are not "matters of local interest!"—Ed.]