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ISSUED MONTHLY

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."—Milton.

Some of our preparedists are having nervous prostration out of courtesy to the militarists of the old world.

The motto of the jingoes is "Run little 'fraid or big 'fraid will catch you."

It does not require as much preparedness as it used to: very little training will enable a man to lie in a trench and be suffocated.

The number of republican aspirants for the presidential nomination would indicate that the republican leaders are suffering from a severe attack of over-confidence.

To the advocates of bigger appropriations for preparedness: Why not put a tax on the jingo papers that are working up a scare, and upon the manufacturers who will profit by big appropriations?

Whatever disputes may arise between citizens as to the preparedness for war of the United States there can be none with respect to the preparedness of a number of republican leaders who want to be president.

It would be cheaper to buy the entire cotton crop at a fair price, use what we need and then dump the surplus into the sea than to go to war over the order declaring cotton contraband—but that would not please the jingoes who are looking for an excuse for getting into this war.

Mr. Taft told the people of California in a recent speech that they were conducting a chemical laboratory for social and political experiments that would cause them a lot of trouble in the future. Mr. Taft failed, however, to explain to them how it was possible to secure better social and political conditions unless some community or commonwealth conducted experiments. And California seems to be doing quite well.

The chairman and secretary of the republican national committee have issued statements in which they predict certain victory for that party in 1916. In view of the fact that a campaign is decided on issues and men and nobody knows now what issues the republicans will seek to raise or what men they will nominate, it is safe to assert that the predictions of Mr. Hilles and Mr. Reynolds have no greater value than any of the remainder of the flapdoole output.

Among the newly erected republican presidential lightning rods may be discerned that of ex-Governor Hadley of Missouri. Mr. Hadley qualifies in a recently printed article in *Colliers* by declaring that the terms "progressive" and "conservative" are impossible of definition and that it is difficult to distinguish between them when various commonwealths are compared. The average voter, however, is not as sadly puzzled as the floor leader of the republican national convention of 1912 is.

The "Blood and Thunder" Gospel

We are getting occasional side lights on the spirit that animates the advocates of preparedness—a glimpse of what we might expect if the government was turned over to them. A fair sample of this "blood and thunder" gospel is to be found in the utterances of a man who is described as "Associate Editor of the Army and Navy Journal." He has (after a careful investigation, of course) discovered that there were no "red-blooded people" in attendance upon the Friends of Peace convention. He also found that "the convention was run by women and ministers." He boasts that he would like nothing better than to get on "the public platform" and ask "what great advance in the nation's history was made without force of arms?"

What new advance has this man in mind? What are we preparing for? He ought to take the people into his confidence—not his mother, if she is living, for she is a woman, and not his spiritual adviser, if he has one, for he is a minister—but just the "red blooded people," and tell them what new movement he is heading for which FORCE is essential.

Possibly the concluding paragraph of his interview may reveal his purpose. He complains that the advocates of peace are trying to accomplish with "fables and propaganda" "that which Christ has failed to accomplish after two thousand years—the overthrow of human nature"! There we have it: He resents the idea that the brute instinct in man can be subdued; the teachings of Christ seem to irritate him. He belongs to the tribe of the "Tooth and Claw." The preparedness demanded by the jingoes is a challenge to Christian civilization—it is a plea for a return to barbarism.

W. J. BRYAN.

RIVALRY IN SCARES

The advocates of "preparedness" are increasing their demands. The Defense league recently demanded \$300,000,000.00 for the navy and \$150,000,000.00 for the army—a total of \$450,000,000.00 a year "to get ready." Now the Navy league raises the bid; it asks for \$500,000,000.00 for the navy, and demands an army of one million men to support the efforts of the navy. Well, such an army would cost not less than \$250,000,000.00 per year—or a total of \$750,000,000.00 per year for army and navy. As we are now spending \$250,000,000.00 for the army and navy, the Defense league wants the appropriations for preparedness nearly doubled, while the Navy league wants three times as much spent as we are spending now. Next! Do we hear a higher bid?

If we start out on a "get ready" policy the leadership will go to the jingo with the liveliest imagination—to the one who can think of the biggest scares to startle the taxpayers into giving up their money. At present the Navy league has the biggest case of fright, but just wait until the Defense league has another scare.

"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN"

"It is an ill wind that blows no one good," so runs the old proverb, and it may be added that it is a good wind that blows no one ill. The new proverb is suggested by the sad fate of the two colonels whose hopes of war have, for the time being, at least, been ruthlessly shattered by Germany's acceptance of this government's position on the submarine attacks. If the wires between Oyster Bay, New York, and Louisville, Kentucky, would only give up their secrets the literature of the world might be enriched by expressions much more pathetic than "it might have been."

GUSSIE'S GALL

Gussie Gardner is telling the world what he would do under the title, "If I were Caesar." Forget it, Gussie! Things do look bad, but it will never come to that. If the public ever connect you with Caesar it will be when they recall what he said about "All Gaul," etc.

If the readers of *The Commoner* visit Los Angeles during the exposition, they should not fail to see the mission play at San Gabriel. It is entertaining and delightfully instructive. It illustrates the work of the early missions on the coast.

AN ENEMY OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE

The Philadelphia Ledger contains the following dispatch from Reading, Pennsylvania:

"All the influence of the Pennsylvania Federation of Liquor Dealers will be thrown against the constitutional amendment which gives women the ballot. Opinions expressed by dealers from widely scattered sections disclosed that they oppose 'votes for women' and they will aid in financing the anti-suffrage campaign. With women voting, the dealers say, the vote against the saloon would be so big as to sound the death knell for the business."

"Delegates to the liquor convention held a session behind closed doors at which they mapped out their campaign to combat the crusade of Governor Brumbaugh for local option. That the liquor men will organize in each county and that they will support legislative candidates who are avowedly 'wet' was the news circulating from the convention hall."

Yes, of course, the liquor interests—that is, those who make money out of the liquor business—are against woman's suffrage. Every man who traffics in sin is opposed to woman's suffrage. But why is it that the good people are not as prompt to take the side for woman's suffrage as the evil influence are to oppose it? If those making a profession of wickedness understand that woman's conscience is AGAINST them, why can those who are fighting against evil and for righteousness fail to understand that woman's conscience is on their side?

While the brewer, the distiller, and the saloon keeper have a pecuniary interest in opposing woman's suffrage, the temperance forces ought to take advantage of this opportunity to enlist a powerful ally on their side. Even the man who uses liquor, unless he is very far gone, will prefer to go to the polls with his wife rather than with those who make a profit out of the liquor business.

W. J. BRYAN.

MR. BRYAN ON WAR LOANS

As to the proposed war loan of a vast sum, now being discussed in financial circles, Mr. Bryan gave out the following statement at Minneapolis, September 11:

"At the beginning of the war this government expressed its disapproval of loans to belligerents. An exception was afterward made in favor of the credits given by banks here to cover purchases. This proposed loan, however, is so large and will require the co-operation of so many people to insure its success that it raises several serious questions, the most important being its possible effect on the nation's neutrality. The president has appealed to the American people to refrain from unneutral words and acts, but this appeal will have little effect if our people become financially interested in the success of either side. If such loans are encouraged, our people are likely to become separated into groups, each group loaning to the side with which its sympathies rest. We have difficulty enough in maintaining neutrality when sympathy rests on sentiment. It will be still more difficult if sympathy represents large money investments."

"We can not afford to jeopardize our neutrality for any money consideration. If Europe wants American money, let it send back American securities instead of asking our people to share the risks of the war."

GERMANY ACCEPTS AMERICA'S POSITION

The American people read with great gratification of the successful settlement of the matters between this country and Germany relative to the use of the submarine. The war cloud, such as it was, has disappeared and the sky is again clear. The sensational papers exaggerated the situation and made war appear more probable than it ever was. It was a delicate situation, however, and had in it sufficient dynamite to have implicated this nation had we had a jingo in the White house. The partisan portion of the press did its best to aggravate the situation, and succeeded in increasing the delicacy of the task, but the crisis is past, and the public shares the feeling of relief which the president must experience in this happy issue of the dispute.

W. J. BRYAN.

Mr. Bryan sent the following telegram to Secretary Lansing, Sept. 1:

"Lexington Junction, Missouri. Hon. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.—Please accept for yourself and convey to the president my hearty congratulations upon the successful settlement of the submarine controversy.—W. J. Bryan."