

of the European war. Even if any had designs upon us, or if we would declare war against any, not one could send a soldier or a ship against us. It could spare neither from the exactions of the present conflict. If, as so many of the jingoes and war traffickers demanded, we had unfortunately had an actual rupture with Germany, which most wisely and fortunately was avoided, (thanks to the patient, resolute level-headedness and big comprehension of the President), she could have spared neither a soldier nor a ship to engage us. Great Britain or France, by declaring war against us, would whip herself and allies on land in less than six months, without our arming a soldier or moving a vessel. Where is the danger now—where are the war goblins to catch our people to come from? Even the Japan goblin, specially fixed up for so many years by Hobson and the jingoes, at the time of each annual naval appropriation bill, is now being laughed at by the kindergarden children. Where is the danger in the future? After the conclusion of the present war, every European nation will be so exhausted in men, money, credit and material resources and its people so burdened with billions of debt and taxation and its land so filled with millions of maimed and crippled and many more millions of widows and orphans, that not one could even think or dream of war with the United States, the biggest, richest, strongest power on earth, with its 100,000,000 people, and its billions of wealth and unlimited resources, fresh, untouched, unimpaired, unless our government, yielding to the jingoes and war traffickers, would take it by the nape of the neck and pull it into a fight with us.

3rd. The conditions of our treasury and our revenues and the necessities of the government are less able now to permit increased appropriations than ever before. The treasury has felt most heavily the burdens of the present war. Our general surplus fund of over \$150,000,000 has almost approached the vanishing point; our deficits are annual and monthly; our revenues have diminished; we have strained the nerves of the government to get sufficient revenue to meet its ordinary expenses; we have been forced to levy an emergency tax, and still the surplus fund is diminishing; our deficits still exist; our revenues still insufficient. I repeat, if there ever was a time in the history of our country when congress and the people could look with complacency upon the safety of our situation and consider a military and naval construction policy with deliberation, without excitement and without haste, it is now. When I sit down, away from the noise and howlings of the jingoes and war traffickers and their yelping pack, and calmly contemplate our exact situation, a navy and army stronger, better equipped, more efficient than ever before, with more battleships, more dreadnaughts, more submarines, more destroyers, more auxiliaries being built than ever before, with less danger from a foreign foe, and, even if inclined, with less power to strike or harm us than ever before, in absolutely no danger from any, with decreasing revenues, vanishing surplus, growing deficits, an extra levy, and then not enough money to meet the ordinary expenses of the government, with those charged with the responsibility searching every avenue for a way to get sufficient revenue during the continuance of the present war to satisfy the absolute necessities of the government, with one section of the country with its 20,000,000 of people pressed to its knees by the burdens of the European war, and then think of some of our usually level-headed, patriotic people catching the fright and fever, which the jingoes and war traffickers have spread, and chiming in with their senseless wailing over our "dangerous unpreparedness" and their yelp for a big navy and a big army! dreadnaughts! battleships! 500,000 standing army! for millions and hundreds of millions of additional appropriations, for more burdens, more taxation, more deficits, and no surplus and no balances, I catch myself asking, what in God's name is the matter with our people? Have we lost our senses and gone mad? Will this naval and military malady spread to congress and consume its reason and blind its eyes to our actual situation and our actual needs? I hope not. I fear so. If we must, in the future, enter a career of militarism and navalism, can't we wait a while? Will it not be wiser for us to await the termination of the present war? And then, having learned its full lesson, with calmness and comprehension, take our proper bearings, determine the policy, and then proceed with the program? Is it not possible, as suggested by the secretary of the navy in his speech in New York in May last, that this war

may revolutionize the naval warfare for the future? Is it not possible that it will demonstrate when ended and its full lesson has been learned, that dreadnaughts and battleships, costing each millions of dollars, and requiring a thousand men and over to man, will be obsolete as a weapon of warfare? Is it not possible that the loss of life, the destruction of property, the untold billions of debt and taxation, the atrocities and cruelties of this war will be so frightful and so appalling that, when ended, the humanity and wisdom of mankind—and none more willing and ready than the present belligerents — will find or make a way for a world wide disarmament? Why put extra millions more in them now? It seems to me that all of us can afford to wait, except the jingoes and war traffickers, who must take advantage of the scare and excitement among our people provoked by the European war and aggravated and intensified by their organized efforts, to whoop it up for a big army and a big navy, for big contracts and big profits; otherwise their day and opportunity is lost. They must hurry; they must rush. Congress need not, and, I trust, will not.

With kind regards, I am,  
Sincerely yours,  
CLAUDE KITCHIN.

**MAKING SOLDIERS AND DESTROYING MANHOOD**

Save us from our friends! Major General John F. O'Ryan of the New York national guard remarked recently in public that "The greatest value of a trained soldiery came from the process that made them mere automatons, trained to do the bidding of their officers. The first thing that must be done is to destroy all initiative, and that with the training, fits men to be soldiers."

The general is quite right, but—we have always thought that initiative was the most characteristic and best American quality, the trait most responsible for the building up of this great country and all the things this nation is most proud of. General O'Ryan's remarks are not calculated to help the advocated army increase in this country. They deserve the widest circulation, for they are likely to do just the thing he does not want them to do—they are likely to make many Americans stop and think before they join the national defense league and the various other organizations formed to boost "war stocks." Is there any really good and valid reason why we should enter on a course of training for our young men that must, if it be effective, rob them of the quality that is their proudest boast? Is there any reason at all?—except the desire to see Bethlehem steel reach the proud pinnacle of \$1,000 a share?—Grace Isabel Colbron, in the Public.

**THE PREPARATIONIST FAIRY TALE INDUSTRY**

The latest fairy tale issued by the preparationist is that Germany will demand compensation from the United States at the end of the war for the sale of munitions to the Allies. The concoctors of this story have forgotten that, though a protest against such sales was made by Austria, Germany did not join in it. They further forget that Germany is even now endeavoring to float a loan in this country through popular subscriptions and offering the unprecedented premium of twelve and a half per cent on five per cent bonds. American citizens who buy these bonds will be giving to Germany practically the same help that munition factories are giving to the Allies. And they forget that Germany has offered to submit to arbitration matters in dispute that have come up. This continuous manufacture of one ridiculous scare after another by the preparationists is itself enough to show the unworthy nature of their demands. —The Public.

Among the important bits of news which the republican papers did not play up so that one could notice it was the statement of Chairman Murdock of the progressive national committee that there are at least 2,000,000 bull moosers who will not swallow anything Penrose et al may hand out via the republican national convention. If compelled to choose between Wilson and a standpatter, he says 90 per cent will vote for Wilson.

A casual scrutiny of the election returns indicates a complete disappearance of the progressive party in many sections. And at that it was simply following the example of the colonel.

**THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION**

President Wilson issued the following proclamation, October 20:  
"It has long been the honored custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many blessings and mercies to us as a nation. The year that is now drawing to a close since we last observed our day of national thanksgiving has been, while a year of discipline because of the mighty forces of war and of change which has disturbed the world, also a year of special blessing for us.

"Another year of peace has been vouchsafed us; another year in which not only to take thought of our duty to ourselves and to mankind, but also to adjust ourselves to the many responsibilities thrust upon us by a war which has involved almost the whole of Europe. We have been able to assert our rights and the rights of mankind without breach of friendship with the great nations with whom we have had to deal, and while we have asserted our rights we have been able also to perform duties and exercise privileges of succor and helpfulness which should serve to demonstrate our desire to make the offices of friendship the means of truly disinterested and unselfish service. Our ability to serve all who could avail themselves of our services in the midst of crises has been increased, by a gracious Providence, by more and more abundant crops; our ample financial resources have enabled us to steady the markets of the world and facilitate necessary movements of commerce which the war might otherwise have rendered impossible; and our people have come more and more to a sober realization of the part they have been called upon to play in a time when all the world is shaken by unparalleled distresses and disasters. The extraordinary circumstances of such a time have done much to quicken our national consciousness and deepen and confirm our confidence in the principles of peace and freedom by which we have always sought to be guided. Out of darkness and perplexity have come firmer counsels of policy and clearer perceptions of the essential welfare of the nation. We have prospered while other peoples were at war, but our prosperity has been vouchsafed us, we believe, only that we might the better perform the functions which war rendered it impossible for them to perform.

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, WOODROW WILSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the 25th of November next, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, and invite the people throughout the land to cease from their wonted occupations and in their several homes and places of worship render thanks to Almighty God.

"IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fortieth.

"WOODROW WILSON."  
"By the President:  
"ROBERT LANSING,  
"Secretary of State."

Somebody counted up sixteen favorite sons who would attempt to erect a lightning rod in the next republican national convention for the lightning to hit. The abundant supply of favorite sons in republican conventions is one branch of production that the democrats are never charged with curtailing.

It is predicted that the vote of Illinois will be cast in the republican national convention for Senator Sherman. This may be taken as a final concession on the part of Uncle Joe Cannon that he really is too old to run.