

own thoughts and to risk his own thoughts and to risk his own opinions in this matter. We are dealing with things that are vital to the life of America itself. In doing this I have tried to purge my heart of all personal and selfish motives.

WOULD DEFEND NATION'S RIGHTS

"For the time being I speak as the trustee and guardian of a nation's rights, charged with the duty of speaking for that nation in matters involving her sovereignty, a nation too big and generous to be exacting and yet courageous enough to defend its rights and the liberties of its people whenever assailed or invaded.

"I would not feel that I was discharging the solemn obligation I owe the country were I not to speak in terms of the deepest solemnity of the urgency and necessity of preparing ourselves to guard against and protect the rights and privileges of our people, our sacred heritage of the fathers who struggled to make us an independent nation.

"The only thing within our own borders that has given us grave concern in recent months has been that voices have been raised in America professing to be the voices of Americans which were not indeed and in truth American, but which spoke alien sympathies, which came from men who loved other countries better than they loved America; men who were partisans of other causes than that of America and had forgotten that their chief and only allegiance was to the great government under which they live.

TIME NOW FOR RECKONING

"These voices have not been many, but they have been very loud and very clamorous. They have proceeded from a few who were bitter and who were grievously misled.

"America has not opened its doors in vain to men and women out of other nations. The vast majority of those who have come to take advantage of her hospitality have united their spirits with hers as well as their fortunes. The men who speak alien sympathies are not their spokesmen, but are the spokesmen of small groups whom it is high time the nation should call to a reckoning.

"The chief thing necessary in America in order that she should let all the world know that she is prepared to maintain her own great position is that the real voice of the nation should sound forth unmistakably and in majestic volume in the deep unison of a common, unhesitating national feeling.

"I do not doubt that upon the first occasion, upon the first opportunity, upon the first definite challenge, that voice will speak forth in tones which no man can doubt and with commands which no man dare gainsay or resist.

WARNS OF RELIGIOUS FEUDS

"May I not say, while I am speaking of this, that there is another danger that we should guard against. We should rebuke not only manifestations of racial feeling in America, where there should be none, but also every manifestation of religious and sectarian antagonism. It does not become America that within her borders, where every man is free to follow the dictates of his conscience and worship God as he pleases, men should raise the cry of church against church. To do that is to strike at the very spirit and heart of America.

"We are a God-fearing people. We agree to differ about methods of worship, but we are united in believing in Divine Providence and in worshipping the God of Nations.

"We are the champions of religious right here and everywhere that it may be our privilege to give it our countenance and support. The government is conscious of the obligation and the nation is conscious of the obligation. Let no man create divisions where there are none.

ASKS RENEWAL OF ALLEGIANCE

"Here is the nation God has builded by our hands. What shall we do with it? Who is there who does not stand ready at all times to act in her behalf in a spirit of devoted and disinterested patriotism?

"We are yet only in the youth and first consciousness of our power. The day of our country's life is still but in its fresh morning. Let us lift our eyes to the great tracts of life yet to be conquered in the interests of righteous peace.

"Come, let us renew our allegiance to America, conserve her strength in its purity, make her chief among those who serve mankind, self-reverenced, self-commanded mistress of all forces of quiet counsel, strong above all others in good will and the might of invincible justice and right."

A WORD TO FRIENDS

The results of elections held in several states on November second indicate that the republicans will be united in 1916. To insure democratic victory many progressive and independent voters must be won to our cause. Systematic and thorough work is necessary.

Workers trained in democratic doctrine will become active and enthusiastic. Every voter may have a part in this educational campaign—and when you get down to "brass tacks" it is the educational work that is most important and effective.

Many committeemen and party workers have suggested that copies of The Commoner are effective democratic literature for distribution. Do you think so? Would it be helpful to place as many copies of The Commoner as possible into the hands of voters in your community?

With all the resources at his command, Mr. Bryan will continue to fight, through the columns of The Commoner, for peace, against militarism, and for good government. The bold demand made by those who favor militarism or preparedness, that our people shall be taxed to provide enormous sums of money to cover the cost of doubling the size of our navy and indefinitely multiplying the size of our land forces, shows how necessary it is that friends who do not favor this radical change in the policy of our government shall be awake to the true situation.

If you feel that extending the sphere of influence of The Commoner will help, Mr. Bryan cordially invites your co-operation and assistance in securing new readers. He must depend upon the voters who are in accord with him in this fight, to place campaign subscriptions where they will do the most good—into the hands of inactive or indifferent democrats, as well as progressive and independent voters of other parties. Educational work during the winter months when voters have time to read, and before the bitter spirit of partisanship is inflamed by the national campaign, will be most effective.

A campaign clubbing rate of five yearly subscriptions for \$3, (or sixty cents each) has been made for the convenience of democratic committeemen and party workers. Where it is not possible to send the entire club of five at one time, just send those you have with remittance at the rate of 60c each, and say you will try to send more later. Mr. Bryan will appreciate your co-operation in extending the influence of The Commoner. May we depend upon your help? If you can not act just now, write the editor of The Commoner a card saying that he may count upon you, and that you will report the result of your efforts later.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

PSALM OF WAR

The War Lord is my shepherd; I shall always be in want.

He maketh me to lie down in mean trenches; he leadeth me into chill waters.

He harasseth my soul; he leadeth me into hellish combat for his fame's sake.

Yea, though I come unscathed from the shadow of death, I shall be no better off, for thou art still with me; thy tyranny and thy taxes discomfort me.

Thou preparest danger for me in the presence of so-called enemies; thou makest me useless toil; my cup runneth empty.

Surely evil and hatred will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the army of the War Lord forever.—Ellis O. Jones, in Life.

In five days of October over seven million shares were traded in on the Wall street stock exchange. The brokers' commissions on these was nearly two million dollars. Yet some of our eminent publicists insist that the only way by which stock gambling can be stopped is to allow the board of governors of the exchange to regulate trading. This would be as effective as electing a board of saloonkeepers to regulate the sale of liquor.

For the year preceding the war Germany expended 293 millions upon her army and navy. For the same period the United States appropriated for the same purposes 312 millions. Does anybody believe that the nation is in any such state of unpreparedness as the eastern press would have us think or as the paid traveling organizers of the navy league and the national security league and similar organizations assert?

In the Interest of Labor

The following letter was received by Mr. Bryan during his recent trip through Ohio:

"As you are coming to Toledo to speak on prohibition there is something I would like to bring before your mind, and if you think it worth consideration, I would like to hear you bring it before the public in your own words.

"I would love to see Prohibition win in every state in the union. But what I wished to say is this:

"My husband is a laboring man. When his week's work is done, his employer gives him a check for the amount due him. Then he must find a place where he can get that check cashed. The banks are closed on Saturday P. M. One Saturday he was refused by four storekeepers, and had to go to a saloon to get it cashed. They cash checks, and it is a good drawing card. When the bartender does them that favor, he expects a favor in return, he will say: "Well, what will you have?" They feel duty bound to buy something, or he too would soon refuse to cash their checks.

"Well, the consequence is that man's employer is forcing him to go into a saloon by not paying him in money. He goes in, and — take a man that is not a drinking man, or one that used to be, and is trying to break away from it — he is tempted and often led by others to spend some of his hard earned week's wages before he gets out of that hell hole. When he goes in, there are often others in for the same purpose, and they say: "Come on, have a drink," too many men, I am sorry to say, have not the courage to say "No."

"Why can not the banks keep open on Saturday P. M.; or why can not the men be paid in money, and save them the trouble of going elsewhere to get their money?

"Wishing you success in your good work, I am,

Yours respectfully,

"A WORKINGMAN'S WIFE."

The above letter makes a just complaint against a custom which forces laboring men into the saloon and obligates them to spend part of their wages there.

There are several remedies for this condition. First: Employers can be compelled by law, if not by public opinion, to pay in money instead of checks. Second: Banks can be compelled by law, if not by public opinion, to make provision for the cashing of pay checks on pay day. Third: The religious and other public interest organizations of the city should provide, until other remedies are found, for the cashing of checks at some place where the laboring man is not subjected to the temptations which throng about the saloon.

There should be in every community, men's clubs, supported either by taxation or by public subscription, where the workmen may meet for conversation and conference. Such clubs should, of course, provide for the cashing of pay checks.

W. J. BRYAN.

TAFT SAYS CONSCRIPTION

A special dispatch to the Chicago Herald, dated Boston, Nov. 5, says: Professor William H. Taft, at a luncheon given in his honor at the City club, today said that he did not favor a large standing army, as he believed it would result in conscription, and made it plain that he opposed the policy as announced by President Wilson.

"We are not justified in rushing into militarism," he said. "The spirit of the people is certainly at variance with the spirit of militarism. The financial condition of the government will not permit the raising of a large army. You can't have any military policy that does not make for a large standing army.

"The navy is not a militaristic instrument for aggression. We can not have a large army without conscription. We are having all we can do today to raise the 80,000 men in our own army. If you are going to induce men to go into the army in time of peace you'll have to double the pay."

Congress will convene early in December. Weather note: Watch out for war clouds from Japan and strong winds from the eastern munitions factories.