

An Appalling Proposition

[From the Fairmont, Minn., Daily Sentinel.]

"As a general rule the Journal-Press has approved of the course of President Wilson when he has been opposed by Mr. Bryan, but in the war preparation controversy, we believe that Bryan is right. If ever there were a time when this country had a right to expect to remain at peace with all the world, that time is the present and for the next half century. By that time the world may have sense enough to realize the wickedness of wars—and in any event the present preparations will be futile to meet conditions a few years hence. The men who are behind the movement to have this country spend billions of dollars in war trimmings are the men who are manufacturing these trimmings." — St. Cloud Journal-Press.

Hon. Alvah Eastman, the man who wrote the above, ranks among the ablest and most influential repub-

lican editors in Minnesota. In all matters affecting the interests of the state and the nation he sincerely aims to stand for right and justice. We commend his words to his republican contemporaries, who seem inclined to take their cue from the big corporation newspapers.

The influences back of the gigantic scheme to bon' this country for billions of dollars to be expended in war materials are sordid and selfish. The conspiracy is well organized, well financed and far reaching. Its success will mean a complete revolution in our policy of government; it will mean that we raise our boys to become soldiers—to forsake their homes, to abandon peaceful pursuits and engage in the business of fitting themselves to maim and kill their fellow beings. The thought is appalling. The proposition is unholy, inhuman, atrocious. It should be renounced by all men and women who make any pretensions to Christianity.

a signature. It is an easy way to quiet the noisy fighters. Why not ask those who are so anxious for large expenditures for war purposes to pledge their fortunes or incomes for the purpose, so that the common people will not have to shoulder the burden of increased taxes and higher prices on the necessities of life. "They are slaves who fear to speak for the fallen and the weak; They are free who dare to be in the right with two or three."

The people will finally be with you, so don't lose courage.

Charles L. Wedding, Evansville, Ind.: You have fought hundreds of battles for the people, but one of the greatest, if not the greatest of all, is your fight against weighing down the already overburdened people with enormous increase of navy and army. I hope you will keep up the fight. I consider your last interview on preparedness, perhaps greatest of all your long list of great and patriotic utterances.

Chase S. Osborn, Sault de Sainte Marie, Mich.: I find a very great deal in your clear and courageous reply to President Wilson's "preparedness politics" to approve and applaud. I thank you for making that statement.

M. J. Costello, Seattle Wash.: I lay down the morning paper to write this all too inadequate expression of thanks and admiration for that glorious speech or declaration on so-called preparedness. I am not a democrat only because of such lines of policy having had the sanction of democratic officials in the past. I am originally from New York, and am familiar with that city and its affairs; and as a democrat in heart and spirit, though not in profession—a lover of the poor and overburdened, and a disciple of Thomas Jefferson—I thank you again and again for your reference to the Manhattan club.

J. C. O'Neill, Oakland, Cal.: Keep up the fight against larger army and navy. Humanity first.

Ludlow Apjones, Springfield, O.: Hurrah for Bryan. You have regained your popularity at a bound. You have put the President in a large excavation (hole). Your reply was the most polished, convincing and scholarly production you ever wrote.

A. M. Willis, Boston, Mass.: Again I wish to commend your attitude expressed in your quoted interview, that you have read the President's speech at New York "with sorrow and re-

gret." At the National Fraternal Congress of America, in August, you remember the enthusiasm and endorsement with which we greeted your utterance along right lines. Personally, I know you will continue in your present attitude of urging our nation to continue in an upright, honorable cause which will invite confidence and love. I believe you more nearly sense the desire of the vast majority of good thinking Americans than any other public man of note.

D. J. Beakey, Eugene, Ore.: I just concluded reading your statement on the President's speech, and I stand with you. I had followed events at the time you retired from the cabinet and felt then, and my feeling has increased every day since, that some how Mr. Wilson is going in an opposite direction to the democratic rank and file. He speaks very often of the people and his desire to know what they think, but I feel as you do that he will never come in touch with the common people in the Manhattan club. There is some strong influence around him, surely leading him and I am afraid you will have to take strong issue with him. I want you to know there are thousands like myself who pursue "the noiseless tenor of their way," whose hearts are with you even though you do not hear from us. There are thousands like myself who pray to God to bless you and give you new strength for the battle; and He hears our prayers. America never needed you more than now. God bless you. P. S.—Why not recruit the Manhattan club and start them to drilling. It certainly would be a shame to deny them the privilege.

T. B. Miller, Clay Centre, Kansas: Read your article in answer to President Wilson's Manhattan club speech which strikes me as a genuine common people's friend. Most of the people I meet (I am a traveling man) are not in favor of militarism or preparedness, as the jingoes are pleased to call it. I go even further than you. I would not advance another dollar on increase of either navy or army and at the end of enlistment of each officer and man, discharge them and not fill their places, until the service extinguished itself, and let our nation go as its citizens go—unarmed. War vessels built now, or guns and ammunition made, will in a few years be obsolete and worth nothing but junk. Better take the five hundred millions and buy a few of the railroads now in hands of receivers, or build highways for the benefit of all the people, instead of using the

millions for the benefit of a few grafters. Let us get on a good peace footing, instead of a war footing. Respectfully submitted by an old soldier of the Civil war. I saw four years and three months' service, saw men killed and wounded, and know the suffering and anguish caused by war; and preparedness means nothing but war. Educate the boys to peace pursuits instead of instruction to kill brother men.

Caleb Lipscomb, Springfield, Mo.: I desire to heartily commend you for your course along peace lines. I have felt that President Wilson would take his position for peace, but now he seems to be fully committed to the crowd that is clamoring for "Preparedness." I take this to mean profits at the expense of a democratic society.

H. Everett Farnham, Saint Joseph, Mo.: I have just written President Wilson of my disappointment that he consents to be the voice for the war party. I can not and will not follow him in this program, much as I see in him to admire. Governor Capper last week in an address, and in a recent letter to me, voices the opinion of millions who are for your brand of peace. We all need to roll up our sleeves and keep busy to stem this evil tide of militarism and greed.

John Gaskill, Newport, N. J.: I read in three papers: Bryan says defense plan menaces peace, and will harm neighboring nations. Though you are criticised for advocating it, your critics are all wise men, and well know what you say is true. I have read somewhere the following: "Do not look for wrong or evil; you will find it if you do. As you measure for your neighbor, he will measure back to you." And as you advocate peace for this country you make me think of a good, wise father counseling his sons to refrain from training to be prize fighters, but better train for higher ideals—better train to be soul savers instead of soul slayers.

C. S. Beadle, Detroit, Mich.: I wish to say that in so far as I have seen your thought in print, I most heartily approve your attitude on "preparedness" as against that of our President. I enclose the attitude of some Michigan alumni towards compulsory military training in Michigan university, as follows: (1) Volunteers of men should be preceded by voluntary payment of money for their expense. (2) Conscription of men should be preceded by conscription of money—and accepted volunteer or conscriptionist in proportion to money provided. (3) Those furnishing their time and lives should not also be burdened with the cost, and let wealth escape its just burden. (4) The oath should run to service for defense and not to the enforcement of ultimatum.

S. Raxworthy and H. A. Freed, Portland, Ore.: The stand you have taken against the administration's program for preparedness for defense has met with the approval of thousands and thousands of people in this state, many of whom heard with great pleasure your speech at the Multanomah field, in Portland, on "The Causeless War." It has given courage to many who are bitterly opposed to militarism, yet felt that their fight against it in the face of the formidable organization which the jingoes have perfected was hopeless. Many of us here are taking advantage of every opportunity we get to show young men and women who are deluded by the preaching of these cunning rascals what preparedness is bound to lead to and who will pay the price in death, misery and pov-

erty which these consciousnessless scoundrels would lead them into just to gain power and riches for themselves. You can rest assured in this fight you will have the support of a large number of people, not only here, but from what we can learn, from every other state in the union. If we win out in this commendable struggle it will be in a large measure due to your prodigious efforts, and we feel and hope we shall. Wish you strength and courage and assure you our hearty support.

F. M. McConnell, Fayetteville, Ark.: As on every hand we see you assailed in the daily press we wonder that you have the marvelous courage to continue the battle for Christian principles. While not knowing you personally, I, like millions, have followed your leadership since 1896. Not blindly, but in knowing that we are right. We admire you for your ideals, your courage, and your excellent leadership. And we find genuine encouragement and consolation in knowing that there is greater honor in going down to defeat fighting courageously for principles of right than to win on doubtful principles. While the expression of these sentiments may consume valuable time, they are made with the hope that, supplemented by others, you may know your steadfast friends are legion.

M. C. Dill, Belvidere, Nebr.: Nearly all the people down this way declare that your position on the question of "Preparedness" is absolutely right, except that class of fellows who oppose every position you take, simply because you are fighting "booze."

J. L. Woods Merrill, Kansas City, Mo.: Nine out of ten leading democrats are with Mr. W. J. Bryan on "Preparedness," and against Mr. Wilson; they are also against Wilson, to think he is with the "Big Interests," and Tammany. You would be surprised how strong the feeling is all thru this section.

Joseph G. King, Kempton, Indiana: I am writing you to let you know that as one of the great industrial classes of our country I want to commend your manly stand against militarism. I am quite sure that nine-tenths of the industrial classes of our country are opposed to any increase of our army and navy. May God bless you with health and strength to fight this wrong.

Harry Groves Kellogg, Delta, O.: I wish to congratulate you upon your stand with respect to this matter of "Preparedness." I have for a long time admired you in your stand upon a great many issues of the day and it is only fair that a man should know who his friends are. President Wilson made an awful blunder when he quoted the Bible in the way he did. The reference that he used has no bearing upon the subject in hand. He evidently has forgotten that we are living in the Christian dispensation. I have written him asking that he give us something from the New Testament.

OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARISM

A Topeka, Kas., dispatch, dated Nov. 12, says: The Kansas state teachers association, in annual convention here today, went on record as opposing legislation which will encourage militarism, when a resolution presented by Dr. Charles M. Sheldon of Topeka was adopted. The resolution, a copy of which was sent to President Wilson, urges him and the members of congress to "adhere steadfastly to the historic principles of our government in favor of international peace and arbitration in all foreign affairs."