

"Preparedness" Not Voice of the People

Representative Bailey of Pennsylvania Says It Is Not Possible for One Man or for Congress to Commit the Party to Military Aggrandizement

[By Warren Worth Bailey, member of congress from Pennsylvania, in New York Evening Post.]

Until the democratic party itself has spoken, and spoken authoritatively, on the subject, it is not possible for any man or any set of men to commit it to a policy of military aggrandizement. Not even a democratic congress can do this: A democratic congress may, indeed, endorse a programme looking to that end. But repudiation of its action by the democratic voters of the land may, and I believe would, follow swiftly.

The President says he "thinks the whole nation is convinced that we ought to be prepared . . . and very adequately prepared." But he does not know and can not know that the nation is so convinced. The nation has not spoken on the subject. The issue has not been submitted to it. And there is little evidence that any sentiment favorable to "preparedness" exists outside that known to have been manufactured by the Navy League of the United States, whose chief officials and promoters are notoriously interested financially in committing the country to lavish expenditures on the military and naval establishments.

If the President is accepting the

voice of the metropolitan press for the voice of the people, he is doomed to a rude awakening. The metropolitan press is allied with Big Business, and Big Business is cheek by jowl with the war trust. The people know this, and they discount the jingo clamors emanating from that source.

The friends of President Wilson who undertake to classify as enemies of his administration all those democrats whose earnest convictions force them to stand out against the preparedness programme, across which he has written his endorsement, are rendering him a poor service, in my judgment. One may surely hold without offense a contrary view on issues not yet passed upon by the party and affirmed. The President has stated his views and they are entitled to the earnest and open-minded consideration of all members of his party and indeed of all citizens of whatever party. But no one is bound by those views. As the party leader, he has and is entitled to have a very large influence on the course it shall pursue in mere matters of policy. But when it comes to matters of principle the party itself must be the judge. It alone has the authority and the right to set these forth and to exact conformity.

Mr. Bryan is acting as the friend and not as the enemy of the Presi-

dent. He believes the latter has misinterpreted the thought of the country. He feels that the President has been misled concerning what the voiceless masses have at heart. And he is going about the United States not to incite a revolt against President Wilson and his administration, but to arouse the public conscience to the threatening dangers of military autocracy. The high aim of Mr. Bryan is not to hurt the President; it is to help him; to disabuse his mind of the idea that the tollers of the land are clamoring for the privilege of carrying a soldier on their backs as they go into the mill or mine; to thwart forces which have ever been inimical to the democratic party and which are not less so now than in the past, notwithstanding their professions of friendly interest and their proffers of active co-operation.

The democratic party is loyal to President Wilson. It is a unit for his renomination and it will work loyally and confidently for his re-election. But this does not mean or imply that it will accept without question a line of policy which reverses democratic tradition, departs sharply from democratic principles and opens the door wide to a train of mischievous possibilities the mere thought of which must give millions of democrats pause.

ROOSEVELT ASSAILS WILSON'S PROGRAM

[From the New York Times, Nov. 12]

The preparedness program announced by President Wilson at the Manhattan club dinner is assailed by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in a

statement made public yesterday, as a policy of adroit delay and make-believe action put forward for political purposes. "A shadow program" is one of the terms the colonel used. The statement is part of an article which will appear in the January issue of The Metropolitan Magazine.

Asserting that the proposed plan is entirely inadequate, Colonel Roosevelt calls upon the "ordinary citizens" to wake to their needs and "lead the should-be leaders" who have failed them. He advocates a regular army of 250,000, with enough officers to command an army of 1,500,000 if a crisis should arise, and immediate action to make our navy the second in the world. He also pleads for permanent munition plants west of the Alleghenies.

Nation's Two Vital Needs

The question of expense is secondary, the colonel asserted, as "five years hence it may be altogether too late to spend any money." Here is Colonel Roosevelt's statement:

"There are two immediately vital needs of this nation: 1. That our navy shall at the earliest possible moment be made the second in the world in point of size and efficiency. 2. That our regular army shall be increased to at least a quarter of a million men, with an ample reserve of men who could be at once put in the ranks in the event of a sudden attack upon us; and provision made for many times the present number of officers; and in administration, provision made for a combination of entire efficiency with rigid economy that will begin with the abandonment of the many useless army posts and navy yards.

"Neither of these needs is in any way met by the President's proposals. I am sincerely glad that he has now reversed the attitude taken in his message to congress a year ago, in which he advocated keeping this nation unprepared and helpless to defend its honor and vital interest against foreign foes. But I no less sincerely regret that he has not thought out the situation and is not

prepared to present a real and substantial plan for defense instead of a shadow program."

HAD TO HAVE PRACTICE

A special dispatch to the New York Times from White Plains, N. J., dated Sept. 26, says: With seven more members of the Hartsdale volunteer fire department lodged in the county jail here today, together with four who were arrested yesterday, the town of Hartsdale, strange as it sounds, feels safer than it has felt for some time. An epidemic of fires, though it disclosed the high efficiency of the volunteer force, nevertheless had the town alarmed until it learned last night that the firemen were setting them just to practice on.

Like the horse that died just as its owner had taught it to eat straw, the firemen feel that they have been unwarrantably checked just when they were becoming so expert that Hartsdale need never have feared a fire. They didn't count the ones they set themselves, for none could know better than they how to extinguish these blazes with the greatest display and the least danger.

The trouble came from two causes. First, Hartsdale almost never had a fire; second, the department had a new motor engine. For a time, after the acquisition of this piece of apparatus, the firemen waited hopefully for a blaze. Then they took to praying for one, and at last they determined to take matters in their own hands.

It has developed in the confessions of several of them, according to Sheriff Weisendanger, that the firemen used to cut cards to see which among them would set the next fire, the only restriction they put on themselves being not to start a blaze in an occupied house. That, say the townsfolk, probably would have come later, as a sort of post-graduate course in fire-fighting.

Chester Sneath, who works in his mother's little general store, when he isn't being a fireman, was so proud of the success that had crowned his arsonistical efforts that, according to

Deputy Sheriff John C. Moore, he couldn't resist boasting about them in a Hartsdale house of cheer, and the wholesale arrest of the department was the result.

The men arrested today were Joe and Jerome O'Connor, brothers; Samuel and Frank Dalton, also brothers; Raymond Russell, Ellsworth Hopkins, and John Nicholson. All are young men.

It is planned to arraign the eleven men tomorrow, and later their cases will be presented to the grand jury.

A New York dispatch to the Chicago Herald, dated Nov. 6, says: Tammany leaders today were highly pleased with conferences held here this week during the visit of President Wilson to New York. Friends of Roger C. Sullivan of Chicago also made it known that they were looking forward to co-operation in the coming campaign with the national administration.

It is known that members of the national committee and close personal friends of the President, who were in touch with the President while he was here, held conferences with Charles F. Murphy of Tammany Hall and with Sullivan.

The Illinois situation was discussed at breakfast yesterday, and it is stated that the Sullivan leaders now are in accord with the national organization.

President Wilson himself did not participate in any of these conferences, but persons in close touch with the situation assert that all differences that existed between the Murphy and Sullivan organizations and the national organization at Washington had been ironed out. Both Murphy and Sullivan made it known that they now plan to support the President for renomination.

The United States

has produced the largest crops in its history for the year 1915, and for their efforts the farmers will receive more money than ever before.

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WISE WORDS A Physician on Food

A physician out in Oregon has views about food. He says:

"I have always believed that the duty of the physician does not cease with treating the sick, but that we owe it to humanity to teach them how to protect their health especially by hygienic and dietetic laws.

"With such a feeling as to my duty I take great pleasure in saying, that, in my own experience and also from personal observation, I have found no food to equal Grape-Nuts and that I find there is almost no limit to the great benefit this food will bring when used in all cases of sickness and convalescence.

"It is my experience that no physical condition forbids the use of Grape-Nuts. To persons in health there is nothing so nourishing and acceptable to the stomach especially at breakfast to start the machinery of the human system on the day's work.

"In cases of indigestion I know that a complete breakfast can be made of Grape-Nuts and cream; and I think it is necessary not to overload the stomach at the morning meal. I also know the great value of Grape-Nuts when the stomach is too weak to digest other food.

"This is written after an experience of more than 20 years treating all manner of chronic and acute diseases, and the letter is voluntary on my part without any request for it."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.