

THE NOVEMBER COMMONER

Escabana, Mich., Nov. 20, 1915—The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.: The first page of the November Commoner should be posted upon every wall in the United States, that all the people may read it and think about it.

Yours truly,
JOS. F. CUDDY.

that if that plan is frustrated the people will have to wake up to their peril and circulate petitions to send to their congressmen protesting against those military measures. There ought to be some concerted plan started for that purpose, and some one in every city, town and school district in this country that would be glad to do that work. I have started such a petition, and find that a large majority are pleased to sign it.

Sylvester Hassel, Williamston, N. C.: I have taken The Commoner ever since its first publication, and I believe you to be the most Christian statesman in the world, and that, for the last twenty years the Lord has made you a greater blessing to your country than any other man in it, and I desire to thank Him for your character, your ability, and your patriotism. Especially do I endorse your earnest opposition to making the United States a military nation, and I believe that the great masses of our people heartily approve of your course in this matter.

S. C. Cibson, San Leandro, Cal.: Please accept my hearty congratulations on your attitude on war measures. I feel sure that a large per cent of the best element of the country are with you, and trust that this element will make its self heard in the coming session of congress.

Floyd Bushnell, Butte, Mont.: I admire your stand on the preparedness plan, and I believe the large majority of the working men of this country are with you. I have great confidence in you and I believe that you are sincerely working for the common people, no matter what the cost. May you be spared many years to espouse the cause of the common man.

F. R. Constance, Waupaca, Wis.: I notice with a great deal of interest the controversy going on over "preparedness." I can but feel that your position is right and that this "preparedness programme" is fostered and being pushed by that same element whom J. Clark Ridpath spoke of in 1896 when he said "They (the money trust) would plunge the whole world into war to enrich their unholy coffers." I notice that yourself, President Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt are quoting Scripture, and I wonder you have not called their attention to Matt. XXVI.: 52. If we are going to have any Scripture, and the Christian religion amounts to anything, let us have quotations from the New Testament, not the old. I am opposed to a big army or navy. Let us remember Lincoln's remark that "The strength of a nation lies not in armies, etc., etc., but in a contented people." I can not quote exact, but you probably recall the passage to which I refer.

W. W. Palmer, Glasco, Kansas: You can depend upon me doing all I can to increase the circulation of The Commoner. In its columns I get more valuable political reading than

in all the rest of the papers I take or read. I believe the stand Mr. Bryan has taken, and always advocated, is eternally right and will prevail. It merits the support of the American people. I served three years in the Civil war. Don't want to go to war any more, nor have any of my boys go. But if country should be attacked by any foreign foe, we would all go to its defense. God bless W. J. Bryan and give him strength to continue the good work he is doing.

I. W. Howerth, Berkeley, Cal.: I approve most heartily of your whole attitude with respect to "preparedness." I regard the question as one of the utmost gravity. If the plan approved by the President is entered upon, we shall have committed ourselves to a policy which has invariably proved disastrous.

Irwin B. Linton, Washington, D. C.: Before the receipt of the last copy of your "Commoner," I had expressed to friends my conviction of the correctness of your position respecting the present craze for "preparedness." Please accept my congratulations upon the noble, courageous, Christian spirit you show. It is strange that the folly of expending vast sums at this particular time in preparing for war does not appear to those other honest men in our party as it does to Mr. Kitchin and yourself. It looks as if the whole world—including our beloved United States—is to be caught in the whirl of war-mad men as they dash blindly onward. But thank God, it probably means the near approach of the glorious "Prince of Peace" in person.

Rev. J. Wilson Brown, Sharpsburg, Pa.: I am taking the liberty of writing to you to express my pleasure and appreciation for the strong stand you have taken on international peace, based on the principles of the sermon on the mount. What a great opportunity we as a nation now have to teach the other nations of the world some beautiful and all important lessons on what is truly the basis of true and permanent peace. I am so pleased to know that you see this thing from a Christian standpoint, and trust that God may raise up for us other true Christian statesmen who will carefully and prayerfully influence and direct the affairs of our country at this critical time.

Edna H. Edwards, Chicago, Ill.: I can not resist the temptation to write you a letter giving my most emphatic approval and hearty thanks for the work you are trying to do and are doing for the people of this country. I have just finished reading the November issue of The Commoner, and I am delighted to know there still are a few publications who are on the side of the people. You have a soul as big as a mountain, and a brain to match it. What puzzles me is how any minister of the gospel can oppose your views on this question of preparedness. It is such good, common sense. Thanking you for your work in behalf of the American people.

L. McGown, Bangor, Maine: I am with you in the belief of peace, and hope you can exert influence enough over congress and the people to keep us away from militarism.

Ross L. Finney, Valley City, N. Dak.: Though but a voice out of the multitude, I wish to have my say to you, because you of all men can say what I say to you—if you think it worth saying—so that the whole nation can hear it. I can not doubt that this armament "hurrah" hails from the steel trust. The tariff by which \$600,000,000 of steel water was given a market value is gone. The foreign war market will come pres-



FIGHTING THE WAR SPIRIT

—From the Nashville Tennessean.

ently to an end. Then times will be dull. Then the public must be hoaxed in some new way if they are still to fatten the trust. This preparedness nonsense sounds to me like bluster to that end. Otherwise, how explain the unanimity of the press and the sameness of their arguments, i.e., the appeal to the mothers that preparedness saves lives? How account for the resolutions from business associations unless they have been coached into believing it means "prosperity." How long shall the concentration of wealth continue unchecked while the interests hoax and fool the people? What will the end be? If it looks that way to you, say so, loud; the papers won't!

Ed. F. Reaser, Reedsville, W. Va.: It should be an encouragement to know that there are a number of people capable of appreciating the fact that avarice and ignorance can not reach all of America's distinguished sons. America's sons are not raised to be soldiers. We want none of the Swiss model compulsory service. There is a large faction looking to you for leadership. Surely the right will triumph.

D. P. DeYoung, New York, N. Y.: I have read with considerable satisfaction those parts of The Commoner which oppose the President's plan for "preparedness." All this wave of sentiment for a large army and navy is inspired by the interests, who always regulate the valve of the press of the country. The rank and file of the people do not see the need of a great army, which would be another burden to the taxpayer. What we need, and all we need, is more effective naval preparation, in the way of submarines, and a discontinuance of the construction of large and helpless battleships. This can be done without an increased appropriation of any importance, and it is all the defence plan we need. Furthermore, greater economy in the letting of navy contracts, would provide a greater sum of money for naval preparation. The one difficult thing in this country, however, is to get the

truth to the people. The eastern press will not publish anything which opposes its views. The public can not get the facts; it only gets what the newspapers will let out. I trust that Mr. Bryan will again prove himself strong enough to out-general the interests at Washington this year, as he did at Baltimore, and as he has done on many notable occasions in his life.

G. W. Kopp, South Bend, Ind.: In my opinion this war-preparedness scheme is gotten up by the republican party to defeat the democratic party next year, and if President Wilson and his administration will stand for it they will be beaten just as sure as two and two make four.

J. E. Lemon, Nash, Okla.: It is characteristic of the American people to be easily swept off their feet, the President being the latest and most distinguished example. No one doubts the President's sincerity when he says that he advocates preparation for defense only, neither do we doubt the sincerity of Emperor William

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