

## Militarism Menace to American People Says Gen. Caldwell

[From The Huntington, W. Va., Herald-Dispatch, Nov. 17.]

America is going to be the greatest beneficiary of the war now raging in Europe, but this material benefit will be offset to some extent by the fact that the country will be pushed into a policy of militarism, in the opinion of J. L. Caldwell, president of the First National bank, commander of Bailey post and past commander of the department of West Virginia, Grand Army of the Republic. General Caldwell sees the militaristic trend on all sides — in the administration activities and the creation of scientific boards intended to build up a great navy and to create a powerful standing army.

"I am opposed to it," said he, yesterday afternoon. "A bully is never a bully until he begins to feel that he can whip everybody, and has tried his fists a time or two. When we begin to believe that we are the most powerful nation in the world, we will begin to seek fields of conquests."

"America has been successful in all of her wars through her citizen soldiery. They have proved themselves to be the best fighters in the world. Read history and you will find that it was not the old regulars who bore the brunt of the Civil war but the raw recruits from factory and field. The regulars knew more about maneuvers, but when it came down to plain old country fighters, the volunteers were the best. The whole situation was illustrated by the case of George B. McClellan, who was a popular leader in the beginning just because he was a good man on dress parade. He turned out to know too much about the rear of his army and not enough about the business of pushing it forward."

The war in Europe will not be settled by force of arms, in the opinion of General Caldwell, but by the popular demands of the people, who will finally refuse to longer abide the terrible slaughter of humanity and the destruction of property which is now in progress. The people will demand peace and an adjustment will be reached, he thinks, through the intervention of neutral nations.

He is looking ahead and foresees a time of reorganization of civic and commercial affairs in Europe that will be most trying.

"If the war should end right now," he said, "it would leave the European nations to meet an expense which, incurred since the war began, is three times as great as the total amount which the whole world owed for war before. The people will stagger under this debt and the able bodied men will leave their native countries and seek new fields of endeavor in the United States, in Canada, in

South America or Australia. They will leave the fruits of the home lands to be wrested by the old men, the cripples and the women."

While the financial burdens of England and France is appalling, that of Germany is even more staggering, thinks General Caldwell. Still a tremendous fighting force, able perhaps to hold her own indefinitely against the combined enemy, who can never beat her on her own soil, though they may indeed drive her back to her own borders, she is so affected financially as to be a practical bankrupt.

Regarding present conditions in America, General Caldwell is highly encouraged. He says the people are beginning to take a profit from their dealings in war munitions and supplies and that, aside from the war, the country is in for a season of prosperity.

He is not sure, however, that this prosperity would endure if the war were to end suddenly and throw the high-priced labor of America into competition with European labor, which, he thinks, will be forced to work for what it can get when industrial activities are again resumed in the warring countries.

### PREPAREDNESS IN THE BIBLE

The President, an ex-president and a would-be president are just now engaged in a game that might be called "Search and ye shall find." They are quoting Scripture as if obedience were compulsory, and we are reminded of the days of Cromwell and Cotton Mather when authority was found for despotism and the punishment of witchcraft provided the searcher could be the despot and the executioner of the divine purpose! But the teaching of the Bible should not be inferred from a particular text that may easily be contradicted by another; if we would learn we must study the record as a whole. Let us see.

Israel came out of Egypt and was disciplined for forty years into a state of preparedness — then a nation in arms, a real continental soldiery as described by the President, broke into the promised land and did what the Germans have done in Belgium and Serbia — what we of the south recognize as war!

Time passed and Israel sowed and reaped and planted vineyards and pressed her grapes until a people better prepared trod the Promised Land again into a bloody mire—this is the history of preparedness always — a bully finally meets the man who is something more than a match for him. After the deluge had swept over, Israel resumed his preparedness—it is shown that under the Mac-

cabees he reached the perfection of discipline and did unto others as had been done unto him for a season.

The Roman came and Jerusalem died in agony—the height of scientific preparedness had been reached, for that day Rome was mistress of the world. Again we lift the curtain and find Rome sinking under barbarian warriors who mocked at her preparedness and out of the welter the modern world was born to repeat the old play on the same old stage.

Came the constitution of the United States and won its way to the regard of all the peoples of the earth—following the model provided prophets arose who foretold the coming of the congress of the nations, the federation of the peoples and the supreme court of civilization. Is it for Americans to lose faith? Is it for us to lead the New World into the abyss wherein the Old World is vanishing?

But if we lack faith may we not find something better worth our regard than the old system that has always done evil in all lands? Shall we do for the Americas what Germany has done for Europe? Let us pray that this crime be forbidden by the people of Washington.

But what if militarism be necessary as so many claim—so many amateur statesmen unworthy to touch the shoes of the great men gone before, whose teachings they would deny?

Then let us face the necessity like men. If military preparedness according to the President's program be necessary then a military autocracy is needed—the constitution is a source of weakness — none but those scientifically trained to the business of destruction should be given authority. Let us avow our purpose and follow the shortest and cheapest road to our goal—not even our wealth of resources can supply both military preparedness and the waste of political jobbery. If military preparedness be needed, let everything give way to this vital fact — make our government, our business, our property and our lives subordinate to the need of defense. Nothing less can give us preparedness — if we need preparedness we must give everything for it or lose it in a quagmire of weak aspirations and infirm purposes. Go back to Sparta for a model—heed the example of Rome—send for German teachers that we may be safe from an attack by German preparedness!—Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union.

### THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

[From the Greensboro, N. C., News, Nov. 15.]

William Jennings Bryan, time-honored statesman, lecturer and pilgrim among the American people, preached to the people of Greensboro last night on the first of the ten commandments, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." He appeared at the Grand opera house just 30 minutes later than it was announced he would be there; but the people of Greensboro, it seemed like every one of them, preceded him by an hour to an hour and a half. Eight o'clock was the hour, but long before 7 there could be noticed a stream of people going in the direction of the gathering place. By 7:30 there was not a vacant seat in the house.

The first floor, balcony and gallery of the Grand were packed, and men and women stood in the aisles half way to the orchestra pit, around the walls of the building and in the wings of the stage to hear this man, Bryan, whose magnetism appears to attract alike those who believe in him and those who denounce him. Certainly in Greensboro, whatever the subject and whatever the conditions under which he appears, he is heard by every living soul who can

gain entrance to the tabernacle in which he speaks. Last night there were hundreds and hundreds who waited patiently outside the entrances in a fine drizzle of rain, in the hope that there might yet be opportunity to get within. They stayed until there was no hope left; then departed apparently disconsolate.

The determination of some of these hundreds to hear Mr. Bryan was graphically brought out on the stage entrance. It was supposed that here only members of the choir and of the Ministers' association, under whose auspices the Commoner made his appearance, would be admitted. As a matter of fact these, who possessed tickets, had to fight their way through the crowd. When these were all admitted there was yet room for a few others, and the scramble that ensued might have indicated flight from a destructive fire had not the crowd been headed into, instead of out of, the building.

### MISS ADDAMS AND PREPAREDNESS

Chicago, Nov. 17.—(Editor of The Tribune.)—In an informal discussion following my address at the Social Service club last Monday evening, I was asked to define my position on the question of preparedness, and to give some reasons for it. I gave the following five reasons which I had written out the day before for another purpose, and which I am therefore able to recall quite accurately.

1. The moment of panic is a bad time to decide any matter, and whatever the danger of attack to America, none could be anticipated at the present time when all her hypothetical enemies are exhausting their resources elsewhere.

2. When the results of this war are studied they will probably greatly modify the type of defense which will be employed in the future—submarines vs. dreadnaughts, etc. At this moment, the expenditure of enormous sums of money upon dreadnaughts of the old fashioned type is, to say the least, a premature decision.

3. It is hoped by many people in Europe and America that one result of this war may be the proportionate reduction of armaments. At this moment, to have America so markedly increasing her "defenses" would make it impossible for her to enter such a plan with clean hands. By taking action now she assumes that any such plan is impracticable.

4. There is no doubt that if the United States yields to panic at this moment and largely increases her army and navy, other nations will feel that they must also do this. The action of the United States will have a profound influence upon the governments of South America and those in Asia, increasing tremendously the expenditure of the people's taxes for military purposes.

5. The fact that the United States is preparing against even a hypothetical enemy will make it much more difficult for her to act as a mediator in ending the war.

I beg to differ with your statement that the policy of preparedness is a matter of "military technique." On the contrary, it seems to me to be a matter affecting the general policy of a nation, whose very foundations rest upon the convictions of its citizens and free discussion.

It is certainly the prerogative of a citizen to urge the postponement of affairs have returned to a normal the entire matter until international condition.—Jane Addams.

### CAUSE AND EFFECT

Mrs. Casey—The doctor says ye have appendicitis, Tim!

Mr. Casey — Och, Norah, Norah! Whoy wor ye so foolish as to show him yer bank book?—Dallas News.

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