

# A Constituent's Letter to His Senators at Washington

Raymond H. Miller, Portland, Ore.:

I enclose herewith copy of a letter addressed to our United States senators from Oregon, on the subject of the contemplated preparation for war. I am sorry to see Woodrow Wilson won over by the jingoists, but am glad to know that you are doing all in your power to oppose this sentiment for preparedness which has sprung up in some quarters. I believe the common people, —and they are in the majority,—are with you.

The letter above referred to, addressed to Senators Chamberlain and Lane, is as follows:

Portland, Ore.: I trust you will permit one of your constituents to address a few words to you on a subject which seems at this time to be uppermost in the minds of the men who control the press of our country. I refer to the preparation for war. While the newspapers and politicians of the country seem to have suddenly gone crazy on this subject, I find no such sentiment in the minds of the common people — the common people who would have to fight the battles and bear the sufferings of war.

In the first place, I believe that this sudden frantic cry for preparedness is a piece of political strategy on the part of the republican party and its supporting press. For if the democrats should take the position against preparedness, they would make that the issue of the 1916 campaign, (and on which I believe they would be overwhelmingly defeated). If, on the other hand, the democratic representatives in congress join with the republicans and jingoists in voting increased appropriations for war preparedness, it will again give them an opportunity to bring up the tariff question as a means of raising this additional revenue for preparedness, which would of course be very embarrassing for the democratic party.

Secondly, I believe it is the manufacturers of munitions, armor plate, etc., as well as army contractors, who are back of this agitation for preparedness. I suggest that when congress convenes in December, a thorough investigation be made to ascertain the identity of the people or forces who are back of this frenzied demand for preparedness. It is not the common people who are demanding it, nor is it justified by facts as exposed by the present war. Preparedness did not keep any nation out of it, but on the contrary has drawn them into the war. And those who were not prepared have been drawn into it just as fast as they have become prepared.

If there are reasons for dreading invasion, why not be frank and let the people know them. They will have to do the real defending, and not the politicians and newspaper men, or profit-seeking manufacturers.

If newspaper accounts can be relied upon, it appears that President Wilson has been won over for preparedness. It is unfortunate that he too should be misled; and it will undoubtedly, in the end, cost him the confidence of the majority of the people of the democratic party. Mr. Bryan has in the past done more than any other man to keep the democratic party progressive and alive, and I would caution those who now seem to be in control of the party's destiny to pay heed to his warnings against this jingoism that has seized the minds of some of our public men. Do not be fooled. Mr. Bryan is closer

to the people than any other man in the democratic party, and the people will eventually speak as to whether or not they want preparedness for war and militarism and taxes, and some day the war that has always followed the false philosophy of preparedness.

Public opinion has advanced and we no longer have the duelist's standard of honor in our individual life, and why should not that which applies to individuals also apply to nations. Men who carry guns are much more likely to be shot or to shoot and murder than those who are not "prepared" with a pistol in their hip pocket or belt.

We have spent much money, too much, in the past for preparedness, and it certainly is ill-fitting that we should increase this expense at this time when the principal nations of the world are exhausting and bankrupting themselves to such an unparalleled extent.

Furthermore, it has been a hope that after this awful war, the world might lay down its arms and abandon that false philosophy of preparedness which has thrown it into this bloodiest and most horrible conflict, but how can our own country encourage such a course or lead the way when we ourselves listen to the tempter and fly into frenzied preparation.

I, therefore, hope you will do all in your power to oppose any increase in army and navy appropriations for the coming year, and that you will give heed to the wishes of the common people who own no newspapers to voice their views on this subject, and who have much to lose and nothing to gain by war and preparation therefor.

I hope you will vote against "preparedness" when the question comes up in the senate.

Respectfully yours,  
RAYMOND H. MILLER.

### AN INSULT TO DEMOCRATS

In a lengthy attack on Mr. Bryan the Birmingham News says:

"It would be most unwise, therefore, for the democrats of the south to help Mr. Bryan in any scheme he may be trying to put over, even if it looks to 1920. President Wilson is the party's leader and the party's only hope. His counsel should be followed in all respects, not that of Mr. Bryan in any respect. The democrats of Alabama particularly should not listen to any of Mr. Bryan's unwise counsel."

The Times-Union holds no brief to protect Mr. Bryan and it does not defend him nor does it attack the President. Both are men of the greatest national prominence, but both are microscopic pygmies as compared to the democratic party. If what we say is construed as an attack on Mr. Bryan or an attack on the president we do not mean it as such. They are mere unimportant incidents of the discussion. What we mean to do is to express our bitter resentment of the idea that the seven million democrats belong to any man or should accept without question the views of any man.

We do not know that Mr. Bryan is trying to put over any scheme for 1916 or 1920 or for any other time, and we do not care. If he has a scheme we will be prepared and the democratic voters should be prepared to judge it on its merits when it is announced. We can not conceive of anything more insulting to the American citizen—the democratic citizen —than the proposition that he

should follow the President's counsel "in all respects."

The proposition leaves out of consideration the fact that the democratic voter may follow his own counsel, and in fact that he will do it if he is fit to vote. If all democrats must follow the President's counsel in all respects what is the use of holding elections? Why go through such a farce if the will of one man is to control?

The Times-Union has been with Mr. Bryan many times and it has been against him often. It has also often been with the president and often against him. It will continue to go with or against either as its own judgment may direct. Every honest man decides for himself what is right unless he is lacking in intelligence or manhood. This we propose to do and we will not blindly accept the opinions of any man and no man can deputize another to think for him without the loss of his self-respect.

We go with Mr. Bryan if he is going our way, and we go with the president if he is going our way, and in either case we have distinguished company; but we do not pick our road for the sake of the company we will have on our journey. And in politics no man does who is fit to take any part in politics. — Jacksonville (Fla.) Times-Union.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

Woman and Home. By Orison Swett Marden. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York, publisher. Price \$1.25 net. Postage extra.

War and the Ideal of Peace. By Henry Rutgers Marshall, author of "Instinct and Reason," "Consciousness," etc. A study of these characteristics of man that result in war, and of the means by which they may be controlled. Duffield & Co., 211 West 33rd St., New York. Price \$1.25 net.

Apostrophe to Hope and Other Poems. By Laura Hull-Morris. The Knickerbocker Press, New York.

Land Credits: A Plea for the American Farmer. By Dick T. Morgan, representative from Oklahoma in the 61st, 62nd, 63rd and 64th congresses of the United States. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, Publishers, New York. Price \$1.50 net.

The Seven Searchers and Other Poems. By Paul Baumgartner. Fort Wayne Box Company, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Fireside Papers. By Frederic Rowland Marvin. Sherman, French & Company, Boston, Mass. Price \$1.50 net.

The Great News. The relations of "Big Business" to the government of the World. By Charles Ferguson. Mitchell Kelnerley, Publisher, New York. Price \$1.25.

Your Baby. A Guide to Young Mothers. By Dr. E. B. Lowry. Forbes & Co., Chicago, Ill. Price \$1.00 net.

Rose O' Paradise. By Grace Miller White, author of "Tess of the Storm Country." The H. K. Fly Company, Publishers, New York. \$1.35, net.

Then I'll Come Back to You. By Larry Evans, author of "Once to Every Man." The H. K. Fly Company, Publishers, 263 Fifth Ave., New York. Price \$1.35, net.

The Protection of Neutral Rights at Sea. Documents on the Naval Warfare. Sturgis & Walton Company, New York. Price 25 cents.

### Those Small Berths

Fat Passenger—There is no danger that anyone will pry into these berths, is there?

Pullman Porter—Lan' sakes no, man. On de contrary, we generally has to pry folks out of dem.—Judge.

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By the UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

There will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at different railroad points in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in eastern Oklahoma, from January 3, 1916, to January 31, 1916, inclusive, 31,799 acres of unalotted lands and 184,800 acres of the surface of the segregated coal and asphalt lands belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, at not less than the appraised value. No person can purchase more than 160 acres of agricultural land, nor more than 640 acres of grazing land. Residence on land not required. Bids can be submitted in person or by mail, accompanied by a certified check or bank draft for 25 per cent of the amount of the bid. Terms on sale of surface of coal and asphalt lands 25 per cent cash, 25 per cent within one year, and balance within two years from date of sale; and terms of sale of unalotted lands 25 per cent in cash at time of sale and balance in three equal annual installments of 25 per cent each, payable in one, two and three years from date of sale; all deferred payments to draw 5 per cent per annum from date of sale. Only the surface of the segregated coal and asphalt land area will be sold, the coal and asphalt underlying being reserved, except where the descriptive circular states that the coal and asphalt underlying will be sold with the surface. The entire estate in the unalotted lands will be sold without reservation. Where houses or other valuable improvements, not including fencing and tillage, are located on the surface of the coal and asphalt lands, the same will be sold with the land at not less than the combined appraised value, improvements to be paid for in full at time of sale. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids. For maps and full printed information, communicate with the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, Muskogee, Oklahoma, CATOSELLS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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