

such a way as to menace the nation's peace. It is time to consider duty to country and to fellow citizens. And, since some are either too blind or too unpatriotic to do this, it is the duty of congress to act, and to act at once, before new complications arise.

The captain of a belligerent vessel may at any moment FORFEIT THE LIVES OF THE PASSENGERS by trying to escape, or by making resistance. Why should American citizens be permitted to take such risks, when they risk their nation's peace as well as their own lives?

BELLIGERENT SHIPS SHOULD BE DENIED CLEARANCE OR ENTRY IF THEY CARRY AMERICAN PASSENGERS—that will keep this country out of any controversy that may be hereafter raised by submarine warfare. But to make certainty doubly sure, clearance and entry should be denied to the passenger ships of neutral countries—including our own—if they CARRY CONTRABAND WITH PASSENGERS.

Congress should act at once. W. J. BRYAN.

They Want War Now

The advocates of extreme preparedness really want this country to enter into the present war—preparation for a future war is a secondary consideration. Former Ambassador Choate, who is forging to the front as one of the leading jingoes, said at a recent public meeting: "The United States may be in the midst of war any minute, and if this country does not enter the war, we want to do all we can to help our neighbor (meaning Canada)."

This country can not be neutral and unneutral at the same time. If it is to be neutral it can not undertake to help one side against the other—even the side of a neighbor—no matter how friendly our relations with that neighbor may be.

If you will scratch through the veneer you will find that the people who are shouting most loudly for preparedness against possible future war are, in fact, anxious to drag this country into the present war, and make it one of the belligerents. There is the more reason why the masses, honestly desiring neutrality, should steadfastly oppose the schemes of those who have been infected with the war virus.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE MILLIONAIRE DINNER

The millionaire dinner given to ex-President Roosevelt (see account on another page) has made more certain his return to the republican party. Ormsby McHarg, who was one of his lieutenants in 1912, says that Mr. Roosevelt will announce his candidacy by March 1st, but it will not be necessary to nominate him in order to secure his support. He is tired of the byways and hedges, and wants to see the bright lights again. He is not likely to be squeamish about candidate or platform.

"If you don't—I'll"—Is this the language of friendly neighbors, trying to adjust a difference? No, it is the language of diplomacy among Christian nations, endeavoring to reach amicable settlement of a dispute.

If Solomon were writing today he would include the Navy board, the Army experts and the munitions manufacturers among those who say not "It is enough."

The preparers of preparedness have more daughters than the horse leach, and they are all crying "give, give."

One thing is certain, the man who talks peace now is an enemy—to those who profit by war.

Pan-Americanism ought not to be as expensive as the Monroe Doctrine.

Raise the Money First

Where is the money coming from with which to pay for preparedness? This should be decided before the appropriation is made. If the reader will consult the New Testament, he will find very high authority for counting the cost first: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold him begin to mock him."

Will not the republicans mock us if we plan expenditures on a large scale, without first making sure of the money necessary to meet these expenditures? We adopt this precaution in other matters, why should we make an exception of this particular kind of expenditure?

And would it not deliver us into the hands of the republicans to create the NECESSITY for additional revenue without first providing for the raising of the revenue needed? Would they not be in position to dictate terms? And would they not be likely to take advantage of the opportunity to demand a return to a protective tariff? They are loudly proclaiming that our revenue law is a failure, and predicting a restoration of the former schedules on imports. Could they resist the temptation to make the acceptance of protection a condition precedent to their support?

The democrats should avoid this trap. If congress wants to enter upon the extravagant military and naval program demanded by the munition shylocks, the professional man-killers and the jingoes, let it have the courage to decide first from what part of the body politic the blood is to be taken.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE FEW VS. THE MANY

Twenty-six millions of war material exported in October, and one of the jingo papers predicts that the export of munitions during the next six months will be greater than during the past six months. My! What a great time the manufacturers of war material are having! No wonder they dread to see the war brought to an end. How absurd to talk about peace when war is so profitable—TO SOME!

But, what about the people who make no money out of the European war, and have no prospect of profit in any war this country might have? Are they likely to share in the war enthusiasm which the manufacturers of munitions are trying to work up in this country?

A GOOD EXAMPLE

The North Side Democratic club of Pittsburgh sets the democratic clubs of the country a good example in condemning the policy of preparedness. Every democratic club should do likewise. The President has heard from the metropolitan press, which NEVER takes the people's side, and he has heard from the munition manufacturers—now let him hear from the democratic workers.

The New York Herald has wanted war all the time, and each day it advances some new reason for beginning the fight at once. This shows how dangerous it is to trust to the leadership of non-residents in national matters.

PREPARATIONISTS ARE MILITARISTS

When the present agitation for preparedness began, the preparationists disclaimed favoring militarism. "Adequate defense," they said, was all they wanted. Today the mask has been dropped. Universal compulsory military service is their demand. Nothing more extreme in militarism is possible. The terms "preparationist" and "militarist" have become synonymous. Both describe an advocate of practically the same military system for United States as prevails in Germany, France, Italy and Russia.—The Public, Chicago.

MR. MAXIM'S VIEWPOINT

On another page will be found a letter written by Mr. Hudson Maxim and published (very appropriately) in the New York Sun of Nov. 9th, 1915. If the reader will compare the date of the Sun letter with the date of Mr. Maxim's trip to St. Louis he will find that he issued his tirade against Mr. Bryan AFTER Mr. Bryan had attacked the preparedness which Mr. Maxim is urging and BEFORE the St. Louis Republic exposed the intimate pecuniary relations existing between Mr. Maxim's fight for preparedness and his business interests. Mr. Bryan is opposing the special interests which are seeking to fasten themselves upon the taxpayers, and he not only expects, but welcomes the attacks of the would-be tax-eaters. It shows that his shots have hit the mark.

NAVAL EXPERTS, TOO

The press dispatches say that the Naval board want to make our navy the biggest in the world, and to this end insist on spending 500 millions the first year. The Naval board is a class rival of the Army board when it comes to spending the people's money—"two of a kind."

If the reader will substitute naval experts for army experts in the editorial comparing the Army board's demands with the net income of the farmers of the country, it will be seen that these two boards would, if they had their way, bankrupt the country. By the time they got through preparing there would be nothing to defend.

Working Up Scares

On another page will be found a speech delivered in the British House of Commons, on the 18th of March, 1914, by Mr. Philip Snowden. It is a remarkably frank exposure of the connection between government officials and the manufacturers of munitions. It also shows how patriotism is turned to mercenary uses. The Krupp investigation in Germany revealed the pecuniary influences at work in that country on the side of preparedness.

These echoes from the old world, taken in connection with the activity of our own traffickers in war material, show that the conspiracy which we have to meet is international in extent, and has for its object the cultivation of the war spirit for the pecuniary advantage it brings to those who cultivate it. Their patriotism is but "a sham and a pretense."

W. J. BRYAN.

A FOREIGN VIEW

The London Times thus speaks of the President's "sudden break with the past of his own party":

"Even more striking than the President's denunciation of the German campaign is the new attitude he assumes on the subject of national defense. It is a sudden break with the past of his own party, and the fact that the President can not expect his proposals to be carried without hard fighting makes them still more a sign of the times."

One of the members of the Naval Consulting board has resigned in order that he may "be free to attack the thoroughly inadequate, and therefore dangerous, preparedness program of the President," and yet none of the jingo papers have felt called upon to brand the resignation of such an official at this time as an act of treason to the government.

You will appreciate your daily allowance of bread more and the policy of preparedness less if you bear in mind that the army experts ask for a continuing annual appropriation amounting to more than one-third of the value of the wheat crop of the United States.

Ex-President Roosevelt is claiming that "preparedness" is a child of his brain. And, judging by the resemblance, he is right. The President had better return it to him. It isn't worth fighting over.

REPUBLICAN HARMONY

On another page in parallel columns, will be found two news items which appeared together in the morning papers of January 4th. They illustrate the harmony upon which the republicans are relying for success.