

A LETTER TO SENATOR OWEN

Following is a copy of a letter addressed to Hon. Robert L. Owen, senator from Oklahoma:

"Dear Senator: I see the the daily papers over the country are in a frenzy over preparedness for war, and the administration, if the press reports are correct, has partly approved the move. The very best way to make some of us old time democrats vote a republican ticket is for the administration to try and carry out this strenuous movement. Very truly, F. C. Garner, Tulsa, Okla."

for real and abiding prosperity, and for the greatest happiness. Your greatest service to your country you rendered when you stepped out into private life rather than sign an ultimatum.

I rejoice that the tide of militarism has reached the flood and is now receding. The capitalistic press is unable longer to conceal the opposition of the common people to this military propaganda founded upon the wildest of imaginations and the most craven of fears. Men who are seeking peaceful pursuits do not go around with pistols in their hip pockets. Likewise the nation that would have peace must rely upon reason and justice, not upon superior armaments. But the fight is not yet over. Under the sting of the restraint of recent legislation Big Business in the guise of prudence and patriotism has endeavored to collect a billion dollars as an indemnity. The love of profits will not pass away the coming year or the next. It remains for us to keep on the alert in the future.

T. S. Fenlon, Massena, Ia.: Enclosed please find check for \$7.80 for my renewal and twelve new subscribers. I am doing this simply for Mr. Bryan that he may be heard by more people. "Preparedness for war" and booze are the two most detrimental curses we have.

Victor Cuppett, R. 4, Warren O.: I take this opportunity to state that I am strictly against so-called preparedness because I do not believe that this nation should become a fighting nation instead of a nation promoting peace by peaceful means. Nor do I believe that the common people should be used as the mouth-piece to herald forth the Heavenly message "Peace on earth and good will toward men." Congress should not impose upon this nation a military system that tends to foster the spirit of war, and breeds envy, jealousy and hatred, for where these exist there can be no well founded and lasting peace. An increased appropriation for military purposes would mean increased burdens by way of taxation upon the shoulders of the masses, who are now toiling and struggling for existence. And not only would this burden fall with crushing weight upon the present generation but upon the generations yet unborn.

Ward T. Deming, Geneva, Neb.: I send herewith \$3.60 to pay for six subscriptions to your valuable paper. I only wish The Commoner could go once a month into every home in this great republic. The present readers of The Commoner should try and render some aid to the settlement of the great national questions upon the side of right and justice to all by

sending in one club of at least five yearly subscriptions.

H. R. Craig, Ulysses, Neb.: Just received letter from McElroy, editor of National Tribune, Washington, D. C., asking our Post to write our congressmen and senators to fight for preparedness. I have done the very opposite—wrote them to fight against it. I had three years of hard service, wounded three times, and I know Sherman was right. War is Hell. Please find enclosed \$1.25 for extra papers.

Henry E. Schmiedeskamp, Quincy, Illinois. I wish to write and express to you my hearty approval of the work you are doing on behalf of peace and against the policy of so-called preparedness. My fathers left Germany in the early 40's to seek the land of liberty and to avoid the burdens and disabilities of enforced military service. For nearly three-quarters of century since that time it has been the established policy of all political parties to maintain the ancient ideals of America in that behalf. The attempt on the part of the military oligarchy to undermine and destroy these American ideals should meet with the disapproval of every true American citizen. As a loyal democrat, I should be very glad to assist you in any possible way in the fight you are making to preserve our free American institutions.

P. C. Jenkins, South Corbin, Ky.: Please mail for one year five copies of The Commoner to names and addresses herewith. Best wishes for the good The Commoner is doing.

J. G. Anderson, Hutchinson, Minn.: It is needless for me to recommend that you continue to fight, as I know you will. As usual, you are right, and your friends are with you and behind you. Time will vindicate you.

G. S. Ladd, Ulysses, Pa.: Am sending check to pay for the enclosed club of three yearly subscribers; will send more names after a time. Mr. Bryan's policies are beginning to soak into the people, and they approve of his position.

J. O. Ellison, Haverhill, Mass.: The Commoner is now coming regular to me and I assure you that I appreciate reading it. I can plainly see that your object is for all the good that you can do for this great nation of ours. I can not help feeling that the position you have taken on "Preparedness" is the soundest possible position to be taken. I am heartily in accord with your position and would like if possible to do something towards helping. If I could find words to express my great appreciation of what you have done, I would be very glad to use them. There is not a question in my mind but that you have greater influence today among the real solid people of our nation than ever before.

R. F. Goodwin, Herrin, Ill.: As a reader of The Commoner I desire to be counted among those who stand with you in opposition to the military hysteria called preparedness which is now agitating the American people. Back of this agitation are the steel trust, the powder trust, and all the big interests who fatten upon extortionate tariffs. They are trying to frighten the people into spending billions of dollars for armaments by holding up a fake patriotism before them while they grow richer and richer at the taxpayers expense. I believe as you do, that America should not set up a false standard of patriotism for other nations to follow, for they that take the sword shall perish by the sword. It seems to me that it is folly for us to follow this

BEFORE AND AFTER



—From the Rochester Herald.

false philosophy that has plunged the nations of Europe into war. All Christians should denounce this military craze. May you be blessed with health and strength for many more years to fight many more battles for the common people.

G. L. Herrington, Foreston, Minn.: To assure you of my support, and of my interest in the cause of the people, which you are ever ready to espouse, I enclose my renewal and the names of three friends who desire The Commoner. I will try to send more subscriptions later. My sympathy and interest are with you.

Edward Perry, Cedar City, Utah: I wish to briefly express my approval and endorsement of the work you are doing. Give it to the jingoes under the Spencerian system of penmanship, the heavy strokes down and the light ones up. Am proud to state that I have been canvassing for The Commoner for a few days and was successful in securing the enclosed list of twenty-two new subscribers, of all shades of politics. You may look for another batch in the near future. I wrote to our county chairman at the county seat, to get busy and try to enlist the democratic organization, state, county and municipal in the work of extending the influence of The Commoner by securing new readers.

L. L. Moore, Canton, Ohio: Enclosed find \$1.80 for which send The Commoner to the three subscribers herewith. Success to your efforts for world peace.

Samuel Hunsucker, Vallonia, Ind.: Please find enclosed check to pay for seven yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. Oh for a million men like W. J. Bryan — if we had them we think this savage war would be stopped. President Wilson's message does not read like a peace message. I hope the preparedness scare will not get big enough to amount to much. If our democratic congressmen

and senators are foolish enough to be carried away by this craze they ought to be compelled to resign. The idea of proposing to tax the American people so enormously, just to create an army sufficiently large to crush the remainder of the poor European people who may survive the present terrible war.

J. G. Smith, West Grove, Ia.: Enclosed find list of subscribers and check for same. I want to say I fully endorse Mr. Bryan's position on preparedness; it seems the whole administration has gone wrong on the question.

R. A. Frazier, Butler, Pa.: Mr. Bryan is right on fighting the frenzied preparedness. In fact Mr. Bryan is always on the side of the people. It is a pleasure to send some subscriptions to his paper. Enclosed find money order to pay for club of seven yearly subscriptions at your club, rate of 60c each. As a young democrat and citizen I prize The Commoner more than any other paper that I take. I trust I will be able to send in more subscriptions in the future.

A. Anderson, Crookston, Minn.: Enclosed find draft for \$2.40 to pay for The Commoner one year to the enclosed list of four subscribers. I will continue to send more as I get them.

Wm. J. Thompson, Rushville, Ill.: Long may The Commoner live to defend the interests of the common people. I believe Mr. Bryan was in the right when he resigned as secretary of state, and I believe he is right in the stand he has taken in regard to increasing the size of our army and navy. Please find draft for \$6.69 to pay for The Commoner to the enclosed list of eleven subscribers. I am putting up the cash for eight of these names, as they are my sons and sons-in-law and I want them to read the best paper published.

Philip Moore, Ashton, Ida.: We are for peace and not for war. Please