

be a pleasing sight to those 29 nations with which we have made peace treaties, and a warning to those with whom we have not, and an inspiring spectacle to which the nation might point with pride as evidence of the fact that we have a complete program of preparedness in which no little detail has been neglected.

G. M. Paulus, Duluth, Minn.: I agree with you that the enlargement of our military system, especially at this time, is fraught with dangerous possibilities. My own slight experience during the Spanish American war in which I was a volunteer, opened my eyes to conditions which surround military activity.

James W. Crooks, Cicero, Ind.: The ideal on which our republic was founded and continued to the present time is the complete supremacy of the civil government over the military, and that the army in times of peace shall be just large enough for national police purposes. Any increase above this in time of peace is militarism in all its nakedness; and the transparent robe of "adequate defense" does not hide its hideous deformity or monstrosity. Better abolish the "war college" than endorse its dictation. In order that you may know what my views on this question are not prompted by political prejudice, I remark that one of the first, if not the very first articles published in any newspaper in Indiana openly advocating the nomination of Mr. Wilson months before the Baltimore convention, was from my pen, and published over my own signature, and I voted for him in November. I am amazed and sorry to see his administration sprawling in the bog of preparedness—Roosevelt's pre-empted quagmire. There it founders while being smeared with the mud of jingoism, the brutal tyranny of militarism, and fear of an invisible and unknown supposed enemy, and the whole ungainly panorama enveloped in the sickening odor of profits and gains to be made by the traffickers in war credits and war materials.

Eli Gerber, Rensselaer, Ind.: I am very much interested in the work Mr. W. J. Bryan is doing for the American people; his work, since he left the cabinet is, to my mind, the greatest of all he has yet undertaken during his public life. I want to cheer him in his splendid courage.

James K. Risk, Indianapolis, Ind.: Herewith find enclosed eleven new subscriptions to The Commoner. This completes twenty for the year. I hope I may be able to send some more soon. You and The Commoner are rendering splendid service for humanity. I am sure that I do not want my son trained in the military art. I am willing that he shall volunteer in a time of our country's need, but I do not want the military spirit inflicted upon him at this time in his life. I much prefer the lessons of peace. I want him taught love for humanity the world around. I want him to be too proud to fight. I want him to have such a regard for peace that he will induce others to be for peace. I am afraid President Wilson has been stampeded by "scaredness." I believe our country is against war. I believe that a large majority of the citizens of the United States are against the President's preparedness plan. I regret very much the stand the President has taken on the question of preparedness, and trust that his real friends will be able to convince him that he is wrong. Almost every man you meet takes your side of this controversy and it is to be hoped that our country will maintain its neutrality and will be in a position not to

frighten the depleted nations of Europe by building a large navy and organizing a large army, but by extending to all of the warring nations a friendship and consideration that will induce them to stop fighting and to gather up the broken fragments and to re-establish peaceful relationships with each other. This can not be done if we make large preparations for war. The warring nations will misunderstand us, or perhaps will thoroughly understand us, and they will immediately, devastated as they are, attempt to build larger armaments and to make preparations to meet us. Let us hope that congress will not allow our government to be rushed off its feet. God bless the real servants of the people who are making the people's fight in congress.

H. L. Gibson, Humansville, Mo.: I am in hearty accord with the position of The Commoner. Give the people the facts.

A. S. Murphy, Aliceville, Ala.: I want to congratulate The Commoner on the continued consistent course it is pursuing, for the great fight you are making for the maintenance of the republic. I feel so grateful for the stand taken by the grand character Wm. J. Bryan in this issue confronting the people on preparedness, and it looks now if congress will pass some kind of measure increasing our standing army and navy. The hopes that I have in this republic lies in the fight that will have to be led by Wm. J. Bryan and The Commoner. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" is as true today as it ever was. Gaining one or a dozen victories does not mean that our work is finished, but means that each victory is a step upward and onward until the "course is finished." We each and all can do something for the cause and will ask you to forward me twenty-five copies of the last Commoner to distribute, and will see if I can not send you a few subscriptions. Was glad to see your announcement for governor of Nebraska, Mr. Chas. Bryan. I feel sure the people of your great state are seeing your worth and will see that you are elected. May the fight of Wm. J. Bryan and The Commoner continue until the people that are blind have their eyes open.

O. H. McCamey, Andover, Ohio: All peace-loving citizens should favor preparedness and be prepared to defeat the plan of preparedness as read to congress by our President. The President said in one of his speeches while making a swing around the country, "Who wants to be an ostrich?" or words to that effect. The Chinese centuries ago built up the longest chain of preparedness the world has ever known. A wall over 1,500 miles in length. It stands today a useless monument of preparedness. "Who wants to be a Chinaman?"

Art Lawrence, Doland, S. Dak.: I am a reader of The Commoner and believe it is voicing the principles of progress and humanity. I have passed The Commoner to some of my neighbors and in return have secured their subscriptions. Herewith find club of eleven.

J. L. Cook, Bisbee, N. Dak.: We all like your stand on "preparedness." We are beginning to realize that if we farmers and other workers don't support the press and people who are supporting us and our interests that no one else is going to do it for us. Many of the equity people here believe that hereafter we will not support our enemies if we have friends who will bring us the news just as quickly and ten times more reliable. The steel trust and

Dupont are supporting the "preparedness" press because there's billions in it for them. We are going to support The Commoner and Pearson's magazine monthly; The Daily Leader of Milwaukee, and The Co-Operators' Herald, weekly. These papers stand for the farmers' interest all the time. Anyone who reads Bryan's speeches on "preparedness" and Kirkpatrick's great book, "War—What For?" will have a mine of information. Our three representatives are now right.

J. F. Buchheit, Lancaster, Pa.: I sincerely hope that Mr. Bryan's efforts to prevent the nation from going war crazy will succeed. As usual he is receiving lots of abuse and ridicule, but he is big enough to stand it. Posterity will recognize his worth to the country, if the present generation does not.

F. B. Garrett, Burns City, Ind.: I don't know how it is in other communities, but I do know that there isn't one voter in one hundred in this community who is in favor of the preparedness scheme. It is not so easy for the laboring people to forget the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" as they realize that in the case of war they are the ones to do the killing and to be killed. They are also beginning to realize the danger and injustice of secret diplomacy. God speed the day when voters will realize that they are voting for something every time they vote other than party success.

W. S. Stevenson, Hookstown, Pa.: I endorse Mr. Bryan's position on the preparedness question. In our section I do not think one in ten is in favor of the increased preparedness that is being advocated.

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