

who desire "George to do it." I am a delegate to the Cleveland Federation of Labor, and they too are with you in this movement. I have yet to find a howling preparedness advocate who is willing to visit the recruiting office. Continue your good work, and may all the blessings of humanity be yours.

Rev. Charles Fredric Graeser, Waterman, Ill.: In trespassing upon your busy life allow me to say in a few lines that I am with you, to the extent of all my powers, in your fight against militarism. As far as my intelligence and information goes my convictions are as deep-seated and firm as yours in the cause of peace. In fact, I am with you in other ways, as I have always been. My father, a man 80 years old, a physician in Des Moines, Ia.; my brother, a lawyer in the same city, and a doctor brother in El Centro, Calif., all voted for you every time you were a candidate for president. Besides, widely separated as we were, and wholly ignorant as to each other's political intentions, we all voted for Wilson. Furthermore, we are a unit in opposing the militarist propaganda. As for myself, I have this winter preached a series of sermons against the war program, and in behalf of peace, with the result that my congregation and community, with very few exceptions, have rallied to me most encouragingly. You will understand me, therefore, when I offer my services in any and every way possible to the cause. If you have any suggestion as to how or where I can be useful it will be welcomed. I seek nothing for myself, but as a Christian man, urged by the mighty principles of peace, I covet extended opportunity to promulgate the new patriotism and international good will which is bound to replace the old.

Mrs. Gertrude Q. Campbell, Redkey, Ind.: I have just read my first copy of The Commoner, the issue of February, and my greatest wish is that every citizen of the United States would read and study it. I believe that Mr. Ford could do no greater service for peace than to put "Congressman Bailey's Logic," "Dunn Against Militarism," Rev. Martin D. Hardin's "Civilization at the Crossroads," and some of the Hon. W. J. Bryan's splendid arguments in leaflet form and distribute them. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has done, and is still doing a magnificent amount of education by the use of leaflets. We were compelled to use that method, because of the control of the press by liquor advertisers. The press seems now controlled to a large extent by "big business."

The following letter, signed by students and members of the faculty of Billings Polytechnic Institute, Billings, Montana, was addressed to Mr. Bryan: The enclosed is a sample of a petition sent by this institution to the congressmen and senators of Montana, at Washington, D. C. We are sending this to you in the hope that it may in some little measure cheer you in your great work for humanity, to know that the leading educational institution of Montana is fired with your own spirit. Thanking you for the great effort you are making against humanity's greatest foe. We are yours for victory.

Following is a copy of the letter above referred to: "Dear sir: We are strongly opposed to the imposition upon the republic of the United States of America of the military policies of the nations of Europe, whose enormous standing armies and military organizations have plunged those countries into frightful and horrible war. We are opposed to the enormous military appropriations

urged upon congress, which will force upon this country a policy which invites war and does not prevent it. We are opposed to the taxation of American citizens for the enrichment of the armament makers and the steel corporations of this country. We are opposed to the slaughter of our loved ones in a useless and endless struggle for commercial supremacy. We therefore urge upon you to oppose these preparedness measures as utterly antagonistic to American ideals and democratic principles; as placing the United States, the once great example of a peaceful democracy, in the position of forcing a still more despotic militarism upon exhausted and war-ravaged Europe, and finally as destroying the last hope of the world for peace."

A. H. Meyer, Lebanon, Ill.: In accordance with your advice to Commoner readers, I have registered my protest against the proposed preparedness, with the President, and on two occasions likewise with my congressmen. I feel convinced that your advice in this particular is responsible for the formidable opposition which the President faces in congress on his preparedness issue. May it be such an encouragement on your part that you will see fit, if necessary, to use your eloquence of speech in expressing your deep convictions on this meaningless, purposeless, and unreasonable program.

Joseph Diehm, Dallas, Texas: I am writing to express my appreciation of the stand you have taken, and so well sustained, in favor of maintaining the neutrality of the United States, and your opposition to the "Preparedness" proposition now being boosted by the men who hope to profit by its adoption. I hope you will keep up the good work.

A. M. George, Cedarville, Ohio: Permit me to suggest some ideas relative to the cause we desire to advance, viz., the disarmament of the nation. Of course you do not undertake to notice all the misrepresentations made against you, for otherwise you would have little time for anything else. The misrepresentation that you are for peace at any price, however, is made so frequently and is so insistent, that you could do a public service, I think, to the cause to refute it. The people are looking to you to make a stand—as you are already doing, only still more pronounced and vigorous—for anti-militarism. The President has given no adequate grounds for his change of front. There is no substantial difference in the situation now and that upon which the President's former policy was based. If there is any change it favors disarmament. The President declares for preparation for peace; the war at all hazards party will see to it that the policy means, in effect, preparation for war. Endeavor to unite the anti-militaristic forces in a strong, vigorous campaign.

Frederick Kashler, Basin, Wyo.: In your participation of trying to help humanity these disastrous days you are doing more good than you can realize. Your efforts are appreciated by a lot of good people. Some do not understand the good you are doing now, but they will later. No one can please everybody. Jesus was freely criticized and ridiculed. I like the way you stand by your convictions, and the spirit you show of "Dare to be a Daniel, and dare to stand alone." Your resignation from the cabinet because you could not agree with the policy being pursued, checked and cooled the flame



A DANGEROUS PET

that would lead us into the breakers of destruction. That was a noble act. Regarding the "Ship Controversy," I believe the easy way—precedent established by England in the Japanese-Russian war—of warning citizens from all boats of the belligerents would be the safest and most righteous plan for our country to adopt. On this present earth there will always be wars and rumors of wars. No nation is or ever will be immune from the danger. Our turn will come soon enough even by trying our best to avoid it. War brings sorrow into little homes. It costs money and it could be better to spend it in feeding poor, hungry children in our cities. Hope you have health and continued foresight to continue your mission in the world and I hope your reward will be the blessing, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Miss H. W. Robertson, Bel Alton, Md.: Every number of The Commoner is first class, but the February number surpasses all. If it could be put in every family in the land, Preparedness would get a death blow. I am living in a farming community, not very enlightened. Those who read at all read the Baltimore Sun and the Baltimore American, so you know preparedness has the inside track. Could these people be reached in any way, and others in the same state of darkness? You are doing a great work. God bless you for it. I always esteemed you, but never admired you as I now do, until you left the cabinet.

THE MAN OF PEACE

Close contact with Mr. Bryan shows that his vital concern that the United States shall preserve its calmness and dignity is accentuated by the passage of time. The brutal business of men slaying each other

over purely economic matters or through race pride is as repellant to the Nebraskan now as it was nearly two decades ago, when his voice first was raised in protest. Time vindicates his attitude on the Philippines, just as it indubitably must in crying out against wholesale murder.

It is unspeakable that rational men, virtually closeted together in a world made small by the progress of invention and communication, should not arrange their affairs to live in peace. But taking conditions as they are, it is far more strange that those who witness the blind fury of the combatants and the awful toll hate exacts, should not be moved with pity for the futility of it. And Mr. Bryan takes the practical side of this pity we should feel in stating:

"Instead of spending millions in preparing to kill people in future wars, let us spend it to alleviate some of the suffering in the present war. —Kansas City Post.

PHILADELPHIA "400" TO GO DRY

A Philadelphia dispatch, dated March 29, says: If the leaven of a meeting held this afternoon at the home of Mrs. Joseph M. Gazzam, a leader in Philadelphia's exclusive social circles, permeates Philadelphia society, those who were present hope it will, alcohol in any form will disappear from society dinners, suppers and other functions in this city. The meeting was arranged solely to interest society men and women in total abstinence, especially in its bearing on the destinies of the younger set.

Miss Abby A. Sutherland struck the keynote of the meeting when she read a paper which characterized as a remarkable exposition of the ease with which the present day society girl becomes accustomed to cocktails and cigarettes.