

the vessels of war of different nations, which beget wars and constitute the weightiest objection to navies."

He expressed himself even more strongly in a letter to Elbridge Gerry in 1799 when he said: "I am not for a navy which, by its own expenses and the eternal wars in which it will implicate us, will grind us with public burdens, and sink us under them."

Here is the answer of Jefferson to those of today who want us to have a navy as big as any other nation: "To aim at such a navy as the larger nations of Europe possess would be a foolish and wicked waste of the energies of our countrymen. It would be to pull on our own heads that load of military expense which makes the European laborer go supperless to bed and moistens his bread with the sweat of his brow."

Let us not be led astray by passion and sentiment for stars and garters and titles of nobility, for gold lace and brass buttons. Let us be loyal to America, let us not ape the sodden and hideous idiocy of the crowned and sceptered murderers of Europe.

DEMAND FOR JUSTICE TO W. J. BRYAN

Although supporting the President's side of the "preparedness" issue, and declaring Bryan to be wholly wrong in that regard, the Washington Star calls for fair play for the Nebraskan, and points out that to ridicule him for his views is exceedingly unjust.

Such tactics, it says, are of a kind to do him more good than harm, and tend to arouse strong resentment among his host of friends.

As an example of the foolish and wrongful treatment of Bryan, the Star quotes this from the New York Tribune:

"No one has the smallest sympathy for Bryan. If the President had never put him in a place for which he was grossly unfit his voice would be received with derision now. But the President made him secretary of state."

To this the Star truthfully and forcibly retorts:

"The shoe belongs on the other foot. Mr. Wilson's obligations to Mr. Bryan are greater than Mr. Bryan's to Mr. Wilson, and they come first. If Mr. Bryan had not made Mr. Wilson president, Mr. Wilson could not have made Mr. Bryan secretary of state. And while secretary of state, Mr. Bryan performed all the functions for which he had been chosen.

"That is to say, through his friends in congress he assisted valuably in the shaping and passing of all the domestic legislation of the first two years of the administration. Without his help that would have been difficult even for the President, with all the White house power at command."

Regarding the Tribune's accusation that, while secretary of state, Bryan filled his department with "deserving democrats," whose "deserving consisted in having followed him from defeat to defeat," the Star declares the record will show that he "dispensed less patronage than any other man, probably, who ever held the office," and further remarks:

"Not a single one of the important European or Asiatic diplomatic posts was filled by him, but all were bestowed upon men not associated in any way with what had come to be known in our national politics as Bryanism."

The fact is that much of the ridicule with which Bryan is assailed comes from persons far beneath him in ability, public spirit and integrity of purpose.—Sacramento (Cal.) Bee.

Mistakes of the Militarists

To hear the militarists talk, the uninitiated would conclude that the United States had been spending nothing at all upon its military establishment for the past 20 years. The truth is of course that our army and navy have been costing us as much as Germany spent upon her army and navy previous to the outbreak of the present war. Congress has not only been appropriating money sufficient to make a "reasonable preparedness" possible, but it has been appropriating enough money to place us in the very front rank as a naval power and well to the front as far as our army is concerned.

It may be argued that the most has not been made of our appropriations; that money has been wasted; that it is necessary now to make good the mistakes of the past; that the system has hitherto been at fault. All that is doubtless true. But is it not well to inquire, before appropriations are increased, whether or not the system that has proved so inefficient in the past has been changed? Is it not well to make it certain before appropriations are increased that the increased appropriations will not be wasted?

Here is the question that the men down in the Cambria mills, in the Pennsylvania railroad shops and out on the farms must face. They have been contributing toward our military establishment through the devious channels of indirect taxation three dollars and some odd cents for themselves and the same amount for each member of their family. The money thus contributed has been wasted and the proposition put forward now is an assessment of \$6 for every man, woman and child in this country be levied in order to give the militarists enough money to get results operating under a wasteful system. How do our people like that proposition? Would it not be better to change the system and use all of the three dollars per head we are collecting now for reasonable preparedness instead of blowing it on foolish frills?

How has the money been wasted? It has been spent maintaining useless navy yards at New England and southern ports. It has been blown in on Charleston, Portland and similar "naval bases." It has been used to minister to local pride and to provide "pork" for congressmen and senators who have cared more about preparing for a re-election than they have about preparing their country. It has been spent on useless forts and army posts in the interior. It has been spent in maintaining parade grounds for the benefit of rural communities. It has been spent on the lawns in front of the houses occupied by all the colonels. It has been scattered around among a lot of ineffective arsenals. It has been used to patch up worthless docks to rebuild antiquated army posts. It has been thrown away on about all the schemes inefficiency could devise. And those practices are not a sudden development. They prevailed under President Taft; they were in vogue when Roosevelt roared in the White house; they were familiar in the days of McKinley.

The point that should stick fast in the mind of every workingman is that we are spending enough right now to insure reasonable preparedness. Those who contend for an increased appropriation contend for an unreasonable preparedness. We are spending three hundred million dollars a year to "maintain peace." If we do not have anything to show

for our money, the fault does not rest with the people as a whole. The fault lies at Washington. If President Wilson is determined to obtain a more efficient army, the place to start is with the congressmen who use government funds to feather their own political nests, with the army and navy officers who have permitted waste. If our army is something to be ashamed of, a whole lot of the gold lace boys should be cashiered and some efficient men put in their places.

The people are spending the money. They are doing their part. It is up to Washington to make good. The cry for more funds is a cry calculated to cover up the "mistakes of the militarists."—Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat.

THE FARMER PAYS THE TAX

How much will it cost the people of the United States to equip and sustain an army of 400,000?

Will the cost of the big army fall on the rich, or will the burden be saddled onto the producers?

Here are two very important questions, and they should receive very careful consideration. And so it is that we turn to the experience of our neighbor country on the north to learn the cost of an army of a half million men, and also to learn how the military tax touches the men on the farms. We shall not present any testimony from any publication which is opposed to war, because that might be regarded as prejudiced testimony. On the contrary, we shall present the testimony of a newspaper which is madly devoted to the cause of the war trust. From that newspaper we clip the following paragraph:

"Some of the American farmers who went to Canada in such large numbers during the last five or six years now wish that they had remained at home. The war taxes make them sick at heart. It is estimated that the cost of a Canadian soldier on active service is \$1,000 a year, and that the Dominion will have half a million under arms within eight or ten months. War expenditures for the coming year are estimated at \$350,000,000."

The estimate of the cost of an army is here based on an army in active service, so it would be unfair on our part to say that our big American army would cost as much money during times of peace. However, it must be remembered that the expense of maintaining an American soldier in peace times is almost as much as maintaining a soldier during war times in any other country, so that the estimated expense is not far out of the way.

And if it be true that the military game is so disastrous to the farmers in Canada, is it not safe to assume that the burden of it will be proportionately oppressive to our farmers if we shall get military crazy in the United States? If the military burden is greater than Canadian farmers can bear, will it not be greater than our own farmers can bear?

Remember, when reading the above quotation, that it was not written by Mr. Bryan, nor by any other opponent of the military craze. Remember that it was written by the editor of a newspaper whose principal owner is a member of the United States senate, and always a supporter of the military programme demanded by the war trust.

In the face of this evidence is it any wonder that the farmers of the United States are now so earnestly opposing the preparedness craze?—Columbus (Neb.) Telegram.

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