

Labor's Dread of "Preparedness"

The type of "hysteria" called "preparedness" needs immediate and drastic treatment, in the view of various labor and socialist editors. This mild-sounding word is a mask for "militarism," they aver, and "militarism" means war here as it has meant war in Europe. Yet it is not only because they prefer peace that they are coming out against "preparedness," but also, we read, because in all wars the workers are the "cannon-fodder," and when the war is over the workers bear the heaviest burden in the struggle back to normal conditions. Socialist editors, in particular, hammer on the fact that in their presidential campaign the big new issue is "War on war"; and in his first speech as nominee of the party, Mr. Allan L. Benson is reported in the St. Louis Labor (Lab. and Soc.) as saying: "We have always had to face the principle of robbery, but now we are confronted by the principle of murder, mass-murder in war!"

Again, in a proclamation issued at Chicago by the national executive committee of the socialist party, we read:

"Workers, you have the power to prevent all wars. You have no enemy but the same enemy which the Mexican workers seek to overthrow. Use your power to prevent not only war with Mexico, but to prevent that preparation for war which leads to war. Protest to your congressmen; protest to President Wilson."

One practical feature of the socialist "war on war" is the plan to collect ten million dimes from the people, in order, as The American Socialist (Chicago) says, "to challenge Wall street's millions." To members of the party, 120,000 letters have been sent, and each person is urged to return a dime to headquarters. Then the contributor receives five letters and coin-cards to mail to friends and acquaintances, thus starting links of an endless chain.

Socialist views do not always coin-

INSURE AND STAY INSURED

It is not an unusual thing to hear a man express regret on two things. First: That he did not take out more insurance on his life at an earlier age when the premiums were not so high as in later years; and second: That he did not keep in force the policies he at one time had.

You never hear one complain in his old age that he has too much life insurance or that he made a mistake in holding on to every one of his old line policies, even if at times it was hard to pay the premiums. Everyone should carry a reasonable amount of insurance and when a policy is once taken, pay the premiums on it promptly. An insurance quitter sooner or later regrets it.

THE MIDWEST LIFE
OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
A STOCK COMPANY SELLING
GUARANTEED COST LIFE INSURANCE

cide with those of the labor-union leaders and editors, and in the latter field we learn from the press that unions throughout the country are taking a referendum-vote on preparedness. The Cleveland Citizen (Lab.) records that by an overwhelming majority—4,432 to 565—"about one-half of the local unions affiliated with the Cleveland Federation of Labor voted to condemn the militaristic schemes that the statesmen at Washington are endeavoring to foist upon this country." This is the answer, observes The Citizen, to President Wilson's "publicly expressed desire to know what the people are thinking, to the self-constituted spokesmen of 'the people' who are confined to daily-newspaper editorial rooms, and to certain war-shouters among the business and professional elements who imagine they are the whole city."

Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, points out in the March issue of The American Federationist (Washington) the contrast of "militarism vs. preparedness." He opposed the former, but favors the latter. The article is reprinted with seeming approval by the San Francisco Coast Seamen's Journal (Lab.). It runs, in part, as follows:

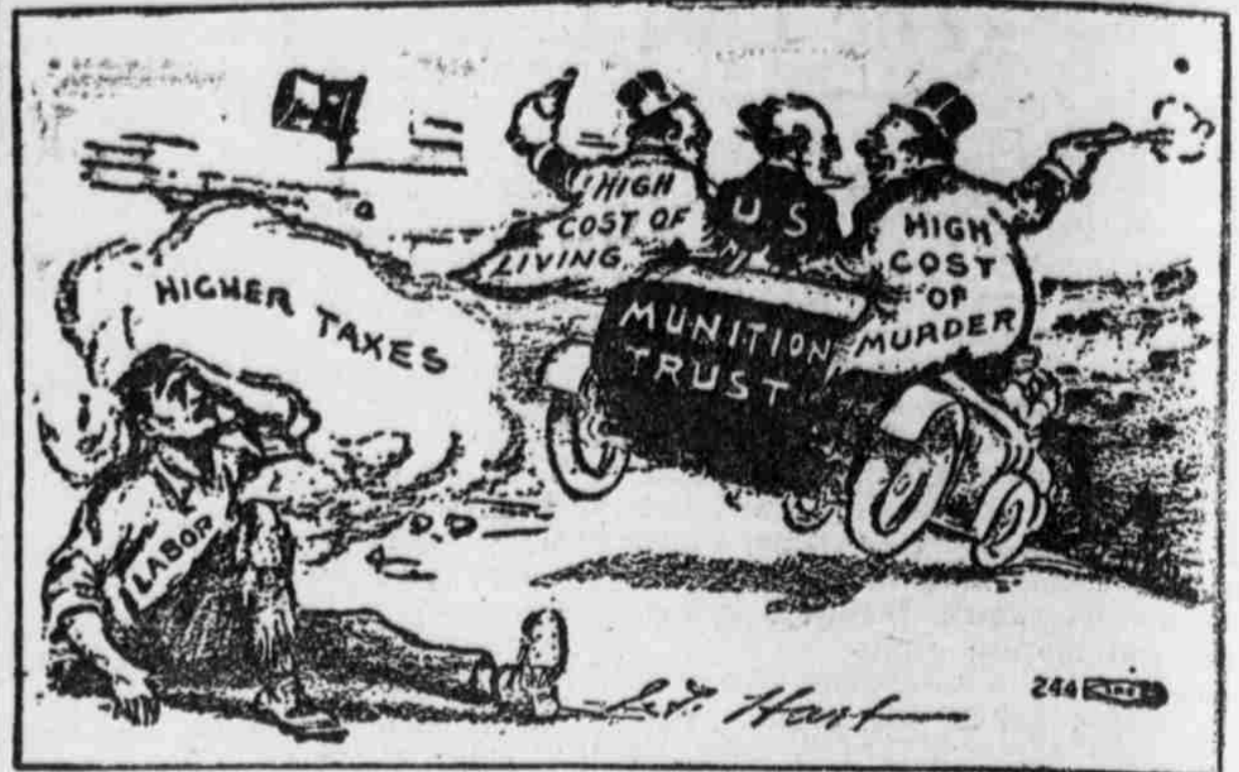
"All policies and plans for national defense must be determined by representatives of all of the people. The organized labor-movement, which is the only means for expressing the will and desires of the great masses of our citizenship, asserts its right to representation in all committees, commissions, or bodies that decide upon preparedness for and conduct of military defense."

"Preparedness is something very different from militarism. Both leave an indelible impression upon the nation—one for freedom and the other for repression. Militarism is a perversion of preparedness—instead of serving the interests of the people are ammunition for these machines. They are destructive to freedom and democracy."

"An understanding of human nature and of conditions is convincing proof that every nation must have some means of self-defense. The agencies and policies for this purpose must be carefully chosen. The pacifists and those who hold to policies of non-resistance have failed to understand and to evaluate that quality in the human race which makes men willing to risk their all for an ideal. Men worthy of the name will fight even for a 'scrap of paper'—when that paper represents ideals of human justice and freedom. The man who would not fight for such a scrap of paper is a poor craven who dares not assert his rights against the opposition and the demands of others."

Withal, Mr. Gompers is firm in his insistence that preparedness for national defense "must be in accord with democratic ideals." This desideratum he defines thus:

"Military training and military institutions must be a part of the life of the people rather than of a nature to alienate citizens from the spirit, the ideals, and the purposes of civic life. A great danger comes from isolating the military, from making military ideals separate and often in conflict with those of the masses of the people. The military should not exist as something apart, but for the service of the whole nation. The naval and military institutions of our country, which give a special training to those who have a particular fitness and desire to follow mil-



JOY RIDING

—Hart in the Allentown Labor Herald.

itary or naval professions, ought also to be open to all who possess the required qualifications. Such a provision would enable men from all walks of life to enter the army and navy—a condition which, in itself, would be in accord with the spirit of democracy.

"Wherever the spirit of democracy is absent, there the accompanying evil of militarism—military castes—fastens deadly clutches upon freedom and civic opportunity; and, conversely, where the spirit of democracy obtains, it tends to the abolition of military castes and the inherent vicious dangers of militarism."—Literary Digest, April 8, 1916.

POPE URGES PRESIDENT TO AID IN PEACE

Washington staff correspondence of the Chicago Tribune, in a dispatch dated May 6, says: Will President Wilson attempt to end the great war by offering his services as mediator?

This is the question that came to the fore today while he President and his advisers were studying the official text of the German reply to the American ultimatum.

The peace possibility received unusual attention because of the general conviction that a break between the United States and Germany has been averted. The closest advisers of the President are convinced that Mr. Wilson will pronounce the German reply a substantial compliance with his essential demand, despite the threat of Berlin to resume ruthless submarine warfare unless Great Britain be compelled to abandon the starvation blockade.

The talk of peace was revived by the following incidents:

Mgr. Bozano, the papal delegate to the United States, delivered to President Wilson today a message from Pope Benedict urging America to remain out of the war and suggesting mediation.

Ambassador Gerard cabled further details of his conversations with the kaiser, in which the latter expressed an ardent desire that President Wilson undertake the task of restoring peace.

Unofficial dispatches from Berlin, probably inspired, showed the expectation of the German government and public that an amicable settlement of the submarine controversy with the United States would lead eventually to mediation proposals by President Wilson.

The message from the pope was delivered personally at the White house by Mgr. Bonzano. The delegate did not see the President, but he left the communication with Secretary Tumulty, who immediately laid it before Mr. Wilson.

White house officials said the mes-

sage was personal in character and would not be made public. It was stated, however, that in the communication the pope expressed apprehension of the consequences of a rupture of the friendly relations of Germany and America and abjures the President to do all in his power to avoid so untoward an occurrence, which might lead to a prolongation of the bloody conflict in Europe.

The pope also takes occasion to reiterate his hope that the President of the United States would be able to wield his powerful influence to bring about a termination of the war. This is the second time that the pope has suggested to the President the desirability of undertaking mediation.

ARBITRATION VS. ULTIMATUMS

Bryan's diplomacy is vindicated and orthodox methods discredited in the strained situation with Germany. Bryan resigned when the antiquated ultimatum policy was adhered to in preference to arbitration. And the ultimatum policy has delayed settlement and finally brought the country to the verge of a rupture of friendly relations, if not to war itself. It has had this result in spite of most patient efforts to avoid it on the part of President Wilson and Secretary Lansing. It has a record of so many similar results that it did not require this latest demonstration to prove the need of abandonment. Had Bryan been allowed to pursue his policy as secretary of state, the submarine issue could have been settled long ago through arbitration. There would have been no crisis and no danger of diplomatic rupture. It is high time to substitute arbitration for ultimatums in all international disputes.—The Public.

VENGEANCE FIRST

A convict came singing around the corner of the big, sunny yard, and Judge Briles had just made himself comfortable in an easy chair on the big house porch.

"Good morning," said he to the man.

"Good mo'nin!"

"What are you here for?"

"Beatin' up a perleeceman."

"That is a serious offense. Now, aren't you glad you have thought better of it and intend to turn about?"

"Yas, suh."

"And when you get out you will reform?"

"Yas, sur. I'll done beat up dat perleeceman what sent me up fo' beating him up—after dat, I'se gwine t' be a diffunt niggah, jedge."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.