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Colonel Roosevelt declares that what this country must do is to go to war with Germany at once, and when it strikes to strike hard. If we do not go to war with Germany the Colonel could gain the unstinted admiration of the allies if he will slip them the tip where to strike.

The scared easterners who have conjured up a fleet of submarines battering at their harbors' mouths might lessen the nervous strain by banishing from their homes all clocks that strike. In this way they would not be so often reminded that another hour has passed and we are not yet fully prepared for anything that may happen.

Hundreds of labor organizations in the country have passed resolutions insisting that a referendum on the question of war, when this nation makes the first move towards hostilities, is desirable. The labormen have the curious delusion that the persons who are to do the fighting and pay the costs in blood and money should have the final word as to whether there should be war.

When Mr. Bryan arrived in Washington on the morning of February 28th, he announced in an interview that he would leave on the night train on the evening of March first, after the Nebraska dinner celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its admission to the Union. But this fact did not keep the jingo press from charging that he left Washington because of the publication of the Zimmerman note. It is another illustration of the desperation of the papers that are trying to force this country into war.

The attempt to fasten compulsory training upon the youth of the country by disguising it under the smoother-sounding name of universal training will never gain popular approval. A democracy and conscription in time of peace are contradictions. Thoreau said: "What is it to be born free and not to live free? What is the value of any political freedom but as a means to moral freedom?" If the individual wills of the people are subjected to governmental control, then we are no longer a democracy.

The sham character of the contention that it is a question of honor with us that we shall go to war with the nation that in its effort to win, torpedoes a merchantman that happens to have an American member of its crew is shown by the George Washington incident. Just as the jingoes were loudest in their demand that it was our solemn duty to avenge the death of a seaman of that name, the British government came forward with a statement that he was a Canadian. If the man had been born just south of the line instead of just north of it, national honor would have demanded, as the jingo views it, that we avenge his death by offering thousands of others on the altar of death, but as he was born on the other side we have no concern whatever.

The Gospel of Mars

One of the modern exponents of the gospel of Mars thus sets forth the creed of his cult:

"Man deteriorates in peace. Idle rest is the tomb of courage. Law is the friend of the weak, it aims at leveling all; it would reduce the world to a level. War brings out strength."

The war argument can not be stated more strongly; it leaves nothing more to be said on that side, but the fallacy of the argument is apparent to any one who understands the teachings of Christ. The militant regards man as an animal, and as an animal only. To him physical courage is the supreme virtue—courage to kill and meet death upon the field. He lives in the lore of battles—nothing is heroic to him unless it is bloody.

Even so great a soldier as Napoleon recognized that this was the OLD system—the system that must pass away. He said: "War is becoming an anachronism. \* \* \* There are two systems, the past and the future. The present is only a painful transition. Which must triumph? The future, will it not? Yes, indeed, the future! That is intelligence, industry and peace. The past was brute force, privilege, and ignorance. \* \* \* Victories will be won, one of these days, without cannon, and without bayonets."

Napoleon knew what war was, and he had caught a glimpse of the new system which Christ came to establish—a system which puts love above force, which substitutes forgiveness for retaliation, and measures greatness by service. The courage to endure suffering is greater than the courage to strike in anger, as forgiving is higher than hating. There are but two standards of honor, one invites us to seek glory in war—the other is proclaimed by the Prince of Peace. Again, Christ stands before Pilate.

TAXING THEIR CUSTOMERS

The New York Sun in a recent issue carries a very interesting story of a plan of the brewers which will be found on another page.

The plan is to collect a tax from all with whom they do business. Hops and malt are among the things upon which they have already levied tribute, but they have not exhausted their list. If they are going to appeal to all whom they aid, they will soon be trying to collect a tax from the undertakers, because of the number of corpses they furnish them. The undertakers, however, may be able to defend themselves against the tax on the ground that the persons buried could have afforded to buy much better coffins, but for the money wasted in the saloons. But it adds gayety to the contest to see how busy the liquor dealers are trying to raise money to fight the growing sentiment against intoxicants.

GUARANTY OF BANK DEPOSITS

On another page will be found my speech on the guaranty of bank deposits, delivered in the campaign of 1908. The democratic platform of that year said:

"We pledge ourselves to legislation under which the national banks shall be required to establish a guaranty fund for the prompt payment of the depositors of any insolvent national bank, under an equitable system which should be available to all state banking institutions wishing to use it."

This platform demand was made just after the panic of 1907—in fact, before the country had recovered from it. With the return to normal times the pressure was lifted and the reform has not yet been secured.

Five states, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas and Mississippi, have adopted systems applicable to state banks, but depositors in national banks are still unprotected.

The new currency law has greatly lessened the danger of panic, but an occasional bank failure still gives evidence of the need of a system which will furnish absolute protection to depositors. A certificate of deposit ought to be as good as a government bond; then a bank failure would cause no loss to depositors and no disturbance of the business community.

W. J. BRYAN.

MAKING BOOTLEGGERS ADVERTISE

The senate 7763 bill introduced by Senator Curtis of Kansas strikes a death blow at one of the annoying evils connected with the liquor traffic.

For a great many years the opponents of the saloon have pointed out the fact that the federal government virtually goes into partnership with the bootleggers by permitting them to sell in dry territory.

At first it was proposed to remedy this by refusing license, but several constitutional questions were raised against such a measure and these objections have served a useful purpose in preventing legislative action. Several years ago The Commoner suggested a way around this difficulty, namely, the requiring of notice to the public through the newspapers in advance of the taking out of government license. This does not embarrass the saloon keeper who has a local license, but it handicaps the bootleggers, because a man who is planning to violate the law can not advertise his purpose and give the location where he expects to conduct his illegal business.

Senator Curtis of Kansas has embodied this remedy in a bill (copy of which will be found on another page), and The Commoner gladly commends the bill to the attention of those who are trying to exterminate the saloon.

The anti-shipping provision contained in the post-office appropriation bill will be a tremendous aid towards enforcing the law against the sale of intoxicating liquor; Senator Curtis' bill will add the finishing stroke. When the federal forces join with the state officials in prosecuting the bootlegger his days will be numbered.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE POSTAL VOTE

Why should a man's right to vote depend upon his being at a particular place on a particular day in the year? Why penalize traveling and reward those whose business enables them to stay at home? Is it not reward enough that one can enjoy the delights of home without giving him a political advantage over his less fortunate neighbors?

The traveling man is a necessary factor in the commercial world. Why should he be compelled to pay a poll tax — for that is what it amounts to—equal to the cost of traveling to his home and back for the privilege of voting. The railroad man is also at a great disadvantage without the postal vote, not to speak of those who are called away from home on business, or because of sickness. The student, too, would find the postal vote very convenient. And in time of war it is imperative, needed by the soldiers.

It will not be difficult to so safeguard it as to prevent fraud. Let us have the postal vote everywhere.

W. J. BRYAN.

A JINGO COLLEGE PRESIDENT

The New York Times contained the following news item on February 26, 1917:

"John Grier Hibben, who became president of Princeton university when President Woodrow Wilson first entered politics, demanded before an audience of 1,500 persons in a Brooklyn church last night that America should enter the war on the righteous side of the Allies, and not wait until she was driven in solely for the protection of her commerce. President Hibben's declaration, made near the close of an address in which he scored the United States for lack of an international conscience, was received in earnest silence by the congregation of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian church, which was prevented by the conventions of religious service from rendering applause."

This is the same Dr. Hibben who has been shouting for "preparedness," the same Dr. Hibben who joined in the recent warning against a "premature peace"—and the same Dr. Hibben who opposed President Wilson when, as president of Princeton, he tried to introduce democracy into that institution.

PERSUASION VS. FORCE

Napoleon thus compares persuasion and force: "Force is never anything but force, enthusiasm never anything but enthusiasm. But persuasiveness endures and imprints itself upon the heart."