

Time for Mediation

Statement given to the press by Mr. Bryan, at Washington, December 5:

"I hope that the congress which meets tomorrow will at once assure the President of its readiness to support him in any effort which he may see fit to make to hasten the restoration of peace in Europe. He offered mediation at the beginning of the war, but that was sixteen months ago. Since that time more than two million men have been killed; more than five million have been wounded, and more than twenty billions of dollars have been expended. In horrible detail and extent of suffering the war has surpassed anything known to history.

"An offer of mediation is not only amply justified on the ground of humanity, but it is demanded. If, however, other reasons are desired they can be found in our obligations to the other neutral nations. All of the neutral nations are suffering because of this war which obstructs the highways of the world, interferes with neutral trade and scatters injury everywhere.

"The neutral nations are the innocent bystanders whose people are being killed, unintentionally, of course, but killed. These neutral nations are compelled to bear burdens of taxation that would not be necessary but for this war, and all of them are in danger of being drawn into the conflict—some of them are almost forced into it. Our nation not only shares the sufferings of other neutral nations, but has an additional reason for desiring the restoration of peace, namely; that the war is being used as a reason for demanding a change in our national policy which lowers our ideals and puts us into a mad rivalry with Europe in the increase of our military and naval expenditures.

"To be the means of bringing the war to an end would not only add to our moral influence, but it might save the country a billion or more in taxes and it would put an end to the manufactured scares which are being used to frighten the public. The other nations wait on us.

"There is abundant reason to believe that the President, either alone or in conjunction with the executives of the other neutral nations, can secure from the nations at war a statement of the terms upon which peace is possible, and such a statement would be the beginning of an exchange of views which would lead to a treaty. If one belligerent nation sets the example public opinion will compel the others to speak. The terms must be announced sometime: why not now? To ask for a statement of these terms is merely to ask the belligerent nations to say for what they are fighting. Each of the governments at war certainly knows what it is that it demands—otherwise it could not justify a continuation of the slaughter. And if the belligerent nations know for what they are fighting, why not tell the world? In this day and age no nation can afford to wage war for secret reasons, especially when in doing so it necessarily brings injury to neutral nations.

"Here is a question which the neutral nations certainly have a right to ask: What are you fighting about? In other words, what is it that, being done, the world can have peace? Publicity will in itself sift out unworthy motives and unreasonable demands. When the world knows what each nation demands as a condition precedent to peace, the responsibility can be located and moral pressure can be brought to bear in favor of a peace that will rest upon reason and give promise of permanence.

"To say that this war must necessarily continue any length of time, even for a day, is equivalent to saying that there are questions which can be settled only by the sword, and to say that is to deny the coming of the day when war will be no more. To deny this possibility of an era of peace, based upon love and brotherhood, is to challenge Christian civilization and advocate a return to savagery. If an era of peace is possible, to delay its coming is inexcusable."

It is unfortunate that the President's recommendation for a larger army and navy should go to congress at this season of the year, it is not a pleasant Xmas greeting to send to a war-burdened world.



THE NAVY'S GROWTH

On another page will be found the statistics showing the navy's growth.

In 1891 the navy had 1,483 officers, exclusive of 239 naval cadets at naval academy. The number of enlisted men allowed in 1891 was 8,250, and the amount appropriated that year was \$24,610,501.64. In 1915 the officers numbered 3,403; the naval cadets numbered 912; the enlisted men numbered 52,561, and the amount appropriated was \$145,734,163.03.

In other words, we now have a little more than twice as many officers as in 1891; more than three times as many naval cadets; more than six times as many enlisted men and nearly six times as large an appropriation. That is growing some in twenty-four years—and yet the jingoes ridicule our navy.

Wanted: A scare more idiotic than "the pipe dream" published on another page. Ten cents will be given for the most insane story submitted before January 1st.

AND STILL THEY GROW

A recent interview given out by John Hays Hammond, Jr., described as "Aero-nautical division of the Naval Advisory board," announces that we should have "at least two thousand aeroplanes ready to be sent into the air at a moment's notice." And then he adds: "It will take ten years to build up our defenses. When the war began France had 25,000 officers; now she has 100,000, and that is not enough. At least that number would be necessary to put the United States in condition to meet a first-class power." And still they grow: 100,000 officers for our army; where will it end? The very extravagance of the claims of the jingoes will disgust the public and create a sentiment which will eventually put a stop to frenzied preparedness.

Why not raise the additional war revenue needed by putting a head tax on jingo editors who advocate war before giving their names to the recruiting officers?

SECRETARY DANIELS' MISFORTUNE

For a second time Secretary Daniels has suffered from fire—his newspaper being again destroyed. The sympathy of The Commoner is extended. It is gratifying to hear that, in spite of two severe losses the secretary is undaunted and will begin rebuilding at once. He is to be congratulated on his courage, and his readers upon the advantage of having his paper still as a daily visitor.

THE PATRIOTISM OF PELF

By a coincidence neither strange nor striking, the New York Tribune represents two elements of the American people who are traveling together—the jingo who wants war, and the manufacturer of munitions who will make the profit out of war.

The fact that there was one Judas among the twelve reconciles us to the occasional minister who joins the jingoes.

Why not drain all the swamps? The ditches will make excellent trenches if we are ever attacked.

New year's is coming — why not swear off from the jingo-jolo prep-pare habits.

The Peace Mission

After a conversation with Mr. Ford, Mr. Bryan gave out the following statement:

"I came to New York as I stated in my telegram, to explain to Mr. Ford more fully than I could by wire my reason for believing that, just now, I can render larger services here opposing the attempt to increase the appropriations for the army and navy than I could by going with him on the Peace ship.

"I have seen Mr. Ford and laid my reasons before him, and he recognizes the weight of those reasons. I desire to add that I am in hearty sympathy with the effort which he is making, and hope to join the party at The Hague. As the date of their arrival at The Hague is not yet known, I can not fix the date for my departure.

"Mr. Ford is making an earnest and unselfish effort in behalf of peace, and he ought to have the good wishes and sympathetic support of all who desire peace, even though some may not fully share his faith in the immediate success of the trip. Of course those who want the war to continue ridicule the effort, especially those who speak for the big munition factories which are exporting war material at a large profit. This was to be expected. Ridicule is the favorite weapon of those who desire to oppose any movement when they find themselves unable to support their opposition with argument. IF ANY OF THE PEOPLE ON THE ARK HAD BEEN MAKING MONEY OUT OF THE FLOOD, THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE RIDICULED NOAH FOR SENDING OUT THE DOVE. Success to Mr. Ford and his companions. May they return with an olive leaf."

"W. J. BRYAN."

ROOSEVELT A PRODIGAL

Mr. Medill McCormick of the Chicago Tribune, vice-chairman of the Progressive National committee, is reported to have announced, on returning from Oyster Bay, that he would work with the republican party in 1916. The Philadelphia Inquirer accepts this as an indication that Mr. Roosevelt will also support the republican ticket and that the chief business of the Progressive National convention, if one is held, will be to endorse the republican ticket and platform.

LIBELING THE NATION

Former Ambassador Choate, now president of one of the organizations urging frenzied preparedness, says that the United States is the "most hated of the nations." This is an inexcusable falsehood, and the fact that so prominent a man would resort to it shows how fatal jingoism is to both truth and common sense.

LEADER KITCHIN'S UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT

On another page will be found House Leader Kitchin's unanswerable argument against the proposed increase in appropriations for the army and navy. Read it, and then show it to your neighbors.

Is the Chicago Tribune so anxious to have a war somewhere that, having failed to induce this government to interfere forcibly in Mexico, it is driven to oppose peace in Europe in order that it may continue to regale its readers with the bloody details of the royal sport of man-killing?

In order to raise money for the proposed military program, it is proposed to put a tax of twenty-five cents a ton on "fabricated steel." Why not put a small tax on "fabricated war yarns" and raise the whole amount?

Strange that the preparedness program should be described as patriotic as soon as it became evident that it could not be carried through with democratic votes. Why are not democratic reforms also called patriotic?

Instead of talking about increased armaments in this day of world woe, is it not time for this republic to speak out plainly what it proposes to do in the interests of the world's peace, in which our own peace is bound up?