

when he asserts that Germany's 40 years of preparation was only for defense, yet the pages of history are bloody with the record of a hundred wars that were caused by preparedness and not one that was caused by the lack of it. For 140 years we have set the world an example of a people independent, confident and unafraid. We asserted the Monroe Doctrine in the face of France when we were exhausted by Civil war, and in the face of England when our army was smaller than now and our navy but a few rotten wooden tubs. Now, that we are a nation of a hundred million people and our wealth a hundred eighty billion, with resources unequaled by any nation of this or any other age. With an efficient army and a powerful navy, with no enemy in sight and no possible antagonist, who is not already engaged in war and cursed with a crushing debt, the President tells us that our national safety demands that we abandon this American policy of 140 years standing and adopt the European plan of preparation for war. The President seeks a middle ground between the extremes of Bryanism and Rooseveltism. There is no middle ground. Nations must live either by righteousness or by the sword. If we must depend upon the sword, then Roosevelt's plan does not go too far. If might must continue to rule the world, then the New Testament should never have been written; Christ was but a crucified phantom and the hope of democracy is but a dream. Against such a philosophy every man who still has faith in a government by the people, must and will revolt. When we reflect that 90 per cent of our great dailies are against us, the thought is appalling, but it should only stimulate and not discourage us. We are not without leaders. A few

fearless souls have dared to speak: Bryan, Kitchen, Bailey, Carnegie and Ford, and as the people become aroused, politicians will take courage and more leaders will arise. The issue is clear cut. Attempt is being made to wipe out the difference between the democratic and the republican parties. It is the same issue we faced at Baltimore. We won then and we will win again under the same leader.

J. B. Akin, Chautauqua, N. Y.: Your paper should be in the hands of every citizen of the United States at this time, regardless of party, sex or color, and if it is the last act of my life, will get up a list of subscribers. I have no time to comment, but you will hear from me soon.

Frank L. Gannaway, St. Louis Mo.: I most heartily indorse your position in regard to the "preparedness" bunk that seems to have taken hold of some people, and I am sorry that the only democratic president we have had for 20 years seems to have "fallen for it" for some reason or other. I consider it undemocratic as well as unchristian. It seems to me if there ever was a time that "preparedness" was unnecessary it is just now.

J. L. Woods Merrill, Kansas City, Mo.: Preparedness means war, war means destruction, death and murder. For two thousand years the only step against world's peace of nations, by the world's board of arbitration, to settle the differences of nations, and save millions of lives and billions of unnecessary war taxes has been caused by "preparedness" of nations. Are we degenerating? Are we going back as a nation to heathendom? Ancient history says fights, wars, and to kill, comes from ignorance. In America, from the first settlers, "copper colored nation," are we to adopt their ways, take their example into our family, and close our eyes to progress. Our port protections should be considered with moderation on expenses. Where is the money coming from to meet the large obligation? By taxation. The number of cadets at our naval schools should be increased. A large standing army is preposterous, as our country is at peace with all nations.

W. C. Jarboe, Altus, Okla.: I have been a subscriber of your paper for a good many years, and after reading your last copy I feel like I would be glad to distribute a few copies, with a view of getting some more of my friends to subscribe. I believe that if we could get one in ten of the thinking public to read this last copy of your paper, we could defeat this worse than useless proposition to put our country on a war footing at a time above all others when we are not threatened from any source.

Geo. L. Clements, Uniontown, Ky.: Keep up the good work for unpreparedness, peace, prohibition and woman suffrage. I have voted for you three times, would like to do so again in 1916. Everybody here for peace among Christian nations.

F. G. Flower, Spokane, Wash.: You are quite aware of my personal feelings — they haven't changed in twenty years—but, like you, I might find myself in a position to materially differ with my closest, most personal, intimate friends upon questions of public policy; just as you are now differing with your good friend, President Wilson. I have made it my business to carefully sound public opinion here in Washington, Idaho and Oregon and, outside of some newspapers and their corporation influenced allies, I have found a very large majority against

President Wilson's new military plan of preparedness for war, and decidedly in favor of your theories and plans. I believe as you do in regard to this question and will do what I can to aid in keeping America from becoming a military nation with a chip on its shoulder.

Horace Addis, Portland, Ore.: I just want you to know that I have written both the senators from Oregon, Messrs. Geo. Chamberlain and Harry Lane, telling them I am one democrat who regrets the President going over to the side of the militarists in favor of a big army and navy expenditure, under the name of a "defense plan." I told them I believed a very large proportion of the members of the party in our state do not endorse this idea of "being ready," with a chip on our shoulder, and that we prefer to follow the lead of that greatest democrat and greatest of living statesmen, Wm. J. Bryan, who is now, as he has been on every question, right on the proposition that justice in all the dealings of the nation are the best "protection" the nation can have. God speed you in your work for peace, temperance and the betterment of government and mankind.

R. B. Trechsel, Idana, Kansas: I am certainly opposed to preparedness, in fact, the great majority of the people are. If the President wishes to do what the people want, he must quit talking preparedness, and take that money and build transcontinental roads.

I. W. Crooks, Cicero, Ind.: Our local papers published an article from my pen early last spring, pointing out the danger of the preparedness crusade, and this article was commended by a letter from Dr. David Starr Jordan. I have been on the firing line in this anti-military battle for many years. By today's mail I send our paper (The Times) another article under the caption "The Bugaboo of Unpreparedness," which shows that although an old soldier of the Civil war, passed seventy years, I am still in the army making war on war. Colonel Bryan has made many fights against public evils, but in his present fight against militarism he is engaged in a bare-handed fight with the devil himself. When the civilized part of the people comprehend the true nature of the fight, Mr. Bryan will soon have enough help to put the devil's back to the mat.

B. F. Kimb's, N. Mex.: The \$1 I am enclosing for subscription was given me as a premium as the oldest man at the annual picnic at Richland, N. Mex., last September; my age was 83 years, 7 months and 17 days. I have been a reader of The Commoner since it started, and take its editorials for the truth.

R. A. Church, Jerico Springs, Mo.: I have been an admirer of President Wilson, but I am not pleased with the stand he has taken on preparedness in his Manhattan club speech. I do hope he will see his mistake. I was for Wilson before the Baltimore convention, and living in Missouri with Champ Clark. I hope you will keep your good fight going, and that the American people will be aroused to the dangers of preparedness.

J. W. Tanner, Filer, Ida.: I showed a young man who is making a study of the many political questions now coming up, a copy of The Commoner, and asked him to read what W. J. Bryan has to say on "preparedness," and he became so interested that he asked me to send in his subscription. I was telling a couple of democrats about it, and they asked me to send

in their subscriptions at the same time, which I am doing. From now on I am going to see how many more I can get you. Will run a little ad every week, as well.

A. M. Ross, Sedan, Kansas.: I am deeply concerned in the crisis through which our country is now passing. I know of no better way in which a poor man can render service to friends, country and mankind, at the present time, than to assist in circulating The Commoner, hence I make the free contribution by sending the following club of five appreciative readers.

Fred L. Prov, Salem, Ind.: I am well pleased with Mr. Bryan's position on "preparedness," and would like a few copies of The Commoner with his Johnston, Pa., address for free distribution. Best wishes for the success of The Commoner.

Chas. T. Phillip, Colo.: Please find check for \$3.00 in payment for club of five yearly subscriptions enclosed. The following is a part letter which I have just written to a publisher whose paper does not stand for the things advocated by The Commoner: "Kindly stop sending my paper Dec. 22, when my subscription expires. I believe by using the dollar in payment of one year's subscription for W. J. Bryan's Commoner to be sent to one of my neighbors will be a much better investment."

S. J. Galloway, West Plains, Mo.: I am with you in your fight on behalf of the people, against special interests and so are all of my neighbors.

F. B. Grainger, Allegan, Mich.: I appreciate The Commoner, and hope and pray that God will spare W. J. Bryan's life and give him strength for a long time to come—to enlighten the people—and that he may drive his charges against the grafters that are conspiring to fill their pockets from the labor the man in the overalls is producing.

E. W. Woodward, Neosho, Mo.: I highly approve of Wilson's administration, if he does not follow the example of Joash after he was from under the influence of Jehoida. Jehoida was influenced by evil counselors.

J. A. Minter, Neligh, Nebr.: I am disappointed and surprised that the president has taken the stand he does in the matter of militarism.

T. J. Wolverton, Waterville, Kans.: I am very sorry that President Wilson has taken the stand that he has for greater preparedness. I do not see how any one can hold that preparedness prevents war when the countries now at war were all prepared. I do not think there is any danger of any European nation attacking this country—they have about all the fighting they can manage without coming over here to interfere with the United States.

Joseph B. Welcher, Ill.: Enclosed herewith please find draft for \$3.00, which pays for the renewal of my subscription and for the enclosed list of four new yearly subscriptions.

Thomas E. Scott, Ind.: The October issue of The Commoner was a particularly good one. There is lots of educational work to be done and I shall try to do my share.

S. L. Lowry, Pittsburgh, Pa.: I am writing to you at this time to ask you to send me some sample copies of your November issue of The Commoner. I wish to use them in trying to secure subscribers for The Commoner. This number is the very

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