

Congressman "Cyclone" Davis Writes the New York World

To The World,
New York City, N. Y.

Answering your telegram, I think Woodrow Wilson one of the grandest men that ever served as president, but as a congressman I am unwilling to commit myself now to any very large extension of our army or navy. I would like to double or treble our army and navy schools, preparing an adequate number of young men for expert service in time of need; enlarge our Rock Island arsenal; manufacture and keep on hand an ample supply of first-class guns, munitions and like equipments; plant several aeronautic stations on our shores with submarine and mine equipments. Thus prepared and relying on a citizen soldiery, if we give the citizen freedom and fair play at home, we will be impervious to all attacks from any source.

I fear a very large part of this clamor for preparedness is inspired by the money trust, steel trust, powder trust, shipbuilding trust, etc., which are growing fabulously richer and more powerful over the war contracts from Europe and want to have this country in a frenzy over a big army and navy so when their big contracts with the Allies in Europe close, they can feast a few years more on our own federal treasury in big, fat contracts at home.

What countries do we expect to attack us? If our program is only defensive, I see no danger of trouble. The clashing governments of Europe are now bankrupting their governments, and murdering their men by the million. Unless Morgan, or some of our predatory rich, furnish them money, it would be impossible for them to invade and maintain a war with our country. Stupid must be the man who thinks that Japan or China, even both, could mobilize an army, wade the ocean ten thousand miles and invade our country. Germany seems to be the specter of dread that the "Gingos" refer to. Germany will have enemies enough in Europe to keep her busy for a generation, even if she comes out of this dreadful war alive.

Bryan, Wilson's great partner in this wonderful peace and prosperity we now have, made solemn treaties with most nations of the earth, to refer all questions to The League one year before a declaration of war, or an overt act of violence. Shall we tell the world that we have no confidence in its treaties? Is Christianity dead and honor extinct, and the world a prize ring in which brute force alone is master? Kings, emperors, aristocrats and great, greedy corporations will keep the world in a maelstrom of misery and war if democracy, freedom and justice are not allowed to assert themselves. It is the mission of our government to lead the way in this great universal civilizing program.

I would have the government make its own army supplies, munitions, guns, gunboats and aeroplanes. One who feels a pang of sorrow over the present cruel war grows horrified and heartsick as he sees the great gun and powder factories of the earth in partnership, supplying the guns and munitions that prepare both sides for the slaughter. The Krupps in Germany and the Armstrongs in England leagued in corporate partnership, have furnished deadly machines of murder that thunder on both sides of every battle. If war is "Hell," as Sherman said, then let us keep out of "Hell" by preparing for a glorious civilization at home, enlarge our ports and merchant marine, curb the rapacity of the malevolent rich, who concentrate our natural and productive resources into a few greedy hands.

"Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility," not make all our farmers tenants and our laboring millions serfs to soulless corporations, and our merchants peons to a few trusts in order that a few bankers like Morgan and Rockefeller may be masters of all our gigantic enterprises, thus promoting debt, discord, riot, strikes and misery among the masses.

"Provide for the common defense" by making our people free, prosperous and happy and then the combined world could not invade and conquer us. A contented citizen soldiery is invincible. "Promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty" to the masses and not to the big corporate classes.

The price of several warships would better be spent in impounding the vast snows melt along the base of the Rock mountains for irrigation

over the fertile valleys below which stand thirsting for that which, if interned, would bless millions of people and make their homes prosperous. The price of a few more warships and the price of a large standing army could well be spent in dredging and disinfecting sluggish and miasmatic swamps and streams; giving health and wealth to vast sections of country now infected with disease, stagnation and death. The price of a few dreadnaughts would be far better spent in erecting a system of continental military highways.

Some provision must be made in our defense program to prevent the great corporations from feasting on the ruin of our country in war, and money be made to fight for its country the same as men. All goes down in war except gold, which stands triumphant over every battlefield, cleans up the wreck and makes millions out of its cruel carnage. The more ferocious the war the larger its margins. The moanings of millions of mangled soldiers and grief-stricken citizens, helpless in poverty, by war, are songs of jubilation and joy to the world's gold syndicate, which stands in splendor over ruined and ravished humanity. The cadaverous faces of a million dead soldiers only emphasize the triumphant march of gold to more sumptuous splendor, when it can clip the coupons from government bonds and command the tax collectors to pay homage of millions of dollars taken from the honest enterprise and toll of the survivors of a cruel slaughter, which the lords of gold themselves, in league with great gun, powder and munition factories, have often instigated.

Until these unscrupulous molochs of misery and death can be muzzled and forbidden to feast in ghoulish glee on the dead and dying men in war, we may expect greed and gold to keep the world in conflict by piling up immeasured millions in time of peace in preparation of a pre-concerted struggle.

The gold syndicate of today holds the earth in the hollow of its hand. At the close of the war it will be the royal receiver of the famished and bankrupt nations, with every custom house its fiscal agent, and every tax collector a sub-agent, in obedience to these masters of civilization, who, from their castles and corridors will compel even the emperors and kings to obey their orders.

With much respect,

J. H. DAVIS.

ARMY STAFF WANTS BIG ARMY

The press dispatches have the following in regard to the recommendations of the board of army experts:

"Immediate publication of the report of the army general staff on the military needs of the country, differing materially from the administration's continental army scheme, will be urged upon President Wilson. Secretary Garrison, who has described the plan to be recommended to congress as only a step in the right direction, said today he believed the public was entitled to all available information relating to the national defense.

"The general staff has made an exhaustive study of the problem of defending the country and its insular possessions.

"Its report, it is understood, recommends increasing the regular army to 250,000 men permanently with the colors, with reserves of 300,000 fully trained men. Behind this line it is proposed to have a force of a million men with at least a year's training, giving the country an army of about 1,500,000 fully equipped and easily mobilized. No synopsis of the report has been given out and details are not available.

"The administration plan was prepared by Secretary Garrison and a special board of officers and officials after careful scrutiny of the staff report. It was decided that there was no hope of getting the staff proposals through. Various unofficial estimates have placed the cost involved at more than twice that of the continental army scheme which reaches a total of \$500,000,000 in six years. The first year's expenditures under the staff plan, it is said, would approach \$400,000,000 and the continuing expense be proportionately heavy.

"The staff estimates, it is reported, that it takes at least a year to make a soldier fit to join

the fighting line. The continental army programme contemplates only six months of hard training, distributed in two month periods through three years. It was adopted to diminish the expense and yet produce a force of citizen soldiers nearly 1,000,000 to support the regulars, increased to approximately 142,000 from the 103,000 now in the service."

The President's plan is just a STARTER; and the army experts may be expected to expand their estimates from year to year.

W. J. BRYAN.

A SAMPLE OF NON-PARTISANSHIP

In its issue of November 13th the New York Tribune says:

"Across the water men, even women and children, are giving their lives for the things that are worth living and dying for. They are making the supreme sacrifice out of which arises national and human greatness. Here in America, under the inspiration of Mr. Wilson's administration, the American people are day by day absorbing more and more of the cult of cowardice and the gospel of selfishness. It is better that some women and children should be murdered than that many men should risk their precious lives. It is better that American honor, all that America has meant in the years of our national existence, should be discarded than that this country should put to the touch its comfort, its prosperity, its glorious peace, which is the peace of cowardice. This is the New Patriotism."

If this is a sample of the non-partisanship upon which the President relies to carry through his preparedness program he will have hard sledding. It would be better to rely on the democrats to help him make a party record. They are more trustworthy.

THOSE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

The Newport News Press quotes the Washington Herald as saying:

"The Washington Herald says that the greatest blunder which the Democratic party has made in 1896 is its submission to the dictation of William J. Bryan. 'Once installed as leader,' continues the Herald, 'he proceeded to drive from associated leadership the ablest men of the party—such men as Cleveland, Carlisle, Olney, Whitney and others of national reputation as statesmen.'"

What good old days they were back in 1894, before Mr. Bryan was nominated. The democrats lost congress in 1894 by a larger majority than they have at any time since. And Mr. Bryan, although he had the active opposition of President Cleveland and his cabinet, polled a million more votes in 1896 than Mr. Cleveland polled in 1892, a million and a quarter more than Mr. Parker polled in 1904, and has in the three campaigns—in 1896, 1900 and 1908—polled more votes than any other candidate has ever polled. Not such a bad record, and yet the plutocratic press constantly harks back to the good old days when Wall street controlled the democratic party.

Senator Cummins is going right ahead being a republican presidential candidate in spite of the fact that the republican bosses have decreed that an eastern reactionary who can make a strong appeal to "business" shall have the nomination.

A PLEA FROM ABROAD

Lord Rosebery, speaking at a Rhodes scholarship lecture in London recently, said:

"I know nothing more disheartening than the announcement recently made that the United States—the one great country left in the world free from the hideous, bloody burden of war—is about to embark upon the building of a huge armada destined to be equal or second to our own. It means that the burdens will continue upon the other nations, and be increased exactly in proportion to the fleet of the United States. I confess that it is a disheartening prospect that the United States, so remote from the European conflict, should voluntarily in these days take up the burden which, after this war, will be found to have broken, or almost broken, our backs."

Surely such a plea from such a source will not fall upon deaf ears. Our nation has led in the peace movement—to turn to a big army and navy will not only forfeit our position of leadership but it will compel other nations to increase their burdens, each new battleship built by one nation being made the excuse for new battleships by all the other nations. What unspeakable folly!

W. J. BRYAN.