

life for America "War is a biological necessity," and nobody but "Theorists and Feminists who are but the feverish phantasms and sickly disorders of national life," will ever be fools enough to think that it can be curbed, restricted or outgrown. According to this man, who in every page of his book shows his absolute contempt of the Christian God, and the Christian hope of the world, what is now going on in Europe must be a part of the world's life until human nature changes; and as all who try to change it "are helpless as lice on the backs of wild ducks" and, as the General finds no evidence whatever in all recorded time that human nature has changed one iota, man is condemned forever to be but a fighting animal. The moment he tries to quit fighting and concentrate his energy in things which minister to peaceful co-operation and human happiness, he loses the fighting spirit, and there is no other school of virtue which can possibly furnish a moral equivalent to a periodic wallow in the mire made oozy with human blood shed at the hands of his fellow men. And this is the man upon whose observations and authority, more than from any other source, we are told that America must prepare to fight Japan, and that if we are not in a hurry about it Japan will permanently take and hold the whole Pacific slope! If his military calculations are as far awry (and they are) as his moral vision and his spiritual reading of the destiny of humanity, those who listen to him need guardians. God pity America and the world if this creature who has not morally emerged from the Tertiary age is to become our supreme prophet! And Heaven pity the American people if they are blind and gullible enough to be deceived into thinking that when they follow General Homer Lea and the kind who put their approval upon what he has taught, that they are really preparing for peace and not for war.

EUROPE'S PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITY LEADS TO FEAR AND SUSPICION

Has not Europe had forty years of that kind of preparation for peace? Has not every nation over there been worked into the vast preparedness program by its Army and Navy leagues, and by its National Defence crowd, the prime movers of which were all the heaviest owners in the concerns which were to furnish the "defence" at the best paying rate of any money invested in Europe? Has not every nation in Europe been led by its military experts into feeling that somebody was sure to attack them, and that their only possible hope and safety lay in ever new and ever vaster expenditures for soldiers and more soldiers, guns and more guns, and ever bigger guns, battleships, and more battleships? Of course, all this was done solely for "defensive purposes"? Not in the whole of Europe was there anybody who contemplated "offense." If it were not so tragic, some of the funniest reading in the world is that which has come out of every country of Europe, even by its leading philosophical minds, the men in each country all morally certain that there was nothing wrong with their own "preparedness." I quote from the lengthy statement signed by the leading thinkers of Germany and sent out to America as the nation's justification: "Since the German army when it is summoned to war represents the whole German people, and since the German people is peaceably disposed, it follows that the army can only be a defensive organization. Again then let us repeat that the German army is a weapon which can be and is used only for defense against foreign aggression." Well, now that looks perfectly reasonable—from a German standpoint. But our dear German friends do not reason at all that way about the armies of Russia and France, or the navy of England. Here is what they say about the Russian armies: "The Czar as an individual is most certainly not the instigator of the unspeakable horrors that are now inundating Europe. But he bears before God and posterity the responsibility of having allowed himself to be terrorized by an unscrupulous military clique."

Curious, isn't it, how much more innocent look the military cliques on our own side of the line than those on the other! Again say our peaceably disposed Germans: "The party of the Grand Dukes in St. Petersburg and the party of the Russian officers, always ready for war, and the Pan-Slavists, the brutal and unscrupulous representatives of the ideal that Russian Czarism was destined to rule Europe—these made the war." Now it so happens that we have but to substitute Prussians for Grand Dukes, and Pan-Germanism for Pan-Slavism, and every one of the Allies is using this identical language

about the menace of the German cliques. The crime was always with the other fellow. All were sure that they were perfectly innocent and pure of motive. The only difficulty lay in the rather troublesome and aggravating fact, that never seems to have dawned upon military minds, and which seems to be inherent in all preparedness programs, that that which looks entirely defensive to the men at the butt-ends of these ever growing and multiplying guns persisted in looking horribly offensive to everybody who was forced to gaze down the front end of the barrels. Of course, all this late unpleasantness in which Europe is at present involved would have been entirely avoided if they had all only had a few more millions of guns! If the wicked and foolish pacifists had not interfered with the military experts these guns would have surely been on hand, and peace assured—so reason our wise military minds. And, of course, the whole character of millions of guns and frowning battleships, when we get enough of them to be "adequately prepared solely for defensive purposes" on this side of the ocean will be so changed that they will look to all the world not like "offensive things," but beautiful tubes of peace through which we propose to toss only love messages around the earth. And yet our "wise and practical" friends profess to hold a monopoly of knowledge concerning human nature! Instead of this preparedness program leading to peace in Europe, it led, as in the very nature of things it could not help leading, to fear and suspicion, to crimination and re-crimination, to a feverish rivalry, to spying, to constant reports of alarm; until, first one side and then the other was in a perfect nightmare of dementia; to the awakening of all the worst elements of the human heart; and the more desperately each nation tried to get "adequately prepared" the more certain was everybody that war was inevitable, until the Bernhardt's and Blatchford's in each country were openly publishing that their own nation should strike the other even without warning.

NERVOUS TENSION BREAKS INTO PRESENT MANIA OF KILLING

Finally, the nervous tension broke into this present mania of killing which is the most horrible thing of its kind that has ever disgraced the human spirit. Our more reasonable descendants of three hundred years hence will look back upon man's domination by the military minds and philosophy of our day as the most wierd, unreasonable and inexcusable superstition to which the race has ever been subjected—trial by fire and battle, the exhaustion of Europe in the vain effort to possess the Saviour's tomb. Children's Crusades, the burning of witches, will all appear manifestations of right reason in the human spirit compared to an age that puts itself blandly into the hands of military coteries which thought, or pretended to think, that they really were working for peace by training millions of men day and night to think and plan for war, and by pauperizing the people by laying in ever more dangerous weapons of destruction.

It is said of the priests of ancient Rome, who worked the superstitions of the simple common people through the supposedly divine oracles, that whenever they met in the streets they winked and laughed a derisive laugh over the general gullibility of human nature. I suspect that a lot of the modern priests of militarism are laughing up their sleeves at the easy way in which, by playing upon fear, and with an adroit use of a few catch-phrases, Christian people can be led into voting for the military program of men who feel no moral revulsion over war, and who are themselves frankly pledged to the idea that there is no greatness nor glory for any nation save through what they call valor. They tell you that they are proposing an enormous increase in our armaments for peace.

Question the men who first fathered this idea of vast armaments in Europe, and they will answer with Von Moltke, "Perpetual peace is a dream; and not even a beautiful dream." Question the men who are loudest in the demand for the same program in America, and, like Homer Lea, they will be found absolute unbelievers in the religious idea that there is a moral order in the universe which demands the cessation of the shedding of human blood. The military mind and the mind of Jesus Christ are in absolute and irreconcilable conflict. And I care not whether the military mind appears in England, Germany, Russia or in America, if it can not be checked in its power of playing upon short-sighted self-interest and narrow minded patriotism by preaching the gospel of force, fear and great armaments it

will destroy modern civilization. Europe right now is its first victim. And that mind is now in America, in a perfect hysteria, screaming to us that we are at the mercy of a mad world unless we, too, go mad and surrender our Christian principles and practice for the worship of that Moloch to which Europe's children are being fed. Dr. Jefferson, one of the sanest and most prophetic men in America, is absolutely right when he declares: "There is no question before the world in which the future of Christianity is so vitally involved as this question of international peace. The church can not survive if militarism is to rule. Christianity must languish if Caesar is to sit on the throne. A house divided against itself can not stand. A nation can not permanently have the ideals of Christ in its homes, if it enthrones the ideals of Caesar in its capital. We can not successfully teach the boys the Golden Rule, if diplomats are lauded for ignoring it. We can not sing hymns to the God of Love, if the money of the people is progressively squandered in the manufacture of instruments of destruction. We can not get men to look adoringly upon Jesus dying on the Cross, when the magazines and papers are filled with pictures of battleships and battalions of soldiers drilling for the work of human slaughter. Christianity and militarism are implacable and deadly enemies. You can not serve them both, you will come at last to hate the one and love the other, or, you will cling to the one and despise the other."

If there is such a thing as moral certainty, it is that an enormous increase expenditure of money for military purposes on the part of America at the present time, it is a confession on our part that our faith in the Christian way of life for the nations is weakening before the philosophy which has as its most consistent advocates, Homer Lea and Bernhardt.

It is a confession that the military mind in America is already more powerful than the Christian mind. Have we not ever since this war began in Europe hung our heads in shame and humiliation over a European Christianity which had so signally failed in its God-appointed task to curb the murderous spirit of Europe? Now is our first great opportunity to show that our Christianity is of a different fibre. Now is our supreme opportunity to save America from coming to whatever world conference follows this war, with our own faith in the Christ way for nations unshaken and comparatively unpolluted. But let us go to that conference with the record immediately behind us that we have just ordered such an increase in our own program of preparedness as has never been made by any other nation in time of peace, and it will stultify and weaken everything that as a nation we have to say of the moral insanity of a world-peace that rests upon nothing but dreadnaughts and bayonets.

If America is to enter that conference free to speak flaming words that shall have the value and power of example back of them, for a new and more rational peace footing among the nations, let her not now vote to spend new billions in the next five or ten years on a program which she professes to abhor. How much more weight our words will carry if we go there as a friend to all, a menace to none, and under no circumstances as a culprit called upon for repentance with all the rest.

NEVER IN SO LITTLE DANGER FROM OTHER NATIONS THAN NOW

There has never been an hour in our national existence for fifty years when we were in so little danger from other nations as we are right now; for the following cogent reasons: To begin with, the European nations have got about all the fighting on their hands that they can take care of for some time to come. And if they should stop fighting tomorrow and patch up some kind of peace between them, their hearts are so full of bitterness that any time within the next fifteen years either side engages in another fight, and it looks as if the new antagonist will keep the European power engaged in the front, that European power, whatever it be, can count on its present enemies being immediately upon its back. It is one of the supreme curses of war that it ever breeds more war. Servia and Bulgaria three years ago were at war; and what Bulgaria is now doing to Servia, that either side in the present conflict which should at any time in the near future be foolish enough to attack America, can most certainly count on from its present enemies. That is the first very important fact which is entirely over-looked by our military people who profess to be so afraid of