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**THE ANNUAL BANQUET**

The annual banquet of the agents of THE MIDWEST LIFE was given at the Lindell hotel on the evening of the 29th of January, 1916. Heretofore the speeches at these banquets have been made by the regular agents of the company who were giving full time to its service. This year the following bankers were the speakers: W. B. Ryons, cashier of the First National bank, Lincoln; J. W. Welpton, president of the Exchange bank, Ogallala; J. M. Riley, cashier of the Security State bank, Lawrence; O. E. Mickey, president of the Osceola bank; and George N. Seymour, president of the Elgin State bank. H. C. Johnson, an agent of the company, sang two or three solos.

Two members of the State Insurance board were present, Auditor W. H. Smith and Governor John H. Morehead, and they each gave a short talk which was very much appreciated.

**THE MIDWEST LIFE**  
OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA  
A STOCK COMPANY SELLING  
GUARANTEED COST LIFE INSURANCE

I certainly endorse and support him in the position he has taken in regard to the "preparedness" question; also the great work he has done and is doing for international peace. May he be blessed with health and a long life of usefulness for the great common people, for they have no greater friend or more able advocate. Enclosed find money order to pay for five subscriptions.

Lillian V. Beasley, New Ulysses, Kans.: I have sent in a number of petitions against armament, and think the defenders of President Wilson's "preparedness" program are in the minority here. I wish The Commoner success.

E. L. Montgomery, Grand Rapids, Mich.: I consider the coming campaign as the most important and, I might say vital, that this nation has ever experienced. Every patriotic democrat who is a Commoner reader should subscribe for at least ten copies to be sent to his acquaintances where they will do good. Enclosed find my check for \$6.00 and names and addresses of ten subscribers.

G. W. Waisner, Sheridan, Wyo.: I am strictly in sympathy with The Commoner on "preparedness." I can only say God bless the great Commoner and his work. Enclosed find my check for seven yearly subscriptions.

J. Janford Perry, Jerico, Ky.: I am with The Commoner. Herewith find remittance to pay for club of ten yearly subscriptions.

M. P. McGraw, McGraws, W. Va.: At this writing there are about thirty people in my store, and of that number I only find one in favor of the so-called "preparedness" bill for more preparedness. Keep up the work, W. J. B., the masses are with you. Please send your paper to the enclosed list of five yearly subscribers and find check to cover the same.

G. L. Coffenberry, Cleveland, O., in a letter to Hon. E. I. Emerson, M. C., says: As you know congress is being urged to appropriate vast sums of money for increases in the naval and military forces of the country. After giving the matter considerable thought and attention I have come to the conclusion that the present large appropriations for military purposes, if wisely and economically spent, are more than ample to maintain an army and navy sufficient for all legitimate needs. So far as I have been able to learn, no good reason has been given, or justification shown, for such extensive military preparation as is now proposed. On the other hand there are many reasons for believing that the present preparedness hysteria is the result of a systematic attempt on the part of the munition manufacturers who have reaped large profits in the past, and hope to realize greater profits in the future, to stampede congress and the voters into accepting their program. As such extensive military preparations are not only inconsistent with, but would undoubtedly defeat the growing and now worldwide sentiment for disarmament; and would more firmly entrench the present small but ambitious military aristocracy and probably lead to the establishment of a dangerous military caste in this country. Therefore, I would urge you to vote against all present so-called preparedness programs. I would also urge you to work and vote for such legislation as is necessary to enable the government to build all naval vessels and manufacture all the armor plate and

military equipment that may hereafter be required for the national defense, to the end that every penny appropriated for such purposes will go to the nation's benefit and not as profit to private unpatriotic selfish interests.

A. H. Olmstead, St. Louis, Mich.: Best wishes for the good work you are doing in the interest of humanity. Herewith find club of three yearly subscribers to The Commoner.

Jno. M. Wood Linden, Va.: Strength to W. J.'s arm; may his views prevail, unto the undoing of the militaristic party. Enclose find post office money order to pay for five yearly subscriptions.

Dan T. Welty, Buhl, Ida. I like The Commoner very much and have always admired Mr. Bryan for the stand he takes on all public questions. I surely will agree with him for peace at any price rather than the horrors of war, which language can not express.

Father of Five Sons: Millions for good roads, but not one cent for armaments.

Guy B. Carr, Glenwood, Ind.: Many thanks to Mr. Bryan for the good work he is doing. Let the good work go on. Herewith find \$1.20 for my own renewal and the subscription of a friend; will send other subscriptions as I secure them.

J. H. Stussy, Vesper, Kansas: I am against war, against "Preparedness." I am fully in mind and action with Hon. W. J. Bryan. I wrote a letter to our congressman some time ago in the name of our community, that we are against militarism; that we don't want misery, starvation and bloodshedding here, like the nations of Europe are now prostrated with. We don't need such taxation; we don't want our sons or relatives to be compelled to enlist in the army. Let our government be neutral to all of the European nations alike, and we need not be afraid of any of them getting after us. The people should wake up before it is too late.

T. A. Walsh, Spokane, Wash.: The opposition delight in alluding to Mr. Bryan indirectly as a "Peace at any price" pacifist, which is a libel. Our fire-eating, militaristic friends should be referred to as advocates of "War for any reason." Both expressions represent extreme views, and there is as much sense in one as the other.

J. H. Ham, Charlotte, N. C.: I am right with The Commoner against preparedness, and have so written Congressman Webb and Senator Simmons. Think it will mean the defeat of Wilson if his program is carried through, however he unfortunately has been led into this error he is making.

W. E. White, Taylorsville, N. C.: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." — Proverbs 16:7. This is a better defense than a 16-inch Krupp gun or an arsenal of weapons.

J. W. Greene, Grand Rapids, Mich.: Hon. I. R. Sherwood of Ohio, Jan. 4, 1916, in house of representatives, as given in The Commoner of January, expresses my sentiments thoroughly.

A. M. Grimes, Walnut Ridge, Ark.: I am against preparedness except for peace. I am glad God has spared a man like W. J. Bryan to defend us

against trusts and combines. I sometimes fell as if he was all there was between us and eternity. I am one of the first subscribers, read the first copy and want to read it as long as I live.

J. A. Erikson, Fertile, Minn.: Enclosed find remittance to pay for club of eight yearly subscriptions. We are sending the paper to some of our best customers as a Christmas gift.

**WHAT PRESIDENT WILSON SHOULD ANSWER**

Since President Wilson is about to tour the country in behalf of his preparedness plans, it is desirable that he give the public exact information on the following matters:

1. With what nation or nations does he think there is danger of war?
2. What cause of war exists with it or them?
3. If the cause is due to some fault of ours, why does he not urge its immediate removal? If it is the fault of the other side, why not publicly urge its submission to arbitration, if other peaceful means of adjustment seem hopeless. Or why not insist at once on calling a conference to discuss the matter instead of waiting for the end of the war to call one.
4. If he has no reason to believe that there is danger of war with any nation that he can name, what makes him afraid?

To argue for preparedness, while leaving these questions unanswered, or only partly answered, is to argue from unproven premises. Such an argument can demonstrate nothing. —The Public.

**A GOOD CHANGE**

Wrong food and drink cause a lot of trouble in this world. To change is first aid when a person is ill, particularly from stomach and nervous troubles. As an illustration: A lady in Mo. was brought around to health again by leaving off coffee and some articles of food that did not agree with her.

She says:

"For a number of years I suffered with stomach and bowel trouble which kept getting worse until I was ill most of the time. About four years ago I left off coffee and began using Postum. My stomach and bowels improved right along, but I was so reduced in flesh and so nervous that the least thing would overcome me.

"Then I changed my food and began using Grape-Nuts in addition to Postum. I lived on these two principally for about four months. Day by day I gained in flesh and strength until the nervous trouble had disappeared. I feel that I owe my health to Postum and Grape-Nuts.

"Husband was troubled, for a long time, with occasional cramps, and slept badly. Finally I prevailed upon him to leave off coffee and take Postum. After he tried Postum for a few days he found that he could sleep and that his cramps disappeared. He never went back to coffee." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Postum comes in two forms: Postum Cereal—the original form—must be well boiled. 15c and 25c packages.

Instant Postum—a soluble powder—dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water, and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly, 30c and 50c tins.

Both kinds are equally delicious and cost about the same per cup.

"There's a Reason" for Postum.

—sold by Grocers.