

## The Better Way

[From the Congregationalist and Christian World.]

The present Preparedness movement in the United States is an attempt to insure national safety. All good citizens ought to be agreed upon this as one of the fundamental, necessary purposes in our national life. But good citizens are far apart in their theories of how best to make America safe. We are bound to seek the best way. Naturally we think first of the old traditional ways. Then as we count the cost and consider the possible dangers involved in the old ways we are bound to turn with open mind to new ways and decide whether or not a new way may not be best.

The upward course of the human race has been achieved by discarding old ways for new and better ones.

War and preparation for war remain among evils that are perpetuated because a new and better way of regulating international relations has not yet been established.

If we believed that the abolition of war were impossible we might support the military Preparedness program that proposes the strongest accumulation of force which we could secure and maintain. But we believe that war can be abolished and that there will be a good chance to abolish it at the close of the present terrible conflict, when all nations will see as they never saw before how stupid, costly and cruel, how disastrous for all the world is modern war.

Our own great free nation ought to be able and equipped to lead the world out of its old jungle life of barbarism into a new, true family of nations. The eyes of the world are upon us—doubting, fearing, yet held by a great hope. Shall we have Preparedness? Yes, if it be preparedness rightly to meet that day.

But if Preparedness must be the Wilson program or the Navy league program of the Roosevelt program or any other program that makes us any more of a military nation than we have ever been before, just when military preparedness has been proved such a monstrous, tragic failure for making nations safe, let us oppose it with all our moral might. There is a better way.

If the Wilson administration and the national congress with honest, nonpartisan patriotism wish to have such an army as we really need and a navy adequate for all times, let them quit wasting the people's money, spend it where it will do the most good and spend as much but no more the coming year than is required to keep the present military and naval establishment up to the normal standard of recent years. To do more is to advertise that we are getting ready to fight, that we fear Germany and Japan and even England, as Congressman Mann boldly asserted last week; that we distrust all nations; that we are going to throw our powerful influence toward the perpetuation of armaments, the indefinite continuance of competition in navies and armies and all the deadly devices of science which menace the peace of the world, stimulate unending suspicions and keep the nations from getting together as friends and living together as law-abiding neighbors. There is a better way.

Already we have taken the first steps in the better way in our relations with other American republics. The new Declaration of Pan-America must take the place (the sooner the better) of the outgrown Monroe Doctrine. A league of the western republics established now might easily become expanded into a league of all neutrals outside the present war and later a league of all nations upon the

earth. Each would be free in all righteous endeavors, all bound by laws mutually made and administered, all protected and restrained by international police and concerted financial and commercial discipline. This is a better way.

We who hate war, love peace, demand justice and strive for the triumph of good over evil have no right to falter or retreat from this better way that now lies open before us. A record of our hundred years of peace with the British empire, the evidence of our four thousand miles of Canadian frontier unfortified and unguarded yet safe for a century, the scores of international disputes settled by arbitration before The Hague tribunals, the treaties pledging delay for possible adjustment before declaration of war, recent Pan-American co-operation, international credit and trade alliances; educational, moral and religious progress and the ever-strengthening world brotherhood of democracy—all have prepared the way to establish world organization and world peace.

Never had any nation a higher mission from the Prince of Peace than the United States of America has today. Shall we scare our people with childish nightmares of threatened invasion? Shall we commission our mercenary munition makers to pile up more millions of blood money and turn our young manhood from high callings in order to be better equipped for wholesale murder of their fellowmen? Shall we increase tax burdens and national debt? Shall patriotism forever be selfish and brutal? Shall we let military preparedness engross the chief thought of the nation, knowing that only one great enterprise can be considered at one time, in this hour of world crisis? There is a better way.

If all the brain and money and enthusiasm now devoted to military Preparedness in the United States were turned to constructive efforts in preparation for peace, America would be safer from war for a century than it can ever be with all the navies, air fleets, armaments and armies that our rich, resourceful nation could produce. If we give with liberal hand from our abundance to bind up the bleeding wounds and rehabilitate the devastated lands, if we unselfishly perform the part of Good Samaritan abroad and give those who come to our shores a fair chance and equal opportunity, we shall be safe, all nations will be more secure and we shall have done the duty that God calls us to do. He calls us to his better way.

### PEACE RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions adopted by the Peace Makers' committee of Pacific coast churches at a meeting held in Los Angeles, Feb. 14, 1916:

Resolved, by the executive committee of the Peace Makers' committee, representing the Pacific coast churches, that we disapprove of any increase in the army and navy of the United States at this time, beyond that provided for in the normal appropriations. This is especially important in view of the fact that this country should remain neutral in this crisis, and continue to manifest a friendly interest in all the contending nations;

And be it further resolved, that in view of the fidelity and honor with which the Japanese government has kept its agreement with this country in the matter of Japanese immigration, and in view of the harmony now prevailing in Japan and California, we strongly protest against the introduction of the Eastern-Asiatic problem into the discussions concerning increased armament in this country.

## CONCENTRATION SPELLS SUCCESS

when rightly used, but when wrongly used it is sure to bring failure. Most persons concentrate on that which annoys, irritates and makes for failure and loss of memory. When we are sick it is hard to concentrate on the thought of being well. When we are despondent from any cause it is difficult to concentrate on the idea of our ever being happy again.



When we have lost money it is easy to concentrate on our loss, but almost impossible to concentrate on our having an abundance again.

We all lock the doors and windows of our home to keep out intruders, but do you lock the doors and windows of your thought world and so keep out the thoughts which take away one's strength, hope, faith, courage, memory, ambition, power and ability? Do you belong to the class of people who have used their CONCENTRATION rightly or wrongly? Do you own your own mind? Has your CONCENTRATION brought you success or failure; happiness or sorrow; health or sickness; brilliancy of mind or loss of memory? Can you concentrate for five minutes on any one thing you want, shutting out entirely every random, stray, tramp thought? Try it.

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### MILITARISM AND THE LEADERS

Democratic growth has always suffered a tremendous disadvantage from the fact that the powers that be have generally been on the other side. Those in position, in high rank, those whose words would be listened to because of position and rank, and because of the means of publication open to position and rank, have been with few exceptions ranged on the side opposed to the evolution of democratic ideas. The result has been that large numbers of more or less unthinking people have blindly acquiesced and followed the leaders. Too many, even in these days of education, when they read an article or hear a speech, are prone to judge not by what is said, but by the position which the writer or speaker happens to hold.

This is a danger at the present time in this conflict between militarism and democracy. With few exceptions the writers and speakers and publications that have positions of prominence are on the side of militarism. I say militarism, because, however the term may veil itself under the name of preparation, the two are, as any one may see who does not wish to dodge, essentially the same. Very few men of high position in politics or in the professions have come out boldly against the increase of expenditure on army and navy. Those whom Horace called the "Lords of the Earth" are on the side of militarism. These are they who can speak on approved platforms and can publish their words in approved periodicals. These are they to whose opinions many a man instinctively bows when he does not take the privilege of thinking.

But happily among the men of high repute and great influence there are exceptions, as there always have been at such times. These wish no blind following. Their appeal is to all men to think, an appeal which is of the very essence of democracy. The militarists are not appealing to men to think and reason; they are

appealing to men to be suspicious and alarmed. Those who have at heart the preservation of our democratic foundations are asking men not to allow themselves to be stampeded by suspicious and alarms into a policy which is strange to our ideals.

There stands out at this critical time one who perhaps with more earnestness than any other public man is asking American voters to think. He is one who has gained and held respect and influence in spite of all the satire and minimizing which have been used against him, and in spite of his own failures and mistakes. Never in his whole career has he served the nation as now. Never has he fought the good fight for the cause of the whole people more nobly than he is now fighting in the same cause against what he clearly sees would be an inevitable setback to democracy. He sees that if this country descends to the policy of militarism, it means a retrograde movement which may last for centuries. To him and to a few others in commanding positions, the cause of democracy owes a debt beyond the counting of words.

Not often in the history of the world have such men as Mr. Bryan had the opportunity of serving the interests of humanity more surely than in the present crisis. Whatever the issue may be, their words will shine when the records are made of the long increasing purpose which aims at a broader, freer, better life for all mankind. It will not be their fault if American voters follow thoughtlessly the policy of militarism, however powerful it may be acclaimed by the majority of those who are in prominent and commanding positions.—J. H. Dillard, in The Public.

The man who is too lazy to make hay while the sun shines nearly always has to borrow an umbrella when it rains.—Chicago News.