

MILITARY TRAINING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[From the New York Sun, July 5.]

William J. Bryan raised his voice in Madison Square Garden last night against military training in public schools, against the "teaching of irreligion in the guise of philosophy in our universities" and in behalf of woman suffrage.

Six thousand teachers, most of them women—the largest audience the convention of the National Education Association has developed in its three days meetings—applauded each of these sentiments impartially. If the teachers vote as they clap their hands they are going to squelch a resolution for training boys to handle rifles if such a proposal is set before them on Friday, as it may be.

Mr. Bryan begged them not to "yield to the clamor for militarism," which to him was "not the voice of the people, but an echo from the battlefields of Europe."

"The temporary excitement of a world war," he said, "should not be allowed to disturb our permanent educational system. The school is not a transient institution; it will still abide with us 'when the battle flags are furled.'"

In inviting Mr. Bryan to speak the N. E. A. disregarded a protest from S. Stanwood Menken of the National Security league. Mr. Menken wrote to the association last week: "Mr. Bryan's career is evidence of the fact that he is incapable of hard reasoning or correct thinking." But the association replied that it wanted to hear all sides of the preparedness question. Before the convention ends the teachers themselves will take sides for a resolution regarding military training which is to be presented to the convention on Friday.

The audience stood up when Mr. Bryan entered the garden, temporarily interrupting the address of Mrs. Ella Flag Young of Chicago. It applauded heartily one of his earliest sentences, "We can not compel the teaching of religion, but Christian taxpayers have a right to protest against the teaching of irreligion in the guise of philosophy in our universities."

Swinging to the topic of school militarism he said:

"Two years ago no one suggested that we put military training into our public schools, and let us hope that two years hence this awful fever of war will have run its course and that no one will ever again suggest it after that. If political parties looking for votes couldn't be scared into putting militaristic planks into their platforms this year, why should the teachers who are not looking for votes be scared?"

"What an idea—is it possible that a country that could not be frightened two years ago by solvent nations filled with able-bodied men should now be frightened by bankrupt nations filled with cripples! We can not afford to follow at the tail end of Europe as a military nation. Shall we convert our nation into an armed camp and our public schools into breeding places for an army?"

PUT PATRIOTISM BEFORE PARTY

A Peekskill, N. J., dispatch to the New York Journal, dated July 5, says: William Jennings Bryan, addressing several thousand citizens in Depew park, offered congratulations on the city's one hundredth birthday and delivered a speech on "Patriotism and Democracy."

"Patriotism is service expressed in national terms," he said, "and it is only living up to the doctrine that much is required of those to whom much is given."

"The state militiamen are responding to a call from the nation's need. They are unafraid and marching to that they know not of. They leave loved ones behind weeping, and I do not consider it unpatriotic to say to their loved ones that they are doing their duty, while I'll pray with you that they may not be called upon to die or to kill any one else. Peace and not war is the normal state of nations and men who stand ready to die should also stand ready to live."

"I am one who believes the prophecy will be fulfilled that war shall be no more, and when that time comes, and there is no more war, the day of patriotism will not be passed. Patriotism is not limited to the battlefield. Every one of us can line up and join a political grand army of the republic and do a citizen's duty every day we live."

"This government of ours is the best government conceived by the mind of man. It is a popular government, and the people have a right to have what they want."

"Democracy says society is built from the bottom upward, and aristocracy thinks that society is suspended from the top. The aristocrat says

Let the Democrats Get to Work

The lines of battle for the 1916 campaign have been drawn. The conventions of the leading parties have been held and the presidential tickets have been placed in the field. The time remaining between now and the fall elections will be devoted to the discussion and presentation of the issues to the voters.

The democratic party is united and confident. Never in its history has it gone into a campaign presenting a more solid front or occupying a more advantageous position. Backed by the present administration's splendid record of achievement, during which the democratic party has placed more constructive legislation on the statute books than the republican party accomplished in thirty years, the democrats of the country are confident that this record will be endorsed by an overwhelming victory at the November elections.

The measure of success attained by the democrats this fall, however, will depend largely upon their ability to win a large per cent of the independent, progressive vote of the country. The withdrawal of Mr. Roosevelt and the indorsement of the candidacy of Charles E. Hughes by the progressive national committee has by no means satisfied the voters of the rank and file of the progressive party of 1912, and no amount of secret bargaining and manipulation on the part of the leaders can deliver the independent progressive vote to the republican party. Already prominent progressives all over the country are declaring their intention of supporting the national democratic ticket this fall. There is a widespread and growing resentment among progressive voters over the betrayal of their party into the hands of the very men and interests that made the progressive revolt of 1912 a practical necessity.

With the democratic record of achievement and a platform of progressive principles placed squarely before the voters, it will not be a difficult task to convince the average independent voter that he should support the democratic ticket this fall. Right here will be the greatest opportunity of the democrats for effective campaign work. Every independent, progressive or doubtful voter should be provided with a medium that will give him authentic facts, figures, reasons and arguments bearing on the democratic position on public questions, its work and record of accomplishments, as well as what it proposes to do in behalf of the people if it is entrusted with further power.

For the coming campaign The Commoner will be found especially valuable for this work. Its columns will be filled with articles that will be

found helpful and instructive to voters, and that will assist the democrats in bringing about a decisive victory for Wilson and Marshall. A special rate of 25 cents on new subscriptions—from now until the close of the campaign—will be made for this purpose. This low rate will make it possible for the democrats of every congressional and legislative district to use The Commoner for educational campaign purposes among the voters, and the offer will be made available to campaign committees who wish to have The Commoner sent to them in bulk or to a list of voters furnished by them. The circulation of democratic literature, especially the placing of good democratic papers in the hands of the voters, has been proven by experience to be one of the most effective methods of holding the party membership together as well as to add new voting recruits.

Every Commoner reader should take time to help place The Commoner into the hands of as many voters as possible during the fall campaign. The special subscription rate of 25c for The Commoner—from now until the campaign closes—is very low and any one will be glad to join a Commoner club if some worker presents the matter to him. Every democrat should form at least one club of four in his precinct. The rate will hold good for all clubs, no matter how large. In past campaigns some workers have sent in as high as 1,000 subscriptions. Ask your friends and neighbors to join a Commoner club; get the new and doubtful voters to add their names to the list. The coupon below may be used, or a blank sheet where larger clubs are secured. Let every democrat get to work.

LETTERS FROM THE WORKERS

Geo. H. Moelling, Ray, N. D.: Enclose check to pay for five yearly subscriptions to The Commoner. Am always glad to extend the circle of readers to The Commoner. I regard it as one of the greatest moral influences in the country today. Four years ago, if you will remember, I sent you one thousand short time subscriptions.

W. C. Findley, Butler, Pa.: Enclosed find check for subscription. We are bound to contend with office seekers and special privileges, and desperate fanatics in this campaign. Let us be up and at it. We must have a forceful press and "Performance Clubs." Let us be loaded to strangle their false pretenses and the falsehoods which they set afloat at Chicago and from which their piping organs have taken the cue. We have fair notice of the kind of a campaign of misrepresentation they will make. Let The Commoner smite them wherever they present a vulnerable point—and there are many such points.

SPECIAL 1916 CAMPAIGN RATE

The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb.

Gentlemen: I believe in the effectiveness of personal work among the voters and will do what I can to place good democratic literature in the hands of the voters as an aid to democratic victory this fall. I am sending you the following list of subscribers, for which I enclose 25c each under your special campaign offer.

- Name P. O.
Name P. O.
Name P. O.
Name P. O.

legislate for the well to do and then wait, patiently wait—for the prosperity to leak through on those below.

"The great duty of all is to make love of country stronger than love of party. You should love your country so much more than your party that you can rejoice in its defeat if against the country's good and pray to the God who rules our destiny to overrule us when we make any mistakes."

ALL TANGLED UP

No man with a sense of humor can fail to enjoy Mr. Roosevelt's tributes to the democrats. He says:

"Our strongest party antagonists have ac-

cepted and enacted into law, or embodied in their platform, very many of our most important principles."

Let the reader take a firm grip on that statement and then try to assimilate this one:

"The present administration, during its three years of life, has been guilty of shortcomings more signal than those of any administration since the days of Buchanan."

One more quotation, please:

"The platform put forth in 1912 was much the most important public document promulgated in this country since the death of Abraham Lincoln."

We leave Mr. Roosevelt's supporters the complex task of disentangling him from himself. It requires an expert hand.—St. Louis Republic.