

and purchased about 250,000 pistols—poppuns instead of rifles.

When their military expenditures had grown to enormous proportions other nations found it necessary to adopt an efficient business system for handling the public's money in the matter of war expenditures. England created a department of munitions. The strongest man in the empire was given the place of minister of munitions. It revolutionized the policy of the government and put efficiency and economy to the fore. I firmly believe we will have to adopt some such plan in the matter of expenditures of our money for public defense or else our waste will be enormous. If you say that England's action was in time of war, why should we not avail ourselves in time of peace of the lesson she had to learn by bitter experience in time of trial and stress? We are simply deluging the different departments of the army and the navy with the flood of money. Having never had to handle expenditures of such tremendous magnitude before, being suddenly given more money than they ever dreamed existed, they are really put to it to find a place to even give it away. It is my opinion that a committee of congress having control of the purchase and manufacture of all munitions and supplies both for the army and the navy should be constituted by congress. It should have jurisdiction over all appropriations for arms, armament, material and materiel.

This would require, of course, the establishment of a new committee, but I am firmly of the opinion that such a committee could properly inform itself as to the most economical and efficient means for supplying the needs of this government in the matter of war material and direct the manufacture and purchase of war supplies so that the best interests of the government and of the people, who pay the bills, would be served. The efficiency of our national defense program would be tremendously increased and the national treasury saved from the waste of untold millions of money.

If something is not done in the future to more carefully supervise the expenditure of the billions that are going to be spent by coming congresses upon the matter of national defense, we will probably discover what is somewhat apparent now—that while expenditures and appropriations grow by hundreds of millions at each succeeding session, our army increases by thousands. Since we started to increase our military establishment for national defense our appropriations for the army have increased four hundred millions and the army has been increased by about 10,000 enlisted men of the line.

We can get everything for an army by appropriations except men. Without men we can have no army. We can get plenty of officers, eager for rank and thirsty for glory, but the lack is in fighting men for the line, ready to die in the ditch. Kings and

princes have at times in the past found it difficult to get men to fight their battles for them. Napoleon Bonaparte, the wisest warrior the world ever knew, conceived the plan of universal conscription to fill his ranks, and when one nation had adopted that policy it compelled those who were its expected or possible adversaries to inaugurate the same system or be overthrown. In the event of a war for national defense, this nation will spend its last dollar and send the last man to the front. In such a war the United States will never be troubled to find soldiers for the fighting line. It will only be put to it to find guns and ammunition with which to arm them. It would be put to it to do so right now.

Militarists are always ready to pay any price for any kind of war material except the human unit, the man who fights the battle, the man who is the heart and lifeblood of every army. Having to pay enormous prices for other war material, they purpose under the plan of compulsory service to pay nothing for the men. In war everything goes up in price except human life. The nations at war in Europe will send a man 5,000 miles across the sea and over the land, away out to western Nebraska, where I live, and pay me \$150 in good red gold for a dinky horse that could command a price of perhaps \$50 in time of peace. They will ship that horse back over land and sea to Europe, and when they get him to the battle line he has cost them six or seven hundred dollars and will live perhaps 15 or 20 days.

But they will take the boy of Europe, the flower of his race, the pride of his parents—they take him for nothing. They send him to the firing line and he is shot down. They pay him perhaps 7 cents a day while he lives. Seven cents for the boy; \$700 for the horse. It is because I know that such things as this are the inevitable consequence of war that I hope that God may grant our President the wisdom and the understanding to keep us free from its awful curse. We are at present free from the fearful problems that confront blood-soaked and war-weary Europe. We can show them the true way by example more surely than we can drive them to it by force of arms. There is room and stage here in this western world for this nation to work out its final triumphant destiny which, in my judgment, should be the leadership of the peoples of earth in commerce, in education, and in civilization.

Let Columbia still continue to sit here, enthroned between our silver seas, the Atlantic upon the east, the blue Pacific upon the west, "these seas which serve us in the office of a wall or as a moat defensive against the envy of less happy lands." And to our future jubilee shall come, in the fullness of time when we hold it, not kings and princes as a relic of the imperialism, the barbarism, the despotism of the past; not conquered nations bound to our chariot wheels, as trophies of conquest and all-conquering war, but rather the nations of the earth in peaceful procession, to sit at our feet and learn from a study of America's history the story of man's final emancipation from wrong and oppression and do Columbia reverence as the uncrowned queen of the highest, the freest, and the noblest type of civilization upon the face of the earth. That is the ideal which I hold for my country. That is the mission I would have her bring to mankind. (Applause.)



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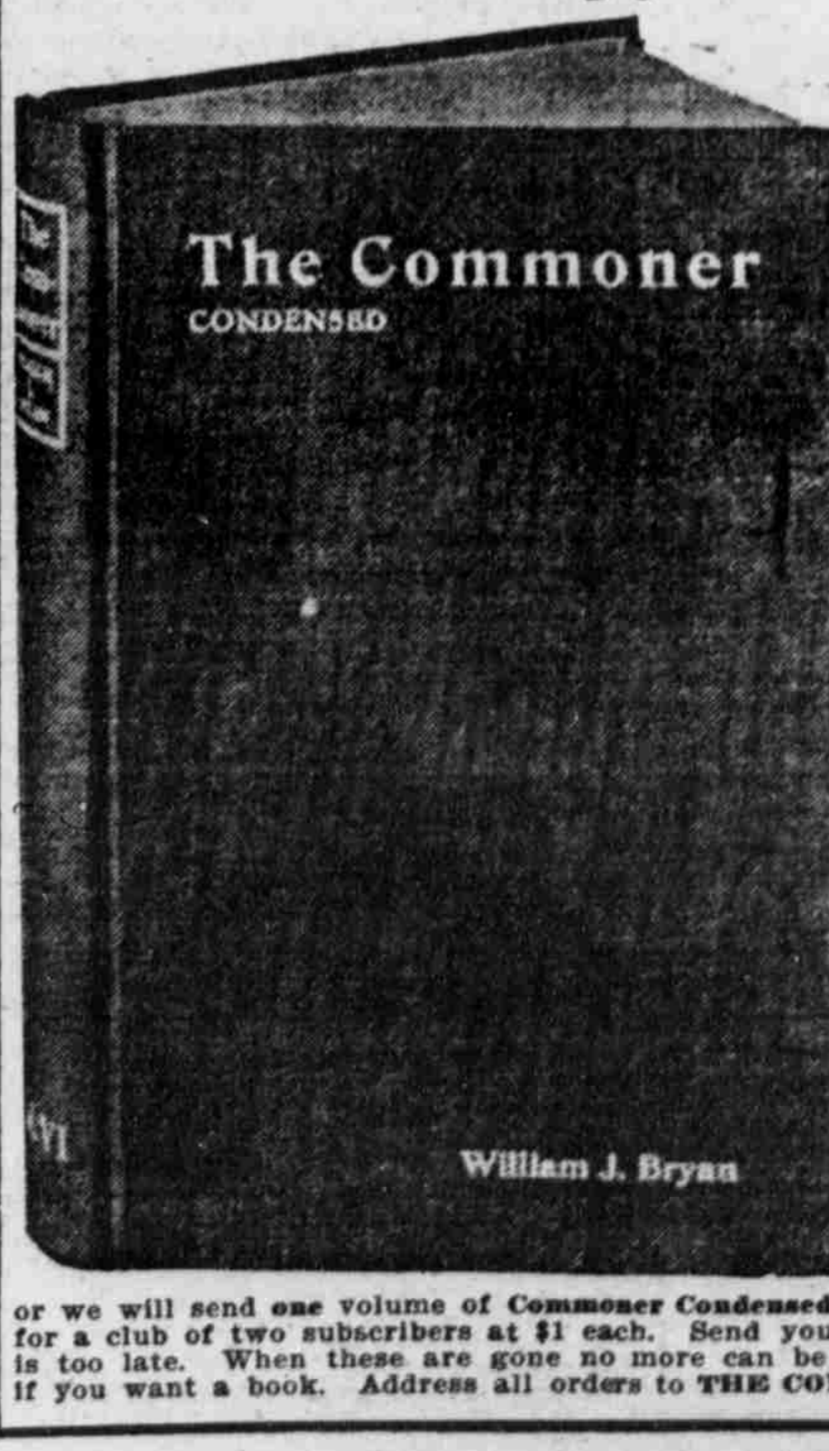
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