

The Commoner

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1922 Is Coming

It is time to prepare for 1922. Have you selected a good candidate for senator in your state and for congressman in your district? If not, it is time to do so. He should spend the winter in canvassing. Let him take the Revenue bill and point out its weak points. It was so bad that a Republican congress struck out the retroactive clause. It was so bad that the House machine would not allow amendments to be offered.

It was so bad that the Progressive Republicans in the Senate joined the Democrats in changing some of the worst provisions. If the Republican leaders had been permitted to have their way the bill would have been a crime. It is likely to be the chief issue next year. The opposition of Progressive Republicans can be successfully used against it in the agricultural sections. Pick out the candidates and put them to work. No district is hopeless next year.

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THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Will disarmament succeed? That depends.

First—Do the masses of the world want disarmament? Yes. Do the governments want disarmament? We shall see. Will the nations deal with each other openly and frankly or will they try to trade and bargain?

Time will tell. It is possible for the conference to take so long a step in the direction of universal disarmament that the world can never turn back. Will it do it?

"Our hopes are all with thee—are all with thee."

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A GOOD CHOICE

The national committee has acted wisely in selecting ex-Congressman Hull for chairman. He is no candidate's man—he has a record of his own. He stands for the progressive policies of the Democratic party. Under his leadership the committee will put principle first and furnish the party a rallying point.

"COUSIN APE"

Some of the evolutionists have rejected a part of Darwin's hypothesis; they think that man did not descend directly from the ape, but that man and ape descended from a common ancestor farther back. No, thank you. COUSIN Ape is no more acceptable than GRANDPA Ape.

RETIRES WITH HONOR

Chairman White retires from the head of the national committee with honor. The defeat last year was so overwhelming that his continued leadership was impossible. He was not responsible for the defeat—no chairman could have won—but he could not escape blame.

Why do some of the Progressive Republicans support the repeal of the excess profits tax? Their national platform did not declare for it and their constituents do not favor it.

THE ROAD TO PROSPERITY

Raise your service to the maximum and then do not collect any more than you earn.

UNWRITTEN HISTORY

On another page will be found an extract from Mr. Tumulty's life of President Wilson that may interest readers of The Commoner. I shall refer to it more fully in my memoirs (which I hope to write soon) but I am glad to have this incident given to the public by some one else. No one is in better position to state the facts than the President's private secretary. I do not remember it all quite as he does but the difference is not more than might be expected—in fact, our memories agree perfectly on all the more important details. I do not recall offering to leave the country during the discussion, but I was willing to resign if my inability to support that feature of the bill embarrassed him. I could not endorse it but did not intend to do more than express dissent. I was greatly relieved when the President made the change. It saved the bill; from information which I received from congress I felt sure it could not pass either House as it was drawn.

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THE REACTION HAS BEGUN

November 8th was an important day—it disclosed a pronounced reaction against the Republican party. It was tidal in the sense that it seemed to indicate a nation-wide dissatisfaction with the Republican party. It manifested itself in Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and New York. It probably would have been still more pronounced if the elections had included the states of the middlewest. The Democrats of the Senate and House have done excellently; they are few in number but their protest against the reactionary leadership of the Republican party has made itself felt.

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The Republican leaders can not get the kind of revenue bill they want, but they can protect the profiteer and prevent punishment.

Four million dollars worth of automobiles were stolen in Philadelphia last year, and yet no wet proposes the repeal of the law.

Butchers: The wholesale price of carcass beef in Chicago is back to prewar prices; what about retail prices?

Long Step Towards Disarmament

The most important thing in politics is the drawing of a definite line.

The temptation of the politician is to indulge in generalities; whereas, a specific program is always necessary when a step in advance is to be taken.

President Harding's speech laid the foundation for the statement of Secretary Hughes which followed. The President was positive in committing the United States to a policy, "Less of armament and none of war."

Secretary Hughes worked up to his climax, using words increasingly definite and emphatic until he announced the program proposed by the United States, namely:

The discontinuance of all battleship building for ten years.

The scrapping of more than a million and a half tons of naval vessels, of which the United States would contribute 845,000 tons, the British 583,000 tons and the Japanese 239,000 tons, our nation leading in the number of tons to be scrapped, although it has not the largest navy.

Here is a program for other nations to accept or reject.

If they accept, the conference will mark a tremendous step forward toward universal peace.

If the navies are immediately reduced as proposed and the world has ten years of rest from the unbearable expenses of preparedness, it will never turn back; at least this is the hope and belief of those who are responsible for the calling of the conference.

No one person can claim a large share of the credit of the movement because the coercion was found in mingled voices of the multitudes in all lands. Governments do not speak for themselves; they merely give expression to the heart throbs of the overburdened masses, and these masses are not likely to tolerate any return to conditions that have compelled the conference.

The President and Secretary Hughes have sensed the sentiment of America, and their words will be applauded with a unanimity that few, if any, previous utterances have commanded. Their words are winged with hope; they will stir a response so loud, so long, and so irresistible as to fix our nation's position at the head of the peace forces of the world.

While no one in this country can speak so confidently of sentiment in other lands, it is not improbable that surging humanity—who are alike at heart everywhere—will speak words of command to any government that falters, but it is not likely that any government will falter.

If I were to venture a prediction, it would be that Great Britain will accept immediately and that Japan will follow at once, thus making the proposition the minimum of the conference's accomplishments.

Japan, conscious that America's offer opens the way to the plaudits of the world, as well as