

Humanity—and Sanity

By HENRY FORD

Our Troops in Mexico

Our troops are in Mexico doing police duty, running down a murderer of Americans. For two years they were on the border preparing for just such work. After they had orders to "get Villa" it took a week to get started. That delay tells the real story of our need of "preparedness."

But it is not the "preparedness" of more hordes of armed men. It is the "preparedness" of being able to use efficiently what we already have—the development of our industries on a basis of efficiency. This is the best, the only preparation against war.

Again, remember, the expedition into Mexico is a police work. But the president himself has discovered a capitalistic plot to bring us into actual war with Mexico. So, impressed with this feeling of a deliberate attempt at treason by American capitalists, the president has issued a public statement, which includes the following words:

"It is my duty to warn the people of the United States that there are persons all along the border who are actively engaged in originating and giving as wide currency as they can to rumors of the most sensational and disturbing sort which are wholly unjustified by the facts. The object of this traffic in falsehood is obvious. It is to create intolerable friction between the government of the United States and the de facto government of Mexico, for the purpose of bringing about intervention in the interests of certain American owners of Mexican properties. This object cannot be attained so long as sane and honorable men are in control of this government, but very serious conditions may be created, unnecessary bloodshed may result, and the relations between the two republics may be very much embarrassed.

"The people of the United States should know the sinister and unscrupulous influences that are afoot and should be on their guard against crediting any story coming from the border, and those who disseminate the news should make it a matter of patriotism and of conscience to test the source and authenticity of every report they receive from that quarter."

It would be well for those who have not taken an active interest in the operations of the government, who have been careless of the welfare of their own country, who have been too willing to take as fact everything they see in print, to consider this warning of the president. And it would do no harm to the country for every American to apply this same test and look for the "sinister influences" behind the propaganda for hurling the country into war, and for leading us into a wild rush for "preparedness."

The Battle Cry of Maxim

Have you seen that awful moving picture, "The Battle Cry of Peace?"

Did you shake with fear, and tremble for your country's safety?

Did you know that others were shaking at the same time, but with laughter at your fear, and with joy over the fat contracts your fear might bring them?

On the screen you were told that the play was founded on the story of Hudson Maxim, "Defenseless America." You saw Mr. Maxim in the picture. He was holding something aloft. It was an instrument of warfare.

Now, Mr. Maxim was merely advertising his wares and playing on your fears to make a market for his goods.

Mr. Maxim has something to sell—war munitions. The following is from the stock report of Harvey A. Willis & Co., 32 Broadway, New York City, Nov. 13, 1915:

"The stock of the Maxim Munitions Corporation is the latest candidate for favor among the curb war stocks. It made its appearance this week at 12 and was actively traded in at 12 up to 14 1/2. This company is a \$10,000,000 concern recently organized for the purpose of manufacturing munitions of war of all kinds, except explosive materials. . . . The company has arranged to take over the important inventions of Hudson Maxim for the manufacture of aerial torpedoes, bomb-throwing devices, aeroplanes guns, etc. Mr. Maxim himself will be president of the company."

The book was a fine advance notice. The picture was a fine follow-up. Then came some swift "patriotic" work.

Just two weeks later, November 27, 1915, the following appeared on the first page of the New York World:

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 25.—Many members have resigned and others are threatening to resign from the Committee of One Hundred appointed by Mayor Kiel to urge the preparedness program upon Congress. This action resulted from advertisements in St. Louis newspapers this morning of a \$10,000,000 Maxim Munitions Corporation offering stock for sale at \$10 a share. Hudson Maxim appeared two days ago before the Business Men's League to urge support of the national defense program.

"That's a pretty swift beginning," said former Solicitor General of the United States Frederick W. Lehmann in announcing his refusal to serve on the committee.

"One cannot help suspecting an ulterior motive," said Judge H. S. Caffield in declining to be a committee man.

"If the activities of the National Security League, at the instance of which the committee was appointed, the appearance of Mr. Maxim and the promulgation of the advertisement can be connected, it is reasonable," said John H. Gundlach, former President of the City Council and member of the committee.

Here we have a sample of the "patriotism" that is directing the "preparedness" campaign, spending huge sums, carrying its poison of fear into every part of the Union.

It is time for every man and woman of the United States to get angry, to fight this misrepresentation and deception. Pass the facts on to your doubting or unconcerned neighbor. Become a recruiting officer for the army of peace.

Think, write to your Congressman, and when the time comes, vote. Your livelihood, your peace, your life and the lives of your children all depend upon the immediate crushing of the head of the serpent of militarism.

The Navy League for Defense?

The Navy League has been spending large sums to tell Americans that it is organized for the defense of the country.

The Navy League is deceiving the country, and its own official organ, the "Seven Seas" magazine, proves the deception.

On page 13 of the September, 1915, issue, appears the true gospel of the Navy League.

We read: "The true militarist believes that pacifism is the masculine and humanitarianism is the feminine manifestation of national degeneracy. . . . World empire is the only logical and natural aim of a nation."

Then, on page 28 of the "Seven Seas" for November, 1915, is an enlargement upon the "defense" idea, as follows: "It is the absolute right of a nation to live to its full intensity, to expand, to found colonies, to get richer and richer by any proper means such as armed conquest, commerce, diplomacy."

Here we have the philosophy of the Navy League, which thus sustains the ideas of its munition-making founders. Brutal, lawless, avaricious, but ever making the common people pay the bills in life, limb, money and waste.

FOR months the people of the United States have had fear pounded into their brains by magazines, newspapers and motion pictures. No enemy has been pointed out.

All the wild cry for the spending of billions, the piling up of armament and the saddling of the country with a military caste has been based on nothing but fiction.

For, Americans should realize that the fantastic stories of the invasion of the country and its quick conquest are the work of fiction writers. It is a good rule to keep cool and take fiction at its own worth.

Editorial enthusiasts have hastened to forget the disaster at the Dardanelles, the statement of the president: "We are threatened from no quarter"; the bankruptcy of bleeding and weakened Europe.

With the fiction clearly in mind Americans should consider some facts.

On the floor of the house recently Congressman E. W. Saunders of Virginia, said:

"Go forward, gentlemen, valiant aggregation that you are of jingoes and Don Quixotes, and attack the windmills of your fevered imaginations, we at least are content with a navy that is sufficient for the purposes of defense, and not large enough to tempt this country to commit lawless aggression.

"Mr. Chairman, this is not a question of a great navy, but of a greater navy. This country has a great navy, a FAR GREATER NAVY THAN THE MAN IN THE STREET IS AWARE OF, when he listens to the ranters who would have him believe that sane and moderate men are unwise and unpatriotic, merely because they are unwilling to waste the substance of the country in a wild riot of naval construction. Compared with the guns of every other nation in the world, save England, and the jingoes always exclude England from their calculations, the guns on our ships in weight and carrying power are distinctly superior to all others."

Brigadier General Erasmus Weaver, head of the coast artillery of the United States, confounds the fiction writers.

General Weaver would have charge of the defenses of the country if such an invasion occurred.

In 1915, testifying as to the strength of our coast defenses, General Weaver said:

"I have been a close student of the whole subject, naturally, for a number of years, and I know of no fortifications in the world, so far as my reading, observation and knowledge goes, that compare favorably in efficiency with ours."

On January 19 of the present year, General Weaver went before the House Committee on Military Affairs and asked for an increase of 11,000 men for the land fortifications. I quote from the report of the hearings before the committee:

MR. MCKELLAR—"If we conclude to carry out your recommendations and give you the 11,000 men, then, as I understand you, you would have a perfect system of coast defense that you think would be adequate for any purpose?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"Yes."

MR. MCKELLAR—"Your idea is that your guns are sufficient now?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"The guns now mounted and those contemplated will give us an entirely satisfactory defense."

MR. MCKELLAR—"You do not take any stock in the idea that the ships of foreign nations carry guns of long enough range to silence your guns?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"No."

MR. MCKELLAR—"I want to ask you, general, with our present condition, is our condition of preparedness for defense deplorable?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"Except in the matter of personnel, it is not."

MR. MCKELLAR—"It is in excellent condition, with the addition of a few officers and men, such as have been recommended by the department and by you?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"Yes, sir."

MR. MCKELLAR—"In your judgment, is it not unfair and misleading to the American people to have a public man make a statement that would lead you to believe that the coast cities of our country are wholly at the mercy of some invading enemy?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"I do not know that there is any officer who is acquainted with the facts that would make such a statement."

MR. MCKELLAR—"Any public man; I do not say an officer?"

GENERAL WEAVER—"I hesitate to criticize public men."

In the Congressional Record of February 3, 1916, page 2265, is taken the following extract from the testimony of General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., retired:

"Having had much to do with placing and construction of our fortifications, and inspecting every one along the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf Coasts, as well as having had an opportunity of seeing all of the great armies of the world and many of their fortifications, including the Dardanelles, I am prepared to say that our coasts are as well defended as the coasts of any country with the same class of high-power guns and heavy projectiles, and I have no sympathy for the misrepresentations that have been made in the attempt to mislead the public."

Later this officer declared:

"These overseas expeditions spring from the minds of men writing about preparedness who know less about preparedness than anything else."

Before a senate committee January 31, 1916, General Miles declared:

"The placing of an army on American soil is the last thing any European government would attempt; it could never be re-embarked. It would dissolve like snow beneath the midday sun. Whenever it has been attempted it has resulted in disaster."

We have seen this come true at the Dardanelles. The greatest battle fleet in the world's history, backed up a magnificent army in that landing. They faced no such great guns as our coast forts have. Yet for a year this army and navy struggled and the soldiers never got beyond range of the naval guns. Then the attempt was abandoned. The jingoes refuse to remember such a recent shattering of their fictions, and try to make you forget it, too.

They refuse to remember that England during the present war, with absolute control of the sea, required 33 days to move 30,000 troops, unequipped from one friendly port, Quebec, to another friendly port, Southampton. Yet they tell you glibly of 400,000 enemies landing on our shores almost over night.

As old Lew Dockstader remarks truthfully, if jokingly: "The two best friends of the United States are the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans."

If the people know the facts there will be no fear. If there is no fear the "preparedness" proposition now before Congress for a vast army and a vaster navy will not become law. But to escape the burden of billions of taxes, an armed aristocracy, and ultimate subjection to the munition makers and their financial allies backed up by a great army, the people must act. They must write to their congressmen, to their senators, to the president.

A two-cent stamp, rightly used, will hold in the hands of the people the ruling power that threatens to slip into the hands of their greatest enemies, the money lender, the imperialist and the men who make their fortunes from the blood of armies.

The people must stop thinking of the government as something beyond them. The people are the government. Every stockholder in a corporation has the right to know how, where and why the concern's money is being spent. Every American is a stockholder in his government.

The munition makers fear the ending of the war. They have built vast additions to their factories, not temporary structures, but great buildings that indicate not only hope, but determination that this war shall continue, that other wars shall follow and bring their bloody profits with them. If they cannot force more war they can at least, they believe, tie up this country for huge munition contracts. And this, and their tools, are preaching fear to get those contracts. And this treason, masked as patriotism has deluded many who have not thought and will not think.

There is a proposition now before Congress for the appropriation of \$500,000,000 for a great naval building program. This was first proposed by Robert M. Thompson, president of the Navy League and chairman of the board of directors of the International Nickel company, a firm that has profited and will profit probably more than any other concern by the passage of the naval bill. The proposal was made at a dinner in New York before a group of men, who included those "patriotic Americans" who hold absolute control of the making of war munitions. The propaganda began at once and now continues with great expenditures. It is of no concern to these men that "we are threatened from no quarter," as the president says. They want the money. And you, Americans, must pay now in cash from your wages, and later must take up the arms these munition makers will sell you and march off to the "armed conquest" the Navy League's official journal says is the "proper means" by which the United States must show its destiny in the world's history.

I earnestly urge those members of the Navy League who have a real feeling of regard for the country's safety, but have allowed themselves to be tricked into membership in this organization by the cry of "patriotism," to think calmly, read Congressman Tamm's speech on the Navy League, use their reason, and be thinking patriots, not fear-driven tools.

Remember the warning words of George Washington, in his farewell address to the American people: "Cultivate peace and harmony with all nations. . . . Overgrown military establishments are, under any form of government, inauspicious to liberty and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to Republican liberty."

A Question of "Rights"

The men who voted against tabling the proposal of Senator Gore and Congressman McLenore to warn Americans off armed belligerent ships have been branded traitors.

But these men forgot party lines, forgot their own political safety to consider the safety of 100,000,000 Americans who have a right to peace. The president had said that if one American who traveled on an armed ship was killed the country might be plunged into war. It was a question of "stand by the president" in support of his dangerous foreign policy, or stand by the people.

By a parliamentary trick, a vote was prevented upon the real feeling of Congress as to warning Americans off such ships.

Any man with common sense will deny that Americans have a right to use such ships when their president declares they endanger the country by so doing. Under such conditions, a "right" becomes a crime.

Sweden, placing common sense above a "doubtful legal right," has issued a warning to its citizens to keep off armed ships of the warring countries.

Norway, in the face of jingo cries, recently voted down a proposition for so-called "preparedness."

Congressman Decker, of Missouri, summed up the whole matter in his speech on the floor of the House during the discussion of the McLenore resolution, when he said:

"If war comes we will all stand by the President of the United States. But this, thank God, is a representative Government. And I wish to say to the insinuating gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Hoffman) the question now is, Will you stand by the American people? You can not dodge the question, gentlemen of the Southland and gentlemen of the Northland. The question is, Will you go to war on what Mr. Lansing says is a doubtful legal right? I am willing to go to war if necessary. My people have borne their part. My father and my uncle fought to preserve that flag. But I say to you, the private citizens of this country, the men who pay the taxes, the men who, if there is war, will die in the trenches, the men who will breathe the asphyxiating gas, the mothers of the boys whose flesh and blood will be splattered on the fields of battle, want to know before war is declared why they have to go to war."

We Americans have three duties before us. We must keep out of this war, for we have no right in it no matter what the Wall Street Tories and "patriots" tell us through their newspaper spokesmen; we must do all in our power to help the nations at war find a common ground for an early peace; we must take the lead in suggesting the limitation of armament that will lead to disarmament. And if we begin now to pile up a great navy and a great army we cannot hope to have the proper influence with the world in bringing about this condition that the peoples of all the nations long for. War and preparation for war has not brought it and cannot bring it. The people have the power in their hands to crush the avarice for gold and conquest that war has brought. That power is the voice, the pen, and greatest of all, the ballot.

Armor Plate Patriotism

The patriotism that fires our munition makers, whose fine hands can be recognized in the "preparedness" agitation, was brought forward in starting relief recently.

A senate committee, considering the bill of Senator Tillman, appropriating \$11,000,000 for a government armor plate plant, was informed by Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, that if the Tillman bill was reported favorably the armor plate manufacturers of the United States, who for years have been absorbing vast government contracts at vast profits, immediately would raise the price of armor plate \$200 per ton.

The Senate passed the bill, although the advocates of government by concession fought to the last ditch. Immediately the armor plate men lost some of the patriotic bluster and offered, before the House, to reduce the price of armor plate if the House would reject the government-owned plant. But the members of the House have learned some things about the munition makers recently, and will do their duty accordingly.

Other samples of munition-making "patriotism" are to be found in the speeches of Congressman Clyde D. Tamm of Illinois. These speeches may be secured by writing to Mr. Tamm at Washington.