

The Herald

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PREPAREDNESS VERSUS MILITARISM

There is much being said these times of Militarism and of preparation for future defense as a means of keeping the peace, and the argument is used that where preparation is made for successful defense the power so equipped is most like to become aggressive and rush into war because of its preparedness.

The Herald management loves peace and believes that the time will come when nations will learn to war no more and peace will be universal, but that time is not here, and the human race is not yet ready to accept the Law of Love which must necessarily be in full force to insure peace.

Just as long as men are unrighteous there will be trouble, and just as long as nations are unrighteous there will be, to say the least, danger of war. There are conditions where a nation is blameless in going to war as is also the case where a man must fight in self defense, and who would think of casting blame on a boy for learning how to defend himself so as to be prepared for attack.

Statesmen differ as to what should be done in the interests of the nation, and granting that each is honest in his view, these differences come because of imperfect understanding.

We have men who advocate much greater preparation for defense of the nation and the next score, or perhaps decade of years will prove or disprove their position. When nations go to war, self-interest blunts their perception of the rights of others and sways them to overstep the boundary line between their rights and those of other nations and because of infringements persisted in conditions arise where redress must be achieved at the expense of going to war, hence adequate preparations for defense in desirable and just as large arms and armaments are desirable for defense for aggression.

But there is a difference between preparedness and militarism. Preparedness takes precedence where a nation must defend its subjects though aggression is necessary to the achievement, while the latter is to build up a great military power for glory or conquest and to rule because of such supremacy. Now we do not charge United States statesmen with having the latter object in view and believe that only the welfare of the nation is at heart.

As to trade relations entering into the subject, all nations and individuals have the right to traffic and there is no element of militarism connected with such traffic, except where overt acts and infringement of rights

can have no redress by other means.

As to our outlying colonies, whether it was wise or unwise to acquire them, we have them and we owe a duty to them and to humanity that should be discharged honorably. The question arises: Have these possessions advanced or retrograded their affairs? If they have advanced then we should at least retain them until they are fitted for a place among nations, and capable of taking care of themselves, otherwise they will fall a booty to the first designing power that took a fancy to them. If our administration has been a retrograde movement then the sooner we let go of these colonies the better.

Just now India is sending her troops to Western Europe to fight for England and we ask the reason. Why? Why not get in and rebel when she has a chance to throw off England's yoke? We are told that she is loyal to the British government because there are liabilities of becoming subject to other nations if she was not under the protection which Great Britain throws around her.

The United States exerts an enlightening influence over the world, and while she should not reach out for conquest through military power, she should put herself in condition to command respect and hold her place among the nations of the earth.

Washington and Neutrality

This walking the tight-rope of neutrality is an older experience with the republic than most of us are aware. It was in the administration of the first President that we had the first test of our skill at balancing.

The pot of revolution in France, so long simmering, had come to a boil. The French people thought they had discovered a new formula of liberty and it was taken up by liberal elements throughout the world without much question as to its worthiness or practicality. America was, at once, wildly enthusiastic. And so when the conservative parts of Europe combined to crush what they considered a dangerous madness, Americans were more than eager to get into the quarrel. An envoy of the French revolutionary government hastened to the United States, confident that American warships and troop transports would soon be sent sailing across the Atlantic. He was received with an outburst of cordiality. Civic societies banqueted him. The press gave him the assurance that his mission would be successful.

But President Washington was determined that the new nation should not be drawn into the dispute. It was still a weakling. It had not recovered from its war of liberation. The people must learn to think more of their country as a distinct and separate country, and less of it as an outlying part of Europe.

"I want an American character," he said, "that the powers of Europe may be convinced we act for ourselves and not for others."

The stand that Washington took not merely grieved the French agent, but grieved his

hosts as well. Washington was hotly abused. Neither Lincoln nor Roosevelt, in after years, was made to bear harsher terms than were discharged at Washington for his policy. But he never swerved. He issued a proclamation of neutrality and he sat tight upon that. In the course of a few weeks, the passion for war died away. Quickly the country came to Washington's view. His statesmanship was acknowledged.—The Toledo Blade.

An eastern pessimist says: "One drawback about immigration after the war is that we'll either get a crippled patriot or a healthy, undesirable."

Between the Boy Scouts and the Campfire Girls there ought to be militancy enough in the next generation to supply a standing army with everything but room enough to stand on.—Weston Leader.

STEPS TOWARD MILITARISM

Concluded.

III

Militarism in America.

Does Militarism exist in America? Can our nation be said to have the essentials that make up Militarism as have the nations of Europe? If we have not Militarism here in America we have all the qualities and conditions that make up a nation whose every step falsely and hastily taken, leads toward that insane goal.

What is Militarism? Webster defines it as "a system or policy which causes nations to keep up great armies and to pay excessive attention to military affairs." As defined by the New Standard Dictionary, militarism is "the giving of undue prominence to military training and military glory;" also the "maintenance of government by military force." Does the United States maintain a system of government by military force? Does it give undue prominence to military training and military glory?

"We are now spending more for past war and preparation for future war than any other nation in the world!" Have we advanced beyond the limit of spending for protection or are we still on the safe side?

The warring countries are militarism-ridden. Is our country militarism-ridden, a country that has spent and is spending more for protection than even the warring countries themselves? They are engaged in war. We are carefully looking ahead to avoid stumbling over the obstacles placed in our own path by ourselves that we may keep out of war and God grant that we shall.

This year we are appropriating over \$200,000,000 for army and navy purposes! Senators and Congressmen are shouting from the housetops for an increased army and navy. Each year their wishes have been granted until we now spend over 65 per cent of the nation's revenue for war purposes.

Among those in Congress clamoring for war and who have introduced bills to increase materially the army and navy is found the name of one who is especially active along that line (this is not written for political purposes.) His name is of especial interest to the people of Oregon for as their representative he leads the list. I refer to Senator Chamberlain. He has introduced 8 bills for a continuance of armed peace in America.

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One of his bills reads: "To authorize the maintenance of organizations of the mobile army at their maximum strength and to provide an increase of 1,000 officers." Does militarism exist in America? I am compelled sadly to believe it does! The bill was certainly not introduced to advance the cause of peace. Then we must accept the other argument—it was introduced to advance the cause of war. Such a bill the Jingo militarists want passed but I don't believe any sane American citizen would want to dig his or her own grave by supporting such a bill or a person who will draft one containing such provisions.

Does Militarism exist in Ameri-

ca? We spend more for war purposes than any other nation; we have "representatives" of the people clamoring for more to spend for such purposes; we maintain soldiers lulled to sleep by false blasts of martial air and patriotism; we maintain a navy to protect our commercialized course and each one of these conditions that exist in America are steps toward Militarism, nay more they are steps of Militarism!

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