

Daily Democrat

F. P. NUTTING
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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1915

PREPAREDNESS.

The attention of the Democrat has been called to a letter which Chas. M. Sheldon, of Topeka, Kan., addressed to the president in reference to the preparedness program the president has undertaken, urged by a great many regardless of party, a program as indicated by the letter of Mr. Sheldon which will also be opposed by many.

In your speech in New York you are reported as saying: "If men differ with me in this vital matter, I shall ask them to make it clear how far and in what they are interested in making the permanent interests of the country safe against disturbance."

I am one of those who differ with you very positively on your program of war preparation, and I believe the men of the west generally differ with you. You say, "No thoughtful man feels any panic haste in this matter. The country is not threatened from any quarter. She stands in friendly relation with all the world." If that is true, why all this military program for an enemy we do not possess? In the entire course of your speech, you do not mention one single reason for an increased army and navy. You do not name one nation in the world that has any design to threaten or invade our country.

I have lived in the West over twenty-seven years, and within the last year have been in every Western state, and faced over one million and a half of the people, and your program of militarism will meet with earnest and intelligent opposition from this part of the country. Much as I would wish, as a citizen who loves his country, to stand by the president in matters of vital concern I for one cannot and will not uphold you and your advisers in this matter. You advise men who differ with you "to make it clear how far and in what way they are interested in making the permanent interests of the country safe from disturbance."

If the money you and your advisers declare is necessary for military preparation against an enemy you do not name, were to be used in the education of the people and the Christianizing of the world, we could put an end forever to the war-lust of the world. If we took a small part of the people's money which your program will take from the people to buy powder, and put it into a campaign for national prohibition of the liquor traffic, we could prepare our country for a Christian program of conquest over other passions.

If we took the price of one battleship and put it into the building of good roads in one of our states, we could prepare our people for a happier and cleaner and saner life.

If we took a small part of the immense sums your program calls for in the enrichment of munition factories, and spent it in Christianizing Europe after the great war is over, we could once and forever remove even the needless fear of war which exists in this country.

The program you propose to the people of this country to strengthen the military power of this republic is contrary to the spirit of Christianity. What would Jesus do? Can we imagine him at this crisis in the world's history calling on a nation to spend vast sums preparing itself for war by creating a great army and navy? It is not thinkable. We know what he would do. He would call on the people of this country to give at least a dollar apiece to preach and practice the gospel of justice and brotherhood here at home, and to take what battleships we have and load them with the best of our sons and daughters, and send them around the world to evangelize the nation that will be ready for it as never before, and put an end to the war by teaching and practicing the principles of the Prince of Peace.

Over against your program, we who

differ with you place this program of preparedness. It is more practical than yours. It is the only program which will in the end bring about the brotherhood of man.

With voice and pen and all the influence I possess, I, as one American citizen, will oppose this program of militarism to the full extent of my power, for it represents not the spirit of the Master, the Prince of Peace, but the spirit of the old-world fear and distrust and hate which has kept alive through all the centuries that which the United States does not represent either by traditions or by her history. After all these centuries of Jesus Christ, we should have learned the lesson which he has been trying to teach us: "They that use the sword, shall perish by the sword."

MISFITS

Albany has the champion hog raiser of the Pacific Coast. Some meat hat.

Here's to Ed School, who brings some the dough.

But we do hope that O. A. C. takes the salt out of the Syracuse boys, even if they did come from Misfits oymhood vicinity.

If John Carnegie thinks it a sin to be rich, he is invited to get rid of a million in our pocket. Dare him to try it on.

Of all the monstrosities about the most alarming is the new stocking with several layers of fringe.

Now make the basket ball zip. Pretty near rough enough to suit the food-thirsty.

Only sixteen deaths from foot ball the past season. Numerous times more from the auto game.

After Thanksgiving is over some one suggests a sane Thanksgiving day. Evidently been stuffing.

The big manufacturers of war implements and munitions all are hot for big preparedness.

Money talks, and that's the reason people are listening to Ford. Misfits are yell for peace-measures until hoarse and it doesn't get out of the front door.

Our exchanges never come just when we want them. The Dallas Chronicle the day after the f.b. game here failed to arrive with an account of the battle.

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Notice is hereby given to the legal
voters of School District No. 5 Linn
County, Oregon, that a special meet-
ing of said voters will be held at the
New Central Building of said district
on Tuesday, November 30, 1915 at
the hour of 7:30 p. m. This meeting
is called for the purpose of voting a
tax for the support of the public
schools of the district the ensuing
year and transacting any other busi-
ness that may properly come before
said meeting.

ALFRED C. SCAMITT,
Chairman.

J. L. TOMLINSON,
Clerk. n18 d1

Albany, Oregon, Nov. 27, 1915.

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