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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1916

MORE ON MILITARISM

A correspondent in the Benton Courier gives some ideas of his own:

It was with some pleasure that the writer attended the debate on Saturday evening at the Corvallis high school auditorium, on the question, "Resolved, That the U. S. should adopt the essentials of the Swiss government system of military training." The affirmative was defended by two students from Albany and the negative by two from the Corvallis high school. The writer readily recognizes the fact that in the limited time which the students had for the debate that one could hardly expect them to bring out all points of a question of such importance, but the first speaker of the Corvallis team really lost the debate, because he spent too much time in spouting out highly colored phrases of the horrors of war—which was not the question.

However, some of the essential points were not touched upon at all. The Swiss military system is compulsory and why is the necessity of the compulsory system obvious to the Swiss nations? Switzerland lies hedged in upon all sides by warring nations greater in commercial and military life. They are, as it were, a pocket and Switzerland has always known that since her freedom was guaranteed by them all, that all would not break the treaty at once and that she would always be sure in case of war to have an ally and possibly two and the reason for a large standing army is very obvious.

Upon the other hand what natural reason has the U. S. for a standing army of large proportions? Are there any secret reasons? Let us analyze that question. The writer can see but one reason and one reason alone for either a large standing army or a greatly increased navy and that reason is solely and wholly economic. We have here in America the most highly developed commercial nation on earth. The interests who control the resources of this country, namely, the tools of production, the means of distribution, and the natural resources, viz. the lands and waters, recognizes that this war has given them the opportunity to seize the markets of the earth for their surplus product and therefore to secure and maintain those markets it would be necessary for them to have a large navy on sea and a large land force to back them up in the contest that is bound to take place when once again the warring nations of Europe have reached a normal stage after the war has ended. That is the important reason for this hue and cry for an increased armament. It is profit, profit, profit. The fight is not the fight of the producer, it is the fight of the one group of bandits against another, using their poor dupes who must and will bear the burden.

The affirmative laid great stress upon the physical training that would ensue through this system of military training. Can not this physical training come about without the thought of militarism being uppermost in the minds of the youth? Give to the children of the workers a decent chance for food, clothing, shelter and proper environments and you will have a youth that will be proud to fight for such an economic condition and not like the English who have, through long years of capitalist domination, so caused the degeneration of their people that they have been forced to reduce their standards for enlistment for the fourth time and are gravely considering another reduction and compulsory service, such as an honorable "statesman" (?) from Oregon has espoused.

Already petitions by labor unions, ministerial associations and individuals are pouring in at such a rate that the representatives in congress are beginning to give ear to the common people and less weight to the Army

and Navy League.

Are you farmers and workers, you producers, going to sit idly by and see a system well started on its way, which will tear the very heart of this nation from its fixed place in the scheme of life and send the youth to prepare for a war which is of no importance to you, but which will keep you further down, chained to a slavery which will be the doom of future generations? Get busy and let them know in Washington where you stand before it is too late.

MISFITS

M. M. Waltz, of Belfontaine, Benton county, would like to waltz into the legislature.

Back in a small town in Indiana, which has gone dry, to take effect May 1, there is a small newspaper and a saloon keeper named August Schnitz. Recently the following appeared in the paper: "The first of May this year will be the last of August."

Father Black, of Portland, recently said that the worst demon in the lowest depth of hell is no worse than the club women who are promoting the latest cure, birth control.

Bishop Bell at the laymen's convention rang out good and strong when he said that the Christianization of world means internationalism and a cure for all the evils that are shaking the world to its foundation. That then will war and its horrors become impossible.

The present trouble is that considerable that is called Christian is not Christian at all.

Indoor sports will soon have to give way to outdoor games.

Baseball and bats and tennis rackets are itching for action.

Lusitanian has almost become a mania.

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