

CONGRESSMAN KITCHIN EXPLAINS NATURE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PROJECT AND ALSO HIS REASONS FOR OPPOSING PROPOSED PLAN

Representative of the Second District Sends Exclusive Statement of His Views to the Daily News. Other Papers to Publish It Tomorrow.

PUTS FORTH STRONG ARGUMENTS IN HIS ARTICLE

Mr. Editor:

The Seven Seas Magazine, the organ of the Navy League (the organization which has created, by deception and misrepresentation, the apparently big sentiment for the militarism and navalism now proposed, and which seems to have stampeded many patriotic, and usually level-headed people) declared in its October issue that I had the right "to vote for or against" the preparedness measure, but that I had "neither the right nor should he (I) be allowed even to discuss it in the House," etc. I trust, however, that the press of my State, though most of it differ widely with me, will not refuse the privilege which I ask, to express through it to the people some of the reasons for my position and give some of the facts with respect to the question which has been withheld from, or certainly not given to the public. I ask this privilege, with confidence that it will be granted, especially in view of the fact that many of the State papers have severely criticized me, some going to the extent of bitterly denouncing me. I have no criticism to make of the press and the people in the State who differ with me. Having heard only one side, and owing to the tens of literature of deception and misrepresentation of the subject, being poured out daily to the people by the metropolitan press and magazines—many, perhaps, innocently—and by the so-called "Patriotic Societies," of which the Navy League is the head, it is but natural that a large majority of the people should oppose my position. With your permission, I shall now proceed to give some of the facts and reasons which impel me to oppose the big military and naval program which will be proposed to Congress.

1. As to the actual condition of our Navy.

All the talk and writings by the press and the so-called "Patriotic Societies" about our "utter helplessness," our "dangerous unpreparedness," our "defenseless condition," our "growing weakness," our "having fallen to the third or fourth grade of inferiority in naval strength," etc., is pure tommy-rot, based not on a single fact.

Let it be first understood that in the "Preparedness" program the Navy of Great Britain is eliminated. This was so testified by the Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Fletcher, and other naval experts, and even by Hobson, in the hearings before the Naval Committee at the last session of Congress, all declaring that we do not need or desire a Navy as strong as hers. Notwithstanding the metropolitan press, magazine writers and the "Patriotic Societies" and our Navy Year-Book (which was exposed in the last Congress, and will be so exposed in the next, as unreliable and misleading), the fact is, that we have, built and building, the strongest and most powerful navy in the world, except that of Great Britain (which is eliminated as above stated.) Our Navy is stronger than that of Germany, far superior to that of France, more than twice as strong as that of Japan or of any other nation. Admiral Fletcher, the highest active officer in the Navy, Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, the man who will have to do the fighting if any is to be done, (whose judgment on naval subjects the Secretary of the Navy, before the Naval Committee, declared he had sooner take than that of any man in the world) expressly declared, at the naval hearings during the last session of Congress, that we had a Navy, "superior to that of Germany or any other nation, except Great Britain." In answer to the question, "If in a war with Germany, could our Navy successfully resist that of Germany?" he answered "Yes." Captain Winterhalter, another naval expert, testified: "Judge Witherspoon has proved that our

Navy is superior to that of Germany and I agree with him." Admiral Badger, Ex-Commander of the Atlantic Fleet (a member of the General Board of the Navy) declared that no one had ever heard him say that "Germany had a superior Navy to ours."

The facts of record, the tests laid down by naval experts here and abroad, and the naval authorities of the world (all of which I have before me as I write) confirm the truth of this testimony.

The armored fleet of Germany, consisting of battleships, dreadnaughts and predreadnaughts, armored cruisers and battle-cruisers (built and building) in number is 62 (to say nothing of the vessels lost since January 1, 1915.) The fleet of the United States, of the same vessels, is in number fifty-six, with over 40,000 more tonnage. (Number and tonnage, however, are not the criterion of superiority.) Of twenty of Germany's battleships listed by our Navy Year-Book, sixteen are not able to go more than 1,000 miles from base to engage in naval war. Not one of the sixteen carries enough to go from Hamburg or Bremen to within five hundred miles of New York and return (to say nothing about being employed in naval engagement.) The Oregon, which some of our naval experts say is obsolete, and not listed by our Navy Year-Book (the Indiana and Massachusetts not listed also) is very characteristic of a fighting ship; bigger guns, heavier armor, stronger ship is far superior to any one of the twenty German battleships listed by our Navy Year-Book. Four of the German ships listed by our Navy Year-Book as dreadnaughts are in reality dreadnaughts, and are shown by one of the highest naval authorities in the world (Jane's Fighting Ships) to be defective, unsuccessful ships, and so known to be by every student of naval affairs. The last five dreadnaughts authorized by Congress are superior to any six dreadnaughts Germany has, built or building. Our ships are better, larger, stronger and more heavily armored. Our guns are larger, stronger and more effective. Of the big guns of the ships, twelve inches and over, we have 284, while Germany has only 194 (built and building.)

If the Navy of Great Britain is to be eliminated in the "Preparedness" program, which our naval experts say it should be, and if we have a navy now superior to that of Germany or any other nation in the world, except Great Britain, for whom or against whom do we propose to prepare by the fabulous increase of our naval appropriations which the proposed program requires?

WE ARE PREPARED.

Instead of "our Navy growing weaker," as the metropolitan press, the "Patriotic Societies" and the Jingo and war traffickers would have the people believe, it is growing bigger, stronger, more efficient and better equipped every year. In the two years of Wilson's Administration the naval building program authorized is twice as large and costly as the last two years of Taft's administration and larger and more costly by \$8,000,000 than the entire four years of Roosevelt's last term and practically as large and costly as the entire four years of Taft's Administration. There is today over 50 per cent more construction going on for our Navy than on the 1st day of March, 1913, or at any other time in the history of our country. We have nearly 100 per cent more torpedoes, mines, mine layers, powder and other munitions than we had on the 1st day of March, 1913, and steadily increasing them. We have under Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Daniels' Administration, for the first time in years, the full complement of enlisted men authorized by law.

WE ARE PREPARING.

In view of the foregoing facts,

was not President Wilson right when he said in his message to Congress December, 1914, in opposing the program of the Hobsons and Gardner: "Let there be no misconception. The country has been misinformed. We have not been negligent of national defence."

2. As to the enormity of the proposed program—what it is:

The heretofore large and growing expenditures for our Navy had aroused the people of the country to asking, "where shall it end?" Secretary Daniels, in his report to the last session of Congress, December, 1914, said (and he was but substantially repeating what had been said in the British Parliament, the German Reichstag, the French Assembly, and by prominent statesmen the world over relative to the armament expenditures of their respective countries for the last several years): "The naval appropriations in our own country have doubled in a dozen years and have gone up by leaps and bounds in other countries. If this mad rivalry in construction goes on the burden will become too heavy for any nation to bear." In his report of December, 1913, he says: "The growing cost of dreadnaughts, of powder and of everything that makes an efficient Navy, gives reason to pause. The heavy expense commands national and international consideration. Ten years ago our largest battleships cost \$5,820,000. The next dreadnaught will cost \$14,044,000." (The dreadnaughts hereafter to be authorized will cost from \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000, and in an interview the Secretary says all ship materials and fixtures of war have gone up over 50 per cent.) He asks, "When is this accelerating expenditure to be reduced?" "If it is not hastened by appeals for the peaceful settlement of national differences, the day is not far distant when the growing burdens of taxation for excessive war and naval expenditures will call a halt."

Now, in the face of the deplorable truth recited by the Secretary; in the face of the fact that we have a Navy superior to that of Germany or any other nation, except that of Great Britain; in the face of the fact that our Navy is growing larger, stronger and better equipped than ever before; in the face of the fact, as the President declared both in his message to Congress December 1st and in his recent Manhattan Club speech, "We are threatened from no quarter," the proposed "Preparedness" program at one bound—one year—increases our already immensely large naval appropriations more than our total increases for the last fourteen years; more than the increase by Germany in her whole fifteen years preceding the European war, and more than the combined increase of all the nations in the world in their history (in times of peace!)

The five-year program increases our naval appropriation over forty times more than the increase by Germany in five years preceding the European war; and \$200,000,000 more than the combined increase of all the nations in the world for the five years preceding the European war; and over \$50,000,000 more than the combined increase of all the nations in the world for the whole period of ten years immediately preceding the European war!

Add to this the fact that prior to the beginning of the European war we were expending annually on our Navy from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 more than Germany or any other nation (except Great Britain) was expending on its Navy.

For the ten years preceding the European war we had expended on our Navy over \$300,000,000 more than Germany or any other nation (except Great Britain) had expended on its Navy! And yet the metropolitan press, the magazine writers,

CROWN PRINCE'S NEW BABY



The first photograph showing the crown prince of Germany and her infant, born April 8, 1915. The youngster is the only daughter of the German heir and his wife, and is known as the German "war baby," although she has been christened "Alexandrine." It is believed she was born and christened while her father, the Crown Prince Frederick, was at the front.

CRESCITE CLUB

Are Studying Mexican Conditions. Interesting Papers Read at Meeting This Week.

An enjoyable meeting was held by the Crescite Club Thursday afternoon with Miss Mae Ayers as hostess. The session was devoted to the study of Mexico during ancient and modern times.

Miss Mary Carter read a highly interesting paper on "Ancient and Modern Mexico," which was followed by another paper on "The Mexican Situation at Present," by Mrs. Sam Etheridge. Mrs. Lee Davenport most ably read an article on "Mexican Social Life."

Refreshments in two courses followed the business session of the meeting.

WAYOME CLUB HOLD MEETING

Met in Regular Session Last Night. Interest in Club is Increasing.

The regular business meeting of the Wayome Club was held in their club rooms last night. It was well attended by members, and several business subjects were brought up. The club is fast coming to the front, as several new members have been enrolled, and interest is greatly increasing among the young men. The next regular business meeting is set for November 30th. All members, and directors are requested to be present.

HALL OF FAME FOR 6B PUPILS

Students of the 6B grade in the city schools, who made an average of over 90 per cent in all their studies, are having their pictures taken, which are put in a "Hall of Fame." The move has greatly increased the interest in school work and six pupils this month made over 90 per cent. They were John Wise, Marguerite Meekins, John Handy, George Lawson, Mary B. Little and Esther Cherry.

HUGE KING CRAB.

Is on Exhibiting at E. K. Willis' Main Street Store.

A gigantic king crab, measuring over two feet in length and eighteen inches wide, is being shown at E. K. Willis' Main Street store. It is, in appearance, a combination of the turtle and the crab, has no eyes and has attracted considerable attention from passers-by. It weighs several pounds.

SERVICES TOMORROW AT THE COUNTY HOME

The Baracca Class of the Methodist church, led by Mr. Keer, will conduct services at the county home tomorrow afternoon at three o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend.

SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION YESTERDAY

MEETING OF DISTRICT No. 10 OF WOMEN'S CLUBS WELL ATTENDED.

GOOD SPEECHES

Large Number Attended Session at the New Theatre Yesterday Afternoon. Reception Last Night at Elk's Hall.

Over 100 persons attended the Reciprocity meeting of District No. 10, N. C. Federation of Women's Clubs, which was held yesterday afternoon at the New Theatre. The program was a most interesting one, the speeches were extremely well delivered and thoroughly appreciated by the audience.

The meeting was called to order by Miss Lida T. Rodman, who acted as chairman. The invocation was pronounced by Rev. H. B. Bearight, pastor of the Presbyterian church and was followed by the singing of "Carolina" by the entire assembly. Mrs. S. R. Fowle made an appropriate address of welcome to the visiting delegates on behalf of the women's clubs of the city. She also touched lightly on the work that is being done by the State federation and the work that the local clubs are doing.

The address of welcome from the citizens of Washington was delivered by Judge Stephen Bragaw. After assuring the visiting delegates of a hearty welcome to the city, the judge made a most eloquent talk on the equality of man and woman.

"After God made the earth, after He divided day from night, after He filled the seas with fish and after He created the beasts and the fowls and the things that crawl upon the earth, He made man and woman. And He said unto them—'not unto him, 'replenish the world and subdue it.' He divided the responsibility equally between them. If it is true that man was made the supreme being of the world, then why should woman not also be the supreme queen?"

"But in some mysterious way, woman was dethroned. If I go back too far into history, madam chairman, it is only to emphasize the fact that the theory that woman is not man's equal is absolutely without foundation. The world is beginning to realize this and I believe that woman is regaining her rights."

"Many years ago—and not so many at that, either—my partner of joys and sorrows, in preparing a paper of some kind, would usually ask her school-teacher-lawyer husband for assistance, but now, since she has become a member of the Adisco club, it is her husband who has to go to her to ascertain facts regarding things ecclesiastical, theological, astronomical, and mythological."

The judge concluded his highly interesting talk by wishing the federation every success in its work.

Miss Sadie B. Walt, of Greenville, responded most fittingly to the addresses of welcome and assured the local clubs that the visitors enjoyed the pleasure of being in Washington. Her response was followed by an extremely well rendered solo by Mrs. Harry McMillan, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. W. P. Baughman.

Mrs. Lingle, State president of the Federation, made a most interesting address on the work that the Federation was doing throughout the State. She took up the different departments of the labors of the organization and mentioned what progress had been made in each. She also congratulated the clubs of Washington for the work they were doing and urged its continuance.

"We are not in this work because we are less mothers and wives," she concluded, "but because we desire to disseminate some of the home influence into the outside world."

Mrs. Cotten, of Greenville, past president of the State federation, and beloved by every member of the federated clubs, made an amusing and entertaining talk in the quaint manner of which she alone is capable.

Mrs. D. M. Carter favored the assembly with a solo, which she sang expertly to Mrs. Baughman's accompaniment.

After the report of the State A-

MASCOT GETS HIS



"Gligo," mascot of the battleship Oregon, recently got lost while on shore leave. Later he showed up along the water front and was given five days in the brig for failing to show up at four bells in the evening.

HELD MEETING

Community Service Day Observed Yesterday at Piney Grove and Magnolia.

Community service day was observed at Piney Grove and Magnolia yesterday with appropriate programs.

E. L. Stewart, of this city, made an address in the morning at Piney Grove on education and community service. He laid particular stress on the moonlight school work, the value of rural education and riding North Carolina and Beaufort county as early as possible of illiteracy and ignorance. Dinner was served on the grounds, following his speech.

In the afternoon Mr. Stewart also spoke at Magnolia on the value of education and its relations to the life of a community. A splendid program of songs and recitations by the pupils of the Magnolia school was also rendered. The exercises were under the supervision of Mr. Privette, principal of the school, and his two assistants.

The school house was appropriately decorated and a large number of persons were there, including a large number of patrons of the district. The new school house is a credit to the county and to the progressive men and women, headed by L. M. Shepherd, who secured its erection through personal sacrifices of time and money.

ARRANGE FOR PULLMAN.

Washington Visitors to Norfolk May Have Special Car for Thanksgiving Trip.

Arrangements are being made by a number of local men to have the Norfolk Southern furnish a pullman car to take visitors from this city to Norfolk on Thanksgiving day. It is planned to leave here Wednesday night and return Thursday night. If a pullman is secured it will enable the Washington people to leave Norfolk at 11:30 instead of 8:30 Thursday night. All those who desire to make the trip are requested to communicate at once with Mr. Myers, the local agent for the Norfolk Southern.

dance committee, which was read by Mrs. N. L. Simmons, and upon which Mrs. Lingle commented, the reports of the different clubs throughout this district were read. The meeting was brought to a close by the singing of "America."

RECEPTION LAST NIGHT.

At the Elk's hall last night from 8:30 to 10:30, the local clubs tendered a reception to the visiting ladies, at which a large number were present. The hall was beautifully decorated with ferns, vines and cut flowers and presented a most attractive appearance. Music was furnished by an orchestra. Punch was served throughout the evening and also refreshments consisting of ice cream and cake. The occasion proved a most enjoyable one and afforded the local residents an opportunity for becoming better acquainted with the visitors.

TODAY'S COTTON QUOTATIONS

Lint—11c.
Seed cotton—\$4.60.
Cotton seed—\$28.00.

GOOD ROADS EXCURSION PLANNED

WILL TAKE AN AUTO TRIP THROUGH NEIGHBORING COUNTIES NOV. 28th.

MEETING TUES.

Good Roads Association Will Discuss Plans for Going Before Board of County Commissioners at Next Meeting.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Washington township Good Roads Association, which was held at the office of W. H. Ellison last night and at which W. H. Standell, W. H. Standell, Jr., O. B. Wynne, H. F. Howrs, W. H. Ellison and E. L. Stewart were present, plans were made for an auto excursion for Sunday, November 28th, the weather being favorable.

The various auto owners of the city will be asked to furnish their cars in case they cannot go themselves, provide drivers for their machines. The owner of each car will also be asked to provide lunch for the occupants of his car.

It is planned to leave Washington about a half past six in the morning and go out on the Washington and Wilmington road as far as the Ed James Hill road and then turn into the Washington and Greenville road, passing by Old Ford, Tranter's Creek and Latham's cross roads. Notices will be sent out to the various voters of the township, inviting them of the proposed route to be followed and the approximate time at which the various points will be reached, to the end that they may present themselves at these places to be taken on board the cars and carried over some of the good roads of Pitt Nash, Edgecombe and other counties.

It is expected that this movement will go a long way towards enabling a large number of out of town voters, who have never had the opportunity of seeing good roads to become acquainted with the value and advantages to be derived from improved highways, and it is earnestly hoped and desired that the citizens of Washington, who own automobiles, will cooperate most heartily towards the success of this movement.

Meeting Tuesday Night.

The Washington Good Roads Association will hold an important meeting in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night, beginning promptly at eight o'clock. Matters of vital importance will be taken up. An effort will be made to outline some plan to be suggested to the county commissioners at their next meeting, which will meet with the approval of the voters of Washington township as to how the work shall be done and the money expended in the event that the bond issue carries.

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