

**CLAUDE KITCHIN AT BAT
KNOCKS HOME RUN**

Democratic Leader Shows Up the Lies That Underlie the Preparedness Campaign—Our Navy Already Strongest in the World Except Great Britain's—Proposed Program Would Cost More Money Than All Nations Spent at Same Time on Their Armaments.

Because Claude Kitchin, the leader of the Democratic majority in the House, refused to fall down and worship the new military god which the ammunition and gun makers are trying to foist upon the country, the big city press has hurled a terrific onslaught upon him, and the little sheets all over the country, including North Carolina, that have also assaulted Mr. Bryan, have lustily taken up the yelp. But Mr. Kitchin has issued a statement that contains enough facts and figures to make every honest man who has heretofore been in favor of "preparedness," to pause and ask himself if he has not been deceived, just as the war traffickers have succeeded in fooling Mr. Wilson. With Kitchin's logic and facts, and with Bryan, the biggest Democrat in the country, foot loose against the latest attempt to prevent the government and rob the people, preparedness is not going to have the smooth sailing that its friends thought it would.

Mr. Kitchin shows by the testimony of naval experts that our navy is now superior to that of Germany or any other country in the world except Great Britain, and that the same naval experts say that we do not wish or need a navy larger than England's. He also shows that it is folly to talk of any other country invading this one, and that the real object of the Navy League, of which the Morgan type of financiers are the backers, is really one of conquest and not defense. He also shows that Mr. Wilson has changed his policy at the suggestion of the naval experts, for no longer than last December he said in his message that there had been a mistake about being unprepared, and that the national defense had not been neglected. He also shows that whatever the outcome of the present war should be, our huge increase would shock the moral sense of the world and continue it in an armed camp.

The militarist and war traffickers of every Nation in the world would point to our conduct as an example

and a cause why big war preparations and big armaments should be renewed on a larger scale than ever before and its culmination would only be limited by the ability of the Nations appealed to. If we take this step every Nation will be suspicious—in fact every Nation will feel convinced and no argument of our government can dissipate such conviction—that our country in this tremendous step has other designs than mere self-defense. Every Nation will absolutely know that no such step or measure is necessary. The world will be convinced, in spite of our protestations, that we are preparing, as the Seven Seas Magazine, the organ of the navy League, declared in its last issue that we should prepare for "wars of conquest. This organ of this so-called patriotic society in its same issue broadly broadcasts throughout our country the savage, barbarous sentiment which I quote: "There should be no possible doubt that even with all possible moral refinement it is the absolute right of a Nation to live to its fullest intensity, to expand to found colonies, to get richer and richer by any proper means such as armed conquest. Such expansion as an aim is an inalienable right and in the case of the United States it is a particular duty." This organ of the Navy League, the organization, as I said before, which has, by organized effort, created the sentiment of our people for a big militarism and navalism, is but giving the people of the world an earnest of that we are to expect when this program is enacted into law.

As to the Fears of Our People.
In the hope of allaying to some extent the alarmed state of mind and the fear of our people, provoked by the European war, and aggravated and intensified by the organized efforts of the so-called "Patriotic Societies" and the war traffickers, I desire to make some observations. With the experience of the present war, which we are daily observing, even if our fleet were not half as big as it is (and I have shown that it is superior to any other nation in the world, except that of Great Britain), it would be impossible, notwithstanding the jingoism and the war traffickers and the press, for Germany or any other country to ever bombard or land a soldier on our coast, provided we were equipped with mines and submarines. With these we are most rapidly equipping ourselves. England has a navy two and one half times as strong as that of Germany. Eng-

land and France has a fleet more than three times as strong as that of Germany. Take a map and you will see that the German seacoast on the North sea is practically at the head of the English Channel within less than 300 miles of London and has several miles of seacoast along the Baltic. The bulk of the English and French fleet is now, and has been within less than a day's run of the German coast. If England could bombard or land on the coast of Germany, on the North Sea or on the Baltic sea, the war would end in sixty days. Germany would have to withdraw from France to protect her own soil. Why does not the fleet of the Allies, nearly four times as strong, go in and destroy the little fleet of Germany, bombard her seacoast at once, land an army, etc.? Certainly not because of a little German fleet already bottled up, one-fourth as large, but because of mines and submarines. Now, look at the map again and see how the Russian coast and the German coast compare and how they adjoin along the Baltic sea; Germany has control of the Baltic even against the fleet of the Allies. Germany has a fleet four times as large as that of Russia. What keeps Germany away from the Russian coast? Why doesn't Germany with a fleet four times as strong, destroy the Russian fleet, bombard her seacoast and land an army? If she could do this, the war would end in sixty days.

Russia would be forced to a separate peace in spite of her agreement with the Allies. Certainly it is not the little one-fourth size fleet she has but because of mines and submarines. If Germany with her fleet not one-third as strong as that of the Allies does not fear the bombardment of her coast or the landing of an army by the Allies, when within less than 200 miles, and if Russia, with her little fleet one-fourth as large as that of Germany, is not afraid of Germany bombarding her coast and landing an army on her shores, why in the name of common sense should any man, woman or child in the United States fear that Germany or any other Nation can ever get within gun reach of our shores or land an army on our coast, when they are over 3,000 miles away, provided we are equipped with mines and submarines?

As to the Enormity of the Proposed Program—What Is It?
The heretofore large and growing expenditures of our navy has aroused the people of the country into

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 expenses commands national and international consideration. Ten years ago our largest battleships cost \$5,282,000. 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 munitions of war have gone up over 30 per cent.) He asked "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 last 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 increase for the last fourteen years; more than the increase of Germany the whole fifteen years preceding the European war, and more than the combined increase of all the Nations in the world in any one year 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 year 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 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 "Patriotic Societies" and the jingoism and war traffickers would frighten the country into the belief that we have a little, punny, egg-shell of a navy!

The five-year naval program calls for an increase of \$500,000,000—\$100,000,000 increase a year!—which including the inevitable incidental expenses for expanding the whole naval establishment in order to accommodate the program, will reach \$600,000,000 or over the time five years expires. This is all extra—in addition to the large appropriations we have been annually making.

The army four-year program demands \$450,000,000 increase, over our annual army appropriations! All extra appropriations, be it remembered. Extra taxes must be paid by the people, be it remembered!

Before leaving the subject of the enormity of the proposed program, I desire to make further observation:

At the expiration of the five-year period for the program this country will then be expending on its navy and army more than any Nation in the world in times of peace ever expended on its navy and army; more than England, with her navalism, more than Russia or Germany, with their huge militarism. At the beginning of the European war Germany was expending for past wars and preparations for wars (on its navy and army) 55 per cent of the total amount of revenues collected; Japan 45 per cent; Great Britain 37 per cent; France 35 per cent; the United States over 60 per cent. With the proposed military and naval program enacted into law the United States will be expending over 70 per cent of its total revenues—that is, out of every \$100.00 collected from the people over \$70.00 will go into militar-

ism and navalism, including pensions leaving less than \$30.00 for all other functions of our government and for all other benefits of the people.

**SERIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENT
SALISBURY WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

Causing Death Two Passengers and Injuries to Many Others—38 Did Not Heed Signal.

Striking the rear sleeper of the Richmond-bound football special which had just stopped on the Salisbury yards at 9:40 o'clock Wednesday night, Southern passenger train No. 38 ploughed one-third the way through the wooden Pullman, killing Henry C. Severs and Charles Edwin Hall, of Cahriotte. Twenty-two passengers were injured, among them State Senator O. Max Gardner and Forest Esnridge, assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Shelby who were passengers on the Richmond special, en route to Richmond to attend the Virginia-Carolina

football game yesterday. The cause of the accident, as admitted by the officials of the Southern Railway, is that 38, the incoming train, did not heed the block signals and ran into the special which was waiting signal to move into the station. Had 38 not been moving slowly, the results would have been far more fearful.

In considering the worth of a newspaper to its readers the advertising columns should not be overlooked. Often a subscriber will save the price of a years subscription, by learning from the advertising columns where some article can be purchased to the best advantage. Readers of THE HERALD are urged to look over the advertisements carefully. This is a convenient way of seeing where the goods you want are for sale and you will save money by keeping posted on special prices and sales.

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