

FIRST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF KITCHIN GIVEN FREE PRESS--CONTENTS AS FORECASTED

ALLEGES PROPOSED NAVAL INCREASE APPROPRIATION EXCEEDS THAT OF THE COMBINED INCREASES OF WORLD POWERS IN ANY ONE SINGLE YEAR IN HISTORY... VERY MUCH GREATER THAN THE HOBSON - GARDNER PLANS OF ONE YEAR AGO

Says "Year Book" Is Faulty and Contains Names of Twenty German Ships, Classed As Dreadnaughts, Which Could Not Get Within Five Hundred Miles of New York, Because of Limited Fuel Capacity, and That U. S. S. Oregon, Indiana and Massachusetts, Which Are Not Listed Because Considered Obsolete, Are Far Superior In Every Respect—Speaks of "Terrible Burden of Taxation," and Says the Treasury Is Unable to Stand Increase—Maintains "Cordial" Disagreement With President Wilson, and Position Unalterable Regardless of Consequences to Self.

As promised readers of The Free Press in Friday's issue, Congressman Claude Kitchin today released his statement, setting forth his position in regard to the much-talked of "preparedness program." This is perhaps the most interesting statement that has emanated from any source within the past twelve months, and The Free Press is gratified that it has been favored with the first release, and that it is one of the two or three papers in all the country which are permitted to carry the story today. The statement conforms generally to the forecast carried in the Wednesday's issue of The Free Press.

Mr. Kitchin's statement is a forceful argument against the "excessive program." He charges that the people of the country have been alarmed by false representations of the Navy League and other militarists, and that the United States is amply prepared already to care for itself. Its navy, Mr. Kitchin claims, is second only to Great Britain's; is far superior to Germany's and France's, and more than double the strength of Japan's, to say nothing of the other smaller and insignificant navies. He charges that the "Navy Year Book" carries the names of twenty German battleships as dreadnaughts, which are incapable of traveling more than one thousand miles from their base, and could not get within five-hundred miles of New York. These ships, he says, are not the equal of either the Oregon, Indiana or Massachusetts of the United States Navy, which have been omitted from the Year Book as obsolete and out of date.

Mr. Kitchin says the present program of the Administration exceeds greatly that which was proposed by Messrs. Hobson and Gardner last year, and if carried out, will exceed the combined increases of all the navies of the world in any single year of history. It will shock the world, he says, into another armed camp, and will mean that the United States will lose the greatest opportunity ever given to any nation to play the part of peace-maker. The Treasury is less able now to stand the tax than ever before, and the burden will be very heavy, he alleges. Mr. Kitchin claims that with a navy half as strong as at present, and with adequate mines and submarines to augment the coast defenses, which he says experts say are superior to any in the world, the United States could protect itself from invaders. He maintains that there is a perfect understanding and sincere mutual regret existing between himself and the President, and that they agreed after a cordial conference to disagree. He pays his respects to the New York Herald and in conclusion, affirms that having made up his mind after due deliberation he will stick to his position regardless of consequences, political or otherwise.

Propaganda of Misrepresentation.

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 stamped 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 tons of literature of deception and misrepresentation on 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.

Navy Second Only to Great Britain's.

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 on not 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

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FOR BETTER HEALTH IN THE OLD NORTH STATE

Medical Examination Day Feature of Tuberculosis Week — Diagnostic Test for Tuberculosis; Serum Free to Physicians—State Should Care for Narcotic Habitués, Says M. D.

Following are excerpts from the bulletins issued by the State Board of Health, which department is accomplishing much for better health in North Carolina through the publication as well as in other ways:

One of the chief features of the annual Tuberculosis Week which will be observed this year, December 6 to 12, will be a nation-wide medical examination day. This announcement has just been made by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, which association believes that the next great step in the prevention of disease is the inauguration of an universal periodical medical examination. Arrangements have been completed whereby the State Sanatorium, Sanatorium, N. C., will be able to furnish, free of charge, to any physician in the State a sufficient amount of tuberculin for the Van Pirquet diagnostic test for tuberculosis. The tuberculin will be kept in capillary tubes, each tube to hold enough for one test, and will be sent by mail, one or more at a time, to any physician in the State, who will report to the Sanatorium, within a week, the results of the test.

The plan of closing school in case of an epidemic of some contagious disease is the old and ineffective way of dealing with such a situation, and was adopted for the reason there was apparently nothing else to do. But, according to a bulletin recently issued by the State Board of Health, there is another way, a scientific and an efficient means of dealing with an epidemic in school. This way does not close the school at all, but uses the school as a most valuable aid in keeping the children under observation, that early cases may be detected and removed before they become a source of infection to the other children.

It is the opinion of Dr. J. Howell Way, of Waynesville, president of the North Carolina State Board of Health, that the State should provide for the examination and treatment of narcotic habitués as a wise and patriotic public policy.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)
LARGE ITALIAN STEAMER POSSIBLY SUNK.

Paris, Nov. 20.—Destruction of the Italian steamship Verona, of 8,000 tons, is feared, following a radiogram that she had been pursued by a submarine off the Mediterranean coast of Spain. Furious artillery and grenade fighting at many points on the Franco-German front is reported at the war office.

GERMAN LINES IN EAST GROW THINNER.

Petrograd, Nov. 20.—Dispatches today reported that the German line in Russia is thinning out rapidly. It is believed the men are being sent to the Balkans.

MONEY FROM BERLIN FOR SUPPLIES FOR COMMERCE RAIDERS

"Sensational Disclosures" In Monday's Hearing of Case Against Hamburg-American Officials Probable—Boyed's Part

(By the United Press.)
New York, Nov. 20.—Sensational disclosures are promised by Federal officials in the American trial of the indicted Hamburg-American line officials which begins Monday.

It is stated that Capt. Boyed, the German embassy attache, and other German representatives will be involved. Counsel for the steamship officials today admitted that Boyed was consulted regarding \$50,000 sent from Germany to buy supplies for German commerce raiders.

COSTLY BLAZE IN TOWN IN ALABAMA

(By the United Press.)
Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 20.—A hundred thousand-dollar fire today resulted in the destruction of the railroad section of Union Springs, Ala. A thousand bales of cotton were destroyed.

A SUCCESSION OF SUSPICIOUS FIRES

South Bethlehem, Pa., Nov. 20.—Five small fires have been discovered in a few days in the projectile departments of the Bethlehem Steel Works. It is rumored government secret service agents are investigating.

MONASTIR IN HANDS INVADERS AND SERB RESISTANCE ENDED

Northern Army Can Reach Montenegro If It Starts Right Away

UP TO THE ANGLO-FRENCH

To Continue the Campaign In Serbia—Goritz Fired By Italian Shells, Many Inhabitants Killed—Defeat for Montenegrins

(By the United Press)
Berlin, Nov. 20.—Goritz is burning in many places. The Italians have thrown 3,000 shells into the town. Many inhabitants have been killed. The property damage is enormous. From a military standpoint, the Italians have accomplished little. The Austrians are holding the original positions, repulsing successive attacks. The bridge-head has been under incessant bombardment for many days. Austrians Defeat Montenegrins.

Vienna, Nov. 20.—The war office today announced that the Austrians have crushingly defeated the Montenegrins near Preboi, a Serbian town on the edge of Austria and close to the Montenegrin border. Monastir in Hands of Enemy.

Paris, Nov. 20.—With Monastir's fall it is believed the Southern Serb army's independent resistance to the Bulgars has ended. The French and British are expected to do only the fighting in this region henceforward. The Serbs are expected to continue guerrilla fighting.

Serbs in North Must Flee Quickly.
Berlin, Nov. 20.—Flight or capture are the alternatives before the Northern Serb's army. Headquarters admits the Serbs can reach Montenegro if they move quickly. If they hesitate they will be surrounded.

FASHIONABLE FOLK SEE STARS FIGHT

Seguro and Thorne, Singer and Teacher, Mix In Presence of a Society Audience in the Biltmore Hotel Because Thorne Criticizes the Voice of Richmond Vocalist, Miss Fitzju

(By the United Press.)

New York, Nov. 20.—Andre de Seguro, Metropolitan Opera House, singer, and William Thorne, music teacher, exchanged blows before a smart audience in the Biltmore Hotel today because Thorne criticized the voice of Miss Aqua Fitzju, opera singer of Richmond, Va.

WILSON DON'T LIKE "INDIAN MAID" SONG

Asked That Composition Dedicated to Him, Probably Instigated by His Love Affair, Be Suppressed—Is Being Printed by New York Publisher Notwithstanding, It Is Stated

(By the United Press)

New York, Nov. 20.—Despite the White House protest, the song, "Pretty Little Indian Maid," dedicated to the President, is being printed. The words are supposed to relate the President's wooing of Mrs. Galt, descendant of Pocahontas. Michael J. Fitzpatrick, author, sent a copy to the White House. Tumulty replied that the President wished the song suppressed.

SAY BRITISH HAVE PAINTED TRANSPORT SHIPS WITH CROSS

Seventy Vessels With Insignia of Sanitary Department Look Fishy to Germans—Submarines Fooled by the Trickery, Said

(By the United Press.)
Berlin, Nov. 20.—That English transports are using Red Cross flags to get troops and munitions to the Balkans, is charged in a wireless message from German submarines in the vicinity of Salonika. It is stated that 70 British transports, heavy laden and painted as hospital ships, passed Gibraltar en route to Salonika. It is stated by an Admiralty official in closest touch with German submarine activities, that the said ships were loaded to their fullest capacity, and it is not likely that England is sending 70 vessels with hospital supplies or wounded to Salonika.

TOO MANY TURKEYS FOR WHITE HOUSE

If All Promised Are Received There Will Be Nothing Else in the President's Mansion—Mrs. Galt, Miss Wilson and the McAdoo's to Be at the Thanksgiving Dinner

(By the United Press.)

Washington, Nov. 20.—If all the turkeys offered the President for his Thanksgiving dinner arrive there will be scant room left in the White House for anything else. It is understood Mrs. Galt, Miss Margaret Wilson and Secretary and Mrs. McAdoo will be guests at the Thanksgiving dinner in the White House.

MANN NOT WILLING TAKE ORDERS FROM WILSON ON DEFENSE

Republican Leader Agrees to Join President In Conference, Though

GALLINGER ALSO ASKED

"Not Willing to Be Informed of a Program Which I am Expected to Support," Says Illinois Congressman—Has Own Ideas

(By the United Press.)

Washington, Nov. 20.—Told that he would be invited to the White House for a conference on the President's preparedness program, Representative Mann of Illinois, Republican leader, today said:

"I am willing to consult with the President on preparedness, but not willing to be informed of a program which I am expected to support. I favor the policy of preparedness, but have my own ideas on the subject. I do not propose to take orders from the President."

The President has written Mann and Senator Gallinger, asking conferences.

NO DOUBT AUSTRIANS SUNK THE ANCONA

Washington, Nov. 20.—Ambassador Page, at Rome, today cabled the State Department that there is no doubt that the submarine which sank the Ancona was Austrian. He has confirmed reports that she carried the Austrian flag. He said the Italian government had not questioned the fact.

KINSTON A MIGHTY GOOD TOWN WITH FINE CO-OPERATIVE SPIRIT, BUT IT NEEDS SOME THINGS YET, SAYS NO TED LOCAL CITIZEN

Dr. B. W. Spilman, one of the city's most distinguished residents, who is field secretary for Sunday school work of the Southern Baptist convention, and has traveled all over this country and some others, loves to boast of Kinston's good points. But in the following, given The Free Press today, he makes a number of helpful suggestions:

Is Kinston to be a city or a big overgrown town? Land is already bringing city prices. When the traveler arrives at our depot he naturally thinks that he has arrived at a small village on circus day. The depot indicates the village, and the normal travel looks like the circus.

When the new settler starts to housekeeping and the good housewife starts to market, and is told that there is not a market house—the village idea comes to the front. Ten thousand people and no market house!

We are in the exact center of Eastern North Carolina. If you happen to come from Missouri and have to be shown, measure the distance by rail from Raleigh to Beaufort; then find the halfway spot. Try a measure straight from Weldon to Wilmington. A fine place for district conventions to meet; or for a State gathering which passes from east to center and then west. But when the inquiry is made for hotels and an adequate hall for meeting—the village crops out again. Our hotels are good, but inadequate in the number of people who may be cared for. We would be "swamped" if a big convention should swoop down on us.

Numbers of people want to do light housekeeping. "Any gas available?" is asked. No. The village again crops out. We were in sight of a gas plant some years ago. A number of our citizens raised enough sand to make Kinston resemble a section of the Sahara Desert because they were not given a chance to build the gas plant. If anybody can find out who the distinguished gentlemen were who wanted Kinston capital invested in the gas plant it might be a very favorable time to solicit stock from them.

A tour of the grocery stores of Kinston would lead one to think that we are half city and half cross roads village. Wanted, a live Civic League to inspect the grocery stores and to grade them and publish the grade of each. Some of them would stand the test—but there are others. There is hardly a city in this country but that lets the buying public know the conditions of the grocery stores doing business in the city.

All of these things are on the way. We are emerging in the street business. We cannot do it all in a single year. We are emerging in the street business; some traffic laws are creeping on the statute books; some of us even dream of the day when we shall have good sanitary laws and an officer who will be "on the job" without fear of losing his job. Gas is on the way. We will be there after a while. Give us a little time. It takes twenty-one years to grow a voter. Kinston was a country village twenty-one years ago. I know, because I came to Kinston first just twenty-one years ago this month.