

FIRST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF MR. KITCHIN

(Continued from First Page)

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 of the other nations. 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.

Twenty German Battleships Can't Cross Ocean.

The armored fleet of Germany, consisting of battleships, dreadnaughts and pre-dreadnaughts, armored cruisers and battle cruisers (built and building) in number is 52 (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 warfare. Not one of the sixteen carry coal enough to go from Hamburg or Bremen to within five hundred miles of New York and return (to say nothing about being employed in a 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 The Oregon, which some of our naval experts say is obsolete, and not listed by our Navy Year Book (the Indiana and Massachusetts not listed also) in every characteristic of a fighting ship (bigger guns, heavier armor,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 Year-Book. Four of the German ships listed by our Year-Book as dreadnaughts are in reality not 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?

Large Increases in Wilson Administration.

We are Prepared!
Instead of our "navy growing weaker," as the metropolitan press, the "Patriotic Societies" and the jingoes 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 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 first 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 first 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.

Quotes President Wilson's 1914 Speech.

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 Gardners: "Let there be no misconception. The country has been misinformed. We have not been negligent of national defense."

2. As to the Enormity of the Program—What It Is:
There heretofore large and growing expenditures for our navy had 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 expense 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 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.

U. S. Appropriations Exceed Those of Balance of World.

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 fire-breathed 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 by 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 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, the "Patriotic Societies" and the jingoes and war traffickers would frighten the country into the belief that we have a little, puny, egg-shell of a navy!

The five year naval program calls for an increase of \$500,000,000—\$100,000,000 increase a year. 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 \$100,000,000 a year extra, being an increase of more than 100 per cent. over our annual army appropriations. All extra appropriations, be it remembered. Extra taxes must be paid by the people, be it remembered!

At the expiration of the five-year period for the program this country

Treasury Less Able Now to Stand Increase.

3. As to the Condition of Our Treasury and its Revenues and Extra Taxation Required:

The condition of our Treasury and our revenue and the necessities of the government are less able now to permit increased appropriations than ever before. The Treasury has felt most heavily the burden of the present war. We have strained the nerves of the government to get sufficient revenue to meet its ordinary expenses. After the expiration of the present emergency tax December 31, 1915, we will be faced with deficits for the coming year of at least \$117,000,000. This is upon the assumption that not a dollar of increased appropriation will be made for any purpose over the last year's appropriation (yet I understand that there will be from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000 increase asked other than the army and navy increase). For this program of militarism and navalism—euphoniously called by its advo-

Program Will Shock the World If Carried Out.

4. The Big, Overreaching Objection to the Program:

The big, overreaching objection to this stupendous program is that this sudden, radical and revolutionary move for big war preparation on our part is going to shock the civilized world, and whatever be the outcome of the present war, will alarm the world again into an armed camp. It

United States Will Be Held Up as Example for Other Powers.

The militarists and war traffickers of every nation in the world will 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 consummation will 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. 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 boldly broadcasts throughout our country the savage, barbarous sentiment which I note: "There should be no doubt that

Mines and Submarines Can Protect United States' Coasts.

5. As to the Fears of Our People:
In the hope of allaying to some extent the alarmed state of mind and the fears of our people, I desire to make a few 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 that of any other nation in the world, except that of Great Britain), it would be impossible 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. 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.

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, 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 ar-

Cordial Relations and Perfect Understanding With Wilson.

6. As to the Relations Between the President and Myself:
We thoroughly understand each other. I know that he is convinced deeply and sincerely that his program is right. He knows that I am thoroughly convinced that it is wrong. On this question we simply agreed to disagree, both expressing

Will Stand by Convictions Regardless of Consequences.

In conclusion: to differ with the President, to differ with my friends, in and out of Congress, in the heat of the moment to be severely criticized, and sometimes denounced by them, gives me not only exceeding regret, but much pain and distress. However after having given the subject much study and thought, being once on the Naval Affairs Committee, and interested for years in naval subjects, I cannot support the

program. Having the approval of my judgment and conscience, after mature study and thought, and impelled by a sense of duty, I take the step, mattering not the consequences, political or otherwise, to myself.
CLAUDE KITCHIN.
(For lack of space one or two important sections of the statement were omitted. These will be given Monday.)

GREAT WAR HURTS FARMS OF NATION

European Countries Dire Need Produces Finely Organized Agriculture, While United States Methods

Chicago, Nov. 13.—One influence of the European war upon America is yet to be adequately stated and generally comprehended by the people of the United States, according to the authorities of the National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits. "All the nations at war have given the rest of the world an object lesson in what organization of a nation's food supply means," says an announcement issued today. "War made it necessary to eliminate the waste and delay of handling foodstuffs for the army. Later, the press of circumstances made it necessary for the governments to take a hand in preventing tremendous increases in the price of food. In Germany, England and France the governments made

use of machinery already in existence to control the food supply, stimulating production and facilitating distribution both to the army and the civilian population.

"And this efficiency, acquired in time of war, certainly will remain when peace is restored. The war will have emphasized the great benefits to be derived for the people at large, for the producer as well as the consumer, from an organized system of marketing. This new order has come to stay.

"How is the American farmer to meet this new order? Is he to try his luck in competition with his European brothers without organizing for the contest? If he does not organize, he will be placed at a great disadvantage. Marketing in this country is not organized. Waste still exacts a tremendous toll."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Don't Worry About Christmas Gifts
Purchase them next week at the **Japanese Art Sale**

To open at 3 o'clock, next Tuesday afternoon, November 23, in the office of Mr. Will Fields on South Street. Also a splendid line of Christmas Cards and Calendars.

Cotton Seed Wanted

We pay the very highest cash value, or exchange cotton-seed meal for seed at our mill at all times. See or phone us when ready to sell carload lots for shipment from other points.

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