

**THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER**  
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**THE OBSERVER, ST. JOSEPH, MO.**

**A SHOTGUN BEHIND THE DOOR**

President Wilson would put locks on the doors and announce that a loaded shotgun stood back of the door. That is the laud presentation of his policy for national defense, as he outlined it in his Manhattan club speech in New York.

And right in that presentation of his plan he issued a carefully considered challenge to his critics, both within and without the Democratic party. The issue is such as will develop into one of formidable magnitude, the decision of which will have to be made by the rank and file of the Democratic party in national convention assembled, and the entire proposition will be shall they stand with or against the president? His challenge to his critics gives the cue in these words:

"Is the plan we propose sane and reasonable and suited to the needs of the hour? Does it not conform to the ancient traditions of America? Has any better plan been proposed than this program that we now place before the country? In it there is no pride of opinion. It represents the best professional and expert judgment of the country. But I am not so much interested in programs as I am in safeguarding at every cost the good faith and honor of the country. If men differ with me in this vital matter, I shall ask them to make it clear how far and in what way they are interested in making the permanent interests of the country safe against disturbance."

So clear is the statement that there is little chance to misunderstand any of the vital features of the program for which Mr. Wilson says, "I shall ask the hearty support of the country, of the rank and file of America, of men of all shades of political opinion."

There is no question as to our principles, for they are well known. We stand for liberty and are the friends of freedom and all that want to be free. Any aggressive purpose or covetous ambitions we may have had in youth has been put aside, for we shall never take another foot of territory by conquest, nor seek to make an independent people subject to our domination—in short, we stand by and shall defend the principles of the Monroe doctrine.

And with a world at war we stand on these principles even though force speaks from all quarters with loud and imperious voice, and we are obliged to ask how far we are prepared to maintain ourselves against any interference. In no man's mind is there the thought of willful force for aggressive purposes, but merely the thought of what will make sure our national security.

And we want no large standing army, but only such an army as will be "adequate to the constant and legitimate uses of times of international peace." What we do want—and here is the president's program in a nutshell, is "to feel that there is a great body of citizens who have received at least the most rudimentary and necessary forms of military training, that they will be ready to form themselves into a fighting force at the call of the nation; and that the nation has the munitions and supplies with which to equip them without delay should it be necessary to call them into action."

A citizen soldiery, that is all. A force of 400,000 men, one-third of it recruited and one-third discharged to the reserve every year, who shall be given two months of military training during each of their first two years. They shall continue to pursue the avocations of peace. They shall be in no sense professional soldiers. They shall be farmers, blacksmiths, clerks, laborers, professional men, bus men, just as now, but taught how to handle a gun, taught the duties of camp and the arduous labors of campaigns, taught to understand that if war comes—if they help to precipitate war—they, themselves, will be called on to bare their breasts to the bullets of the foe and pay their full share of the dreadful price.

It is the Jeffersonian idea. It is the Democratic idea. It is the idea invoked by free people devoted to peace who aspire to retain their freedom and their peaceful ways and yet be prepared to defend their country, its ideals and honors and institutions, if the time should ever come when its defense is necessary.

And this is the president's solemn appeal for such a program, voiced by the head of this great republic addressing his fellow countrymen:

We are here dealing with things that are vital to the life of America itself. In doing this I have tried to purge my heart of all personal and selfish motives. For the time being I speak as the trustee and guardian of a nation's rights, charged with the duty of speaking for that nation in matters involving her sovereignty—a nation too big and generous to be exacting and yet courageous enough to defend its rights and the liberties of its people wherever assailed or invaded. I would not feel that I was discharging the solemn obligation I owe the country were I not to speak in terms of the deepest solemnity of the urgency and necessity of preparing ourselves to guard and protect the rights and privileges of our people, our sacred heritage of the fathers who struggled to make us an independent nation.

And there is not a trace or taint of militarism in this, for militarism comes of great standing armies, professional soldiers and aggressive purposes. And the president does not ask us to prepare for war, to invite war, but asks us to prepare for peace by paying to the world at once our willing-ness and our ability to defend against aggression the freedom and liberty and republican ideals of this great western hemisphere.

We are asked to teach our citizens that this is their republic, theirs to protect as well as to enjoy. By teaching them the hardships and privations of camp and field, by bringing home to them that those, and the attendant sufferings and dangers would be visited on them individually in case of war, we will be going far to insure against the fanning of the flames of war, in time of stress and excitement, by our own people.

It is against militarism and against war that the president has taken his stand, just as the man who puts locks on his windows and announces a shotgun behind the door for use in case of emergency provides a deterrent to burglary.

**DEMOCRATS SHOULD TAKE WARNING**

While the complete returns in the result of the elections held the first week in November, show that while the spokesmen and officials of the two major parties both claim great victories will result next year predicted on the outcome of the late election, yet the real facts as they now present themselves are that the Tuesday election was a dogfight with each party surprising and disappointing the other by its show of strength.

One half of the real truth is that the Republicans showed up on that day rather stronger than the Democrats had expected.

The other half of the truth is that the Democrats showed up rather stronger than the Republicans had believed would be the case. Republicans, for example, are glad to have carried Massachusetts for a candidate for governor who emphasizes as an issue his opposition to the Wilson administration and summoned the voters to repudiate it. But they wish the plurality had been larger than 6,500. They realize that "repudiation" is so slender a margin in a state normally so heavily Republican and so traditionally devoted to the protection policy leaves Wilson with a mighty flattering chance for a reversal of the verdict when the issue is made directly next year.

Democrats, on the other hand, while they take pride in the greatly increased vote cast for their candidate for governor over that cast for him previously, and over that cast for Wilson in 1912, recognize that to have been defeated after polling a record Democratic vote is a plain indication of a very formidable Republican strength.

And in other states, like Ohio and Kentucky, where Republicans have made some local gains, the smallness of the gains keeps the Republicans from crowing too loud, while the fact that there were Republican gains at all makes the Democrats understand there is a fight in prospect even though it by no means discourages them.

And this condition of affairs should cause every Democrat to take a sober view of things and to realize the fact that next year's election will provide a walkaway for nobody, but on the contrary the party that is to win will have to put its best foot forward. The margin may be small either way and the vote in the electoral college closer than it has been since Cleveland's time. That is to say, such a possibility is indicated by the closeness of the elections on Tuesday. Much water, of course, will run under the bridge in the next year. Conditions may bear an entirely different aspect in November, 1916, than in November, 1915. And considered from this angle the prospects are encouraging to the Democrats rather than to the Republicans. The rising tide of prosperity, stopped for the time by the great war and now only beginning to sweep over the country, if it continues will count powerfully for Democratic success. And the foreign policies of the Wilson administration, as relating both to Mexico and Europe, may work out in

such a way as greatly to strengthen the party. The Republicans are going to have trouble finding an available candidate who is satisfactory to both elements, and in writing a platform to put under him. These and other factors of the situation tend to give encouragement to those who believe that Woodrow Wilson and the Democratic party should be given four years more of power. But, notwithstanding them all, the fact remains that taking the conditions and the signs just as they are, Democrats would be foolish to conclude that they are to win in 1916 as easily as they won in 1912.

**A TWO-BILLION BALANCE**

A two-billion dollar trade balance for the United States is what the best informed financiers now estimate for the calendar year 1915, a sum so colossal that it paralyzes any attempt to imagine it.

Just as an attempt to show its magnitude, it is double the entire national debt of the United States. It is \$20 for every inhabitant of the land. The world will have bought from the United States \$2,000,000,000 worth of goods more than has been sold. Nothing approaching that has ever before occurred in the history of the world. How are the nations to pay that two billion dollars to the United States? It is evident that it can not all be paid in gold and if any great part of it is, there will be an inflation of prices and a wild speculation indulged that in the end will leave almost as many wrecks behind as follow war.

So far, the balances have been paid with gold and the sale of American securities held abroad. Beside that, recent investigations show that since the war began fifteen months ago, the country has taken \$150,000,000 of foreign loans, and more are being subscribed for all the time. Those loans have not been made wholly to help war. Other countries which formerly went to London when they needed money are now applying for loans to New York.

The financial condition of the United States is at the present time the best of any nation in the world. It has owing to it from other nations enough money to wipe out its national debt twice over, and if wisdom is exercised it will continue in that condition for many years to come. However, that condition depends as much upon the factors as upon those who handle national finances. If there should be a general crop failure next year, the whole face of things would be changed.

**THE UPROOTING OF ROOT**

The tragedy of the Tuesday election in New York was the complete uprooting of "Libby" Root, whose personally conducted state constitution was snatched under by more than two to one. It was an uprooting of the root that eliminates the Root from taking any further Root in the governmental (finny) patch.

The "Uncle Libby" proposition was what would be known among political experimenters in government processes as a progressive constitution. It provided for the election of a governor who should appoint practically all of the other state officers, a one-man government the machinery of which would be operated by the man sitting in the executive chair.

Ellen Root was the chief instrument in the preparation of this plan, and in order to fasten the responsibility for everything upon the man who happened to be chosen governor, there was a careful elimination of a prior provision that no member of the legislature should be appointed in any far office during the term for which he was elected a legislator.

That would enable the head of the machine to tell the legislators what he wanted to have passed in the way of legislation and to reward those legislators who listened to his plans. Uncle Libby in the role of a "raw fishman" as Col. Bill Jenkins would facetiously exclaim, was such a grotesque spectacle that the standpatners at once began to boom him for the president. Had his constitution been adopted it would have given some impetus to his candidacy. Its overwhelming defeat seems to take the wind out of Ellen's sails. The people put an estimate upon his reform work that signifies the slight confidence they repose in him.

Montrose Senator Weeks of Massachusetts has been listed as a possible ally, and the returns from that state may focus a great deal of additional spotlight upon him.

We have an embryonic movement in Missouri for just such a constitution as that proposed for New York by Libby. It is probable that an equally substantial majority of the voters are yearning for a chance to avast it.

**IF SUCH ADVICE WERE FOLLOWED**

If the same money and energy that is expended when Billy Sunday comes to town were given the local ministers, and all would work together as they do when Billy is around, a great deal more and lasting benefit could

be accomplished. So if you stop to think, you can see there is still in division of God's people. But, after all, there is only one way to heal the breach—Billy Sunday can't do it—that is to unite on the Bible. God's way—Gentry's method.

There is not a single expression—not a single sentence—in the above excerpt which is not true. It is far more true than the sort of gospel that Billy Sunday preaches.

If the people and the ministers of each city would get together—the ministers to unite on a program and hold a joint revival—and the members would go down in their pockets and support it liberally, as they do the Billy Sunday performances—for they fairly fall over each other in trying to throw their money to Billy and crawl down into their shells and refuse to dig up a penny when a local minister needs it—there would be more souls saved and more good accomplished than there is by the wild, hysterical movements carried out by the "evangelist." There are a dozen honest Christian preachers of the gospel in St. Joseph who are more intellectual, more devout, and far more able than Billy Sunday ever was, ever will be, or ever can be, who if they were given one modicum of the support that is given to Sunday, could produce lasting and truly beneficial results. We challenge anyone to disprove this statement, and will gladly publish the facts if anyone will furnish them. Why not support your home churches and the devout Christian ministers who labor so earnestly in St. Joseph's moral vineyard?

It is probably not politic to say so, but the fact is that it is becoming impossible to keep a criminal in the penitentiary until his sentence expires. The parole is being altogether too much worked. Men will not fear the law as long as they know that after they have committed a crime they can get parole in a year or two.

While it is undoubtedly true that Mr. Bryan will oppose President Wilson for a nomination, using the one-term plank and the president's foreign policy as weapons, yet in view of the Nebraska statesman's present standing with the party, it is not considered that he will be able to make much headway.

Just as a suggestion it might not be out of place to say that after the European war closes it will be fifty years before any of those nations could raise enough money to pay for sending a fleet across the ocean to harass us.

Barton may be picked for the Republican candidate for president, but he will not get a vote in any section that the Missouri river touches, if the people fully understand how he has always thrived every attempt to bestride or curb that land eating stream.

Congressman Hooper showed that he stood right when he was asked at the Security League dinner Monday night as to his feelings regarding preparedness. His answer, by the applause accorded him, showed that his ideas are approved.

President Morrison is right in his move to furnish a landing place for boats at the foot of Francis street. If we want river traffic resumed we should at least have a place for boats to land when they come here.

When Judge Lyman Forke was gets that drum corps of his to practicing we can rest assured that no enemy will go up against such a racket to attack us.

There is quite a little shrewd guessing at the city hall how it came about that with the dismissal of the city purchasing agent, Mayor Marshall's protégé, Fred Lauder, fell into the job.

There is not a citizen of St. Joseph but that believes in adequate preparedness, and adequate preparedness does not mean the throwing away of \$300,000,000 a year, either.

St. Joseph did herself proud at the National Security League organization meeting. It was a body of earnest, progressive and conservative men who gathered and formed the nucleus of the local movement.

The appointment of Judge Lucien J. Eastin as a member of the board of managers of State Hospital No. 2 was a deserved compliment to a worthy citizen of St. Joseph.

And with all of the war talk that has been heard in St. Joseph this week, the acceptance of Robert I. Yost's challenge by Charles Morris has not yet been received.

Of course, the president grinned when those boys bombarded him with pep-shooters. He was used to this sort of thing. Haven't the salinity bowlers been trying to pester him?

Somehow or other we cannot help but believe that the members of the St. Joseph school board know just a little more of what is best for the people than do the aforesaid pupils.

Villa, according to the misstatement he gave out concerning the four Americans reported killed and later found to be alive, can do other things besides pillage villages.

Next Thursday will be Dollar Bargain Day in St. Joseph, and the enterprising merchants have provided a veritable feast of bargains.

Where in the world is Herby Hadley, the ex-Kansas governor of Missouri? Like Teddy the Terror, he has not been heard from for a week.

That row between McJimsey and Swanger threatens to eliminate the two from the forlorn hope of a G. O. P. gubernatorial nomination.

France, too, suddenly recognized the form of our familiar enemy, Old General High Cost of Living, and turned her air guns on him.

Of course, Mr. Bryan or no one else would take issue with the scriptures on this preparedness proposition of the president's.

An American hit by a stray Mexican bullet in times of peace, it seems, is just as badly hurt as though he were in a war.

England's attempts to throttle the newspapers may make it begin to look like England has taken more than she can chew.

With so much attention to political crops, the United States cannot hope to break any corn or wheat records in 1916.

The United States, since the publishing of that crop report this week, can find no excuse for publishing a blue book.

Speaking of Japan's great coronation, we call attention to our 2,000, 500,000 bushels which insures a great coronation here.

It is noticeable that as fast as the Bull Moosers drop their party they come over to the party of Wilson and sane government.

The Lagnippe fair which closes tonight is one of the best advertising mediums that St. Joseph possesses.

Johanne Bull does not like to have his caudal appendage twisted, as Uncle Sam is now so vigorously doing.

The German press is almost unanimous in its approval of President Wilson's blockade note.

If we remember rightly we gave the British a thrashing in 1812 for boarding and searching our ships.

Speaking of domestic science, one contest between the hellegrites is to see who can make the best sinkers.

It is no slander to say that Charles H. Grasty can tell a story better than he can make a war speech.

The supreme test for a linguist would be to pronounce the names of the Greek cabinet members.

It is but six weeks till Christmas. Do your shopping early and in St. Joseph.

Wanted—An issue with at least one good leg to stand on. The G. O. P.

Dickey is still pulling the head out of his "barl." No use, W. S.

Old Man Winter is calling on St. Joseph.

What has become of your last summer's wages?

**U. S. SERVES NOTICE ON GREAT BRITAIN**

(Continued from Page One)

for American rights based on established principles of international law.

Chicago Daily News. It is an unanswerable indictment that the American secretary of state brings against the British government because of the latter's persistent interference with the rights of neutral traders on the high seas. The people of this nation will firmly support the demands made by the government at Washington.

Spokane (Wash.) Chronicle. The American people will approve the strong presentation of their case against England. No doubt they will feel pride at the thought that the United States dares to take a stand for all neutrals.

Marion News. The note is simply a positive notice to Great Britain that a continuance of its outrages on American shipping interests will no longer be tolerated. It would have been sheer cowardice to further submit to

**DEMOCRATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, subject to the primary election, August 9, 1916.  
 ROBERT E. YOUNG.

Great Britain's persistent transgression of international law as it affects our rights.

Milwaukee Daily News. The so-called blockade is a misuse of power most unjustifiable and in point of actual monetary and accumulative losses, is unparalleled in any previous dogmatism of England to bulldoze the people of the world.

Battle (Mont.) Post. The note means that the United States, after much deliberation, has decided that if Great Britain really desires our good will she will forthwith abstain from conduct that gives offense.

Washington Evening Star. The statement carries no drastic language of warning, but it indicates plainly its determination not to submit further to the British practices under the blockade.

Milwaukee Journal. The note of our government to the government of Great Britain is a reaffirmation of the position of this country in standing by its own rights under international law.

New York Sun. The note, in the moderation of its tone, is logical and its marshaling of evidence and precedents reflects exactly American sentiment and describes accurately American purpose. We stand upon the law and demand that Great Britain shall obey the law.

Stockton (Cal.) Mail. Those who have followed the course of Great Britain with reference to neutral commerce will appreciate the force of Lansing's words when he says in the latest American note, "that his majesty's government must be governed not by a policy of expediency," but by the established rules of international law.

Pueblo (Colo.) Star-Journal. President Wilson should not further tolerate the evasive policy pursued by England in regard to our protests concerning treatment of neutral commerce.

San Antonio (Tex.) Light. The president has taken a stand that is absolutely correct. The United States has an unimpeachable case.

**DOINGS IN SOCIETY**

Interesting Gossip Concerning the People of St. Joseph.

Mrs. E. O. Martin is visiting friends in Chicago.

The Women's Relief Corps met at Turner Hall Thursday afternoon.

Mrs. Eugene Soper has returned from a visit in Kansas City.

Mrs. J. D. Flowers left Monday for Chicago, her future home.

Mrs. C. W. Lawson entertained the Pythian Sisters Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Morris Weiss of Smith Center, Kas., is the guest of local friends.

Mr. R. L. McDonald and daughter, Marie, have returned from a visit in Kentucky.

The engagement of Miss Grace Kendall to Mr. L. C. Watson is announced.

Mrs. H. A. Harburn of Kansas City is the guest of Mrs. Lee Reynolds and daughters.

Mrs. M. S. Nelson was hostess for the Wyatt Park Embroidery club Thursday.

Mrs. W. S. Willard was hostess for the Eclipse Needlecraft club Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Andrew Deppen entertained the Sheltering Arms Circle Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. E. J. Kellogg of Craig is the guest of her son, Dr. E. A. Kellogg of 1125 Ridenbaugh.

The Federation of Women's Clubs held its monthly meeting at the Y. W. C. A. Thursday afternoon.

Miss Ella H. Poter and Mr. Fred H. Sparks, the latter of Kansas City, were married Monday night.

The young people of the South Side will give a musical comedy Dec. 23 for the benefit of the poor.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Idlet observed their crystal wedding Sunday. A large party of friends assisted them.

Mrs. William Hanny addressed the fine arts department of the Federation of Women's Clubs Thursday.

Mrs. T. J. Chew entertained at luncheon Thursday in honor of Mrs. Edward Henry Eckel of Warrensburg.