

the United States, and in anticipation of that, all the old ladies up and down the Atlantic coast every night, cover their heads, even as the ostrich buries her head in the sand when danger threatens, and in troublous dreams hears the first gun of the bombardment that is to resolve our whole eastern coast back into chaos.

"What shadows we are, what shadows we pursue!"

Europe is a wreck. The people of Poland and Serbia are starving. Belgium would have been starving for the past year, except for the food sent her from the United States. The sorrow of nations is indescribable. Their business is utterly dislocated. Not one of the great powers can in ten years of peace reach an aggressive position, in which the animosities of the present war can be done away with. Then why this sudden cry of danger raised by President Wilson? To us there can be but one cause. Despite the pledge made in the platform on which he was elected, he has permitted his name to go before the Democratic convention as a candidate for re-election. He knows that the tariff smashing which he helped Mr. Underwood perpetrate, together with his Mexican policy and his utter lack of practical sense in relation to a merchant marine, will snow under any Democratic candidate this year unless the attention of the people can be turned from the facts. Hence he has blown up this preparedness bubble and hopes to obtain appropriations enough to give the country a seeming prosperity. The self-respecting men in his cabinet are resigning. Why?

It will require the most adroit work that the president ever did to keep the masses of the American people from understanding his real character, as do ex-Secretaries Garrison and Breckenridge.

The strongest partisan hesitates before assailing the president because of the homage due that great office. But if the people make one mistake in selecting an incumbent for that office, that is a double reason why they should not repeat that mistake. Mr. Wilson will not be re-elected. We doubt very much if he will be renominated.

Now Mr. Wilson expresses regret that no private capital has come forward to begin the rehabilitation of a merchant marine and wants the government to build and run the needed ships.

This will, if carried through, set all the ship yards ringing, require an immense expenditure of government money, and so far as it goes will influence votes next November. But we are justified in believing that the president's interest is not in the commerce of the country, but simply in the votes.

The need of a great American merchant marine is no more apparent today than it was fifteen months ago.

The proposition that the government build or buy ships and run them, charging the inevitable deficit to government account and paying it out of the national treasury, is the same he made when the coming of the war showed how helpless we were to handle our own ocean commerce, but at that time he would not agree to run the ships a minute after the war closed and the great maritime powers of Europe were able to resume their merchant service which showed that the president had no possible conception of the need of a great nation to handle its own commerce.

At that time we said the plan would be better than nothing but that it was not the correct way, because no great commercial sovereignty was ever established that way and that it was an indirect interference by the government with the business of the citizens. The president's affected disappointment that the work has not been engaged in by citizens, if sincere, shows how absolutely obtuse his mind is and how impossible it

is for him to look beyond his prejudices at the facts.

It costs less to run foreign ships than our own, and all the great shipping nations back their ships with subsidies or bounties.

How could our citizens build and run ships in competition with foreign ships on such terms?

Sixty-five years ago, when the first argonauts went to California, as they sailed out of Panama harbor to turn north for California, they saw ahead a British ship that turned south for Guayaquil, Callao, Arica and Valparaiso. English merchants had trading stations in all those ports. The service was much more thorough on the east coast, and the ships called at all those ports with the regularity of the stars in their processions. Germany began the same practice, so soon as she could build the vessels after the close of the Franco-Prussian war, and has made incalculable sums. Since England has paid regular subsidies, Germany regular bounties.

Both nations know absolutely the commercial conditions in all those countries. In view of this the president's affected disappointment that American capital has not entered into competition with foreigners, is a serious indictment of the president's sincerity or of his judgment.

He professes to believe that he is anxious that our country possess a great merchant marine. In this connection it is fair to state that up to date he has never suggested a plan that can ever be attained and maintained.

The Invasion That Is Sure To Come

WHEN the war in Europe shall be over there will be imminent danger of a mighty invasion of the United States from those distressed countries. But there will be none of the panoply of war in their coming. There will be no dancing flags, no martial music, no roar of great guns—rather their ranks will be broken; the only music will be requiems which Despair calls to memory and the only flags will be the tattered ensigns which poverty holds up to invoke compassion.

No fortresses, no fighting fleets can keep out the invasion that is to come. When the war ceases and these hosts strain their aching eyes the world around in search of some light to which they can turn, our flag will be the only one that will carry any promise to them and they will come by companies, by regiments, by brigades, by divisions, by corps, by hosts.

Surely there will be need of preparedness to receive them. They will come asking not for a chance to despoil us, but to make bread for themselves. Have the president and congress these hosts in mind, and are they trying to prepare means to receive them? Is the present tariff schedule filled with encouragement for them?

Are more roads being constructed to open new lands for these people to till?

Are new enterprises taking form which to carry on will require vast numbers of workers?

In the past we have received and assimilated millions of people from abroad. Just when the great war was about to break upon Europe some legislation was consummated in Washington, which those behind it declared had finally achieved "industrial freedom" for our people.

Will that legislation make it easier to receive and provide for this new host that is to come? Would it not be well to make a careful survey of what has been done and see if there have not been mistakes which should be swiftly corrected?

There is something else to be considered. Our country has attained its present position because labor has seized upon its latent resources and put them in their present form, and the laborers have ran beyond the work. We have many idle men, and when these are joined by the invading host which is to come, what is going to be the result?

We are told there is a surfeit of money

in the east? Will that hoarded money be safe when the ranks of the hungry swell to abnormal proportions? Had not the owners of that money better employ it in undeveloped fields where the poor may find employment?

We surely are in need of a better preparedness, but not in the direction toward which the cry is tending today.

The invasion which most threatens us is one we cannot keep out, and the struggle should be for that preparedness that can receive and assimilate it.

Our Local Progressives

OUR Progressive friends at their banquet last Saturday night were enthusiastic. They are of that mental make-up which enables them to become enthusiastic under any mild stimulant. Buttermilk will do if there is a scarcity of grape juice. On such occasions they believe they are leading the world into a new sphere, where all will be joyous and they look upon their party leader as the avaut courier of the great judgment angel who upon his coming will stand one foot upon the sea and one upon the dry land and proclaim to a shuddering universe that the old regime is finished.

They forget that their great leader never originated a political principle in his life; that through Perkins' money and Democratic votes in 1912 he worked his way into the Republican convention, that by a transparent trick he tried to get control of the convention; that, failing, he bolted and had himself nominated by his brother bolters, and then stole his platform from La Follette's political creed; that he spent the summer in denouncing the party from which he had received all his honors and the emoluments for seven years of the highest office in the gift of men, and succeeded in electing to that office one whose political principles were the same as those which had wrecked the country's prosperity whenever tried.

They forget that now he is hoping for a renomination and election chiefly through the fear of Republicans of the re-election of the man he elected four years ago.

Is that a record to be proud of? But, then, maybe, our Progressive friends are not so very proud of it.

One of them, at the banquet the other night, while insisting that there should be no close affiliation with either of the old parties, asked: "What did we ever get from either of them?"

Maybe that gave away the secret. Maybe it is something they individually want that kindles their present zeal. It has that look surely on its face.

Who shall say that their battle cry, which, stripped of surplusage, is: "Give us what we want, or we will smash you again," is not a proper one for them to adopt.

"I don't know what ailed the sick man," said the quack doctor, "but this medicine will throw him into fits, and I am hell on fits."

The Triple Navy

THE dreadnaught Pennsylvania will go into commission in a few weeks. It is described as perhaps the most formidable ship that was ever built. Her cost, we understand, will be some \$8,000,000, and she will carry a crew of about 1,000 men. If ever engaged in battle it is expected that she will make good the old traditions of the foremost ships that in the past have hallowed and given splendor to our flag.

This is well, and two or three of her class, with a perpetual struggle for new devices to add to their destructive power, should be added to the navy annually.

At the same time an English warship was destroyed recently by a bomb dropped upon it from an aeroplane. That ship of the clouds cost