

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN EXHIBIT OF THE CASE AGAINST "PREPAREDNESS"

It is proposed that there be exhibited in graphic form the main arguments in the case against a large and immediate increase by the United States Government in preparation for (or against) war. The Exhibit would illustrate some of the main points in recent pamphlets dealing with this question, such as "Preparedness" by Oswald Garrison Villard; "The Problem of the War" by Norman Angell; "Taking the Profit out of War" by Congressman Clyde Tavenner; "A Platform of Real Preparedness" by Crystal Eastman; "Dreadnaughts and Dividends" by Philip Snowden; and other pamphlets issued by the Carnegie Foundation, the Woman's Peace Party, The League to Limit Armaments, and the Anti-Preparedness Committee.

The Exhibit would be arranged for display in a large store or office. The first day or two might be set aside for a private view for guests of the local organizing Committee and for representatives of the Press, after which the Exhibit would be opened free to the public.

The Exhibit would be designed to set forth and to answer the following questions about Preparedness:

1. What we have and what is wanted.
2. Who wants it?
3. The cost of it.
4. How does it work?
5. Against whom?
6. Does it prevent war?
7. What is the alternative?

In the centre of the room stand two or three symbols which give expression to the central idea of the Exhibit.

1. Life-size model of the prehistoric Stegosaurus – all armour-plate and no brains – as a type of animal that considered preparedness before anything else, having no brains to devise an intelligent foreign policy. Estimated weight of Stegosaurus: seven to ten tons; weight of brain (which would be shown in plaster model, life size): two-and-a-half ounces. Title: "The Theodorus. This animal believed in Preparedness – he is now extinct."

2. Life-size figure of Uncle Sam armed to the teeth with the latest weapons including a cylinder of poisonous gas, and wearing a gas respirator. Title: "In God We Trust."

3. The Ladder of Preparedness – each step of which is a characteristic weapon of the period, beginning with an oaken club and passing up through a bow and arrows, a blunderbuss, and the more modern rifle, to chlorine gas. At the end of each weapon is a card indicating its cost and killing value.

1. Preparedness: what we have and what is wanted

- What we have** A display panel showing the present strength of the United States Army and Navy. Map of World showing present distribution of U. S. Navy.
- What is wanted** The Rival programs. A large display panel showing the rival programs for Preparedness, from the maximum demands of the Navy League and American Defense Society, to the minimum proposed by the Government. Figures of Uncle Sam in various stages of armament to illustrate the statistics.

2. Preparedness: who wants it?

Three large display panels showing representative types of those loudest in their demands for Preparedness, viz:

1. The keen professional soldier.
2. Those directly (or indirectly) interested in armament manufacture.
3. The Nervous Patriot.

Illuminated cartoon: A soldier and an armament maker with the figure of Death between them marching over a vast plain made up of helpless little faces of the common people.

a) **The World as it is:** A large relief map of the world with figures of little ships on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, bearing cards stating the time taken to cross from Tokyo to San Francisco and from Hamburg and London to New York. Figures showing relative size of Belgium and U. S. and Japan and the U. S.

b) **The World as the Nervous Patriot sees it:** Atlantic and Pacific Oceans shrunk to mere channels, U. S. shrunk to size of Belgium.

A bridge of boats connecting Germany and Japan with U. S. over which troops are pouring to capture New York and San Francisco.

3. Preparedness: the cost of it

Display panel showing the increased cost of armament borne by the Great Powers during the last 50 years illustrated by a row of little figures of men each bearing a heavier burden on his back.

Model showing Uncle Sam receiving a hundred dollars in taxes and paying out seventy dollars of it to a soldier and the rest in small mounts to a Public Health Officer, a farmer, a National Forester, child welfare worker, etc.

To show the burden of Preparedness-taxation on an ordinary citizen: a life-size group of man and wife and two children seated in room, articles

of wearing apparel, furniture, small luxuries, etc. are marked in figures showing the total amount of money paid in taxation in each case for war preparation.

To show the proportion of national expenditure for War Preparedness as against Peace Preparedness, a number of wooden blocks painted to look like bars of gold, each representing \$10,000,000. These are piled up to show the amount now asked for Preparedness – 43 of them. A smaller heap to show the present expenditure for preparedness and much smaller heaps for development of Rivers, Harbours, Afforestation, etc.

A whitehead torpedo is shown and its cost, \$5000 is indicated. Alongside of it is shown what that sum of money would buy; for example: five miles of good roads, five square miles of new forest land, a thousand poor children given a week's summer holiday in the country, etc.

A big shrapnel shell is shown costing \$15 and by the side of it are books, food, and clothing to the same value.

A big piece of armour-plate is shown labelled "\$400 to the U.S. Government, \$200 to the Russian Government."

A model showing land and water; on the water floats a model of a dreadnought, and on land are shown a school house, an open air theatre, a river embankment, a patch of forest, a bit of irrigated land. A large card bears the title: "dreadnought: useless in 15 years. School house, playground, river embankment, forest, and irrigated land permanently useful."

4. Preparedness: how it works

To show that Preparedness is never one sided, but is a game that two or more can play at, a model is set up on a large table showing a bird's eye view of land and water. Four pieces of land jut out into a central sea – a national flag flying over each, indicates Germany, France, Japan and the United States. On each of these peninsulas little figures of men are seen busily engaged in preparing for war. Miniature warships float off the harbours - more ships are being built; men are drilling in barrack yards - more barracks are being built and several large armament works in each country are all busy. Title: "Preparedness all round. War must follow. Let us get together - we might like one another".

Another model ridicules the assertion that 'the only way for a nation to be safe is for it to have a military equipment strong enough to beat any other nation' thus: Figures representing the standing armies of France and Germany face each other in 1911, in numbers according to the then proportion. Above each is a sign showing the number. Next: France passes the Tree Year Law of 1913 - an additional number of lead soldiers spring up mechanically from underneath, slightly outnumbering those on the German side. At the same time a sign springs up in place of the former one giving the

new numbers of the standing army. Next: Germany passes her "full quota" law of 1913 - an additional number of lead soldiers spring up on the German side, again outnumbering the French. New sign showing numbers. Title: "How long can it continue? Preparedness will ruin them if war doesn't. It must end in War".

5. Preparedness: against whom?

Illuminated transparencies in which the pictures come in pairs, the first imperceptibly dissolving into the second. The first picture shows the Japanese as a sane man sees them - peaceful, industrious; then as a "Nervous Patriot" or militarist sees them: warlike, menacing, preparing to attack. Next the Americans as a decent Japanese sees them, a generous, friendly, peace-loving people; then as a Japanese jingo sees them, a dangerous, greedy enemy. The German people, the English and others could be shown in this way.

Who is my enemy? The visitor to the Exhibit is shown a picture of a pleasant, friendly German or Japanese working man. He is then shown what is presumably the same picture through a Maxim gun-barrel; he now sees the kindly face transformed into that of a furious soldier running at him with a fixed bayonet. This could be done by affixing the second picture to the mouth of the gun-barrel, and lighting it from behind.

What have we to fear from Europe? Display panel showing total losses of European countries in present War - the manhood of Europe halved. How soon will the survivors want another war?

Display panels showing "Our Real Enemies": the Jingo Press, Secret Diplomacy, Profit makers, militarism, fear, ignorance, etc.

6. Preparedness: does it prevent war?

Display panels showing pictures of the Kaiser, King George, the Czar and President Poincaré; at one side of each portrait are facts and figures telling of their naval and military Preparedness before the war and, on the other side, what each now has in dead and crippled men, widows, orphans, and industrial and financial ruin.

The contrast of Preparedness and Unpreparedness. Two relief maps, one showing the frontier between Canada and the United States, and the other the frontier between France and Germany. One without forts or soldiers, the other showing all the forts on both sides and all the nearby garrison towns - these might be illuminated by little lamps.

Another relief map showing the Canadian frontier as it might have been had there been an armament trust and other influences for "Preparedness against war" when the Treaty was made. Chicago and Detroit and all the border cities on both sides shown surrounded by forts, warships

floating on the lakes, etc.

A monstrously ugly figure of the god of War is shown standing in front of an illuminated transparency on which appear a succession of quotations from recent speeches in favour of Preparedness. The god of War is gloating over what he reads. Title: "It looks like a long reign to me".

7. Preparedness: the alternative?

Display panels contrasting the Old Monroe Doctrine and what it meant with its new development as a declaration for Pan American Union.

Display panel showing an alternative to Preparedness against Japan: a Japanese–American Commission working to bring about an understanding upon the questions at issue between the two countries.

Display panels setting forth the schemes of a World Court, of international Police and a Union of the Nations.

- Arrangements would be made for the formal opening of the Exhibit by some prominent citizen.
- Attractively printed and well illustrated pamphlets would be distributed freely to the public attending the Exhibit.
- Occasional lectures might be given in part of the room if large enough.