

ENTERED THE WAR RELUCTANTLY

We entered this war reluctantly. We did all we honorably could do, to keep out of it. We were doomed to disappointment. Fate had decreed otherwise. Germany made war on the United States. She sunk our ships. She destroyed our property. She conspired to induce other nations to attack us. She murdered our citizens - men, women and innocent children. She declared unrestricted submarine warfare upon our commerce. She violated the principles of international law, which had been recognized and practiced by all civilized nations for two hundred and fifty years. She ordered us off of the high seas, where we had as much right to be as we had to travel our own public highways. Germany violated the laws of nations, the laws of humanity and the laws of God. As a self-respecting nation, we could not submit. We chose to fight. In this decision, the American people acted with great unanimity. There were those who opposed the war. So it has always been. So it always will be. When King George the III of England sought

to impose unjust taxes upon the colonies, they protested. There were those at that time who said "Don't fight". But the will of the great majority was voiced in the Declaration of Independence. Our forefathers, under the leadership of George Washington, did fight, and won freedom and independence. When the civil war came, there were those in the north who said "Don't fight", let our erring brethren of the south go in peace." But, following the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, we did fight, and we preserved the Union and wiped the curse of human slavery from our soil. When oppressed Cuba, at our very door, stretched out her bleeding arms to us for aid and succor, pleading for decent and orderly government, for freedom, liberty and independence, there were those who said "don't fight"; but, under the leadership of the martyred President William McKinley, we did fight, and we fought that war for humanity, and liberated Cuba. So when the Imperial government of Germany, contrary to the law, justice and right, sunk our ships, destroyed our property, murdered our citizens, and ordered us off

of the high seas, there were those among us who said "don't fight."
But the Commander in Chief of our Army and Navy, President Woodrow
Wilson, voicing the overwhelming sentiment of the American people,
said, "We will fight." We are fighting for our rights, we are
fighting for our honor, we are fighting for humanity.

PROUD OF MY COUNTRY.

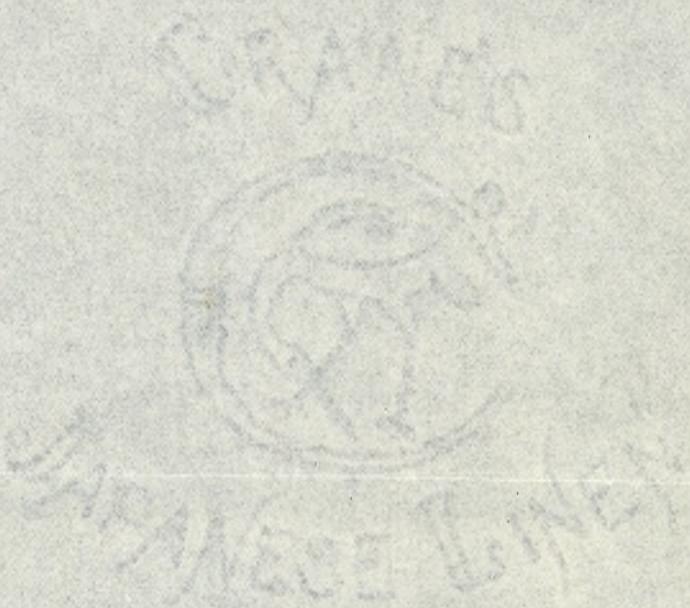
There never was a time in my life when I felt so proud of my country as I do at this hour.

Going back to the very inception of the American Nation - back to the landing of the pilgrim fathers, and to the first settlement at Jamestown - and tracing our growth and development down to the present time - reading every page of its splendid history - I can say with all my heart that I am proud that I am an American citizen.

As a school boy, I read the story of the birth of this Nation. I studied the heroic struggle our forefathers made to gain their independence. Three things were impressed upon my mind: first, that the average American citizen is superior to the average citizen of any other country; second, that our form of Government and our political institutions were the best on earth; and third, that all things considered this was the greatest nation on earth.

After forty years of study, experience, and observation,

I still cling to the impressions of my youth. I still believe that man for man ~~the~~ American citizens tower above the inhabitants of any other nation. I still hold to the view that this republic and its free institutions are the best that human skill, wisdom and statesmanship have ever devised or conceived. Finally, I feel that I ^{am}/now justified as I never was before in asserting that this is the greatest nation on earth.



MATERIAL GREATNESS.

When I speak of the greatness of this nation, naturally you think of our vast area - of the more than three million square miles of territory, of continental United States over which the flag floats supreme. You think of our varied and equitable climate, of our rich, fertile, productive soil, of our vast mineral deposits, and of all of our almost inexhaustible natural resources. You think of our great transportation and communication facilities - of our railways, telegraph, and telephone systems. You think of our industrial strength, our mills, factories, and manufacturing establishments. You think of our unequaled internal commerce, our vast mercantile business, our banks and financial institutions. You think of our six million five hundred thousand farms, and of the nearly fifty million people residing thereon, through whose intelligent labors and incessant toil the hungry of all nations are fed. You think of our large population, comprising more than one hundred million souls. You think of the net annual earnings of our people now estimated to amount to nearly fifty

billions of dollars. You think of our enormous wealth - more than double that of any other nation, estimated now to amount to 250,000,000,000 dollars. Finally you think of our splendid system of public schools, of our colleges and universities. You think of our churches, of our fraternal order societies, and of our numerous educational, benevolent, ^{philanthropic} ~~philanthropic~~ organizations and institutions. All these things are elements of greatness, but they do not constitute all the elements of greatness. A nation might possess all of these things and still not be a great nation according to the highest standard or measured by the supreme test.

WAPANESE LINE

The people of the United States were rich. The tempter said ,
" Go with me and I will make you richer. "We were practicall
out of debt and the tempter said "Go with me and I will keep
you out of debt and give you the income of other nations."

But the people of the United States turned their back upon the
Tempter and said , " A good name is to be chosen rather th an
great riches. " So the American people said to the Allies ,
fighting the Central Powers, here is \$7,000,000,000, take it
and use it the struggle you are making against autocratic
power and there is more to follow if you need it."

For fifty years the people of the United States had enjoyed
unexampled prosperity. On our farms , in our mines, in our
mills , shops and factories and in many other lines of hu-
man endeavor , our people had been toiling and toiling until
they had accumulated wealth beyond th grasp of the human
mind. They lived in better homes, wore better clothes, ate better
food , possessed more of the comforts and enjoyed more of the
luxuries of life than did the people of any other nation. But

But the American people turned their backs upon all these things, and made them secondary and subsidiary to the rights of its citizens and the honor of the Nation.

But the decision of the American people to fight Germany, meant more than the mere expenditure of money. It meant that practically all of our people should make sacrifices, suffer inconveniences and that many should suffer financial losses.

It meant millions of our citizens should ~~suffer~~ endure hardships and privations. It meant that scores of thousands maimed, crippled and wounded. Aye, it meant that tens of thousands of our bravest and best should make the supreme sacrifice and lay down their lives on the altar of their country. But the American people said we will do the right thing regardless of what it costs. We will defend our rights against all comers. We stake all we have, our wealth, our honor and our lives before we will bow to, the dictates of Prussianism Militarism or to German autocracy.

EFFICIENCY TEST

There was another test to which the American people were put. That was the efficiency test. Were we an efficient people? Could we organize, mobilize, centralize and vitalize all our resources, wealth, man-power, into a mighty engine of war that would reach out three thousand miles across the Atlantic and overthrow German autocracy? We had an immense task before us. It was the greatest undertaking any government had ever shouldered. The allies, fighting the Central Powers, were hard pressed. As General Haig said, "Their backs were against the wall." Time was of the essence of the proposition. What we did, must be done quickly. But neither the great magnitude of the undertaking, nor the limitation in time, nor the imminent dangers involved, deterred the American people.

We had no army to speak of, and our navy ranked third, if not fourth, among the navies of the world. Our merchant marine was comparatively insignificant. We were without arms, ammunition, supplies and equipment for our soldiers. Though the

inventors of the aeroplane, we had no aircraft suitable for war purposes. In a word, we were unprepared for war. But the American people were equal to the emergency. Congress passed the Selective Service Act. Appropriations were made to meet the vast expenditures necessary. The people everywhere responded to the call. The people of England, France and Italy watched our efforts with intense anxiety. The great German drive was on. The allies confronted by superior forces were being driven back. But America met the task. Our soldiers, led by General Pershing, landed in France in time to turn the tide, and the German and Austria-Hungarian armies have been retreating ever since.

OUR SOLDIERS

But there is still another test. Would our soldier boys, called from the Christian homes of America, accustomed to the pursuits of peace, born, reared and educated under the most pacific influences and environments - could these boys cope with the most highly trained soldiers of the greatest military nation on earth?

Whatever may have been the opinion of others, America never doubted that our boys would make good. We were not disappointed. Though wanting in long military training, they have covered themselves with eternal glory. They have fought with skill, initiative, dash, courage and bravery never surpassed. Marshall Foch has frequently complimented our soldier boys in the highest terms. General Haig, commanding the English forces, has paid the highest tribute to our boys "over there". Lloyd George, the English Premier, and Clemenceau, the French Premier, have many times lavished the highest praises upon American soldiers.

They have met every requirement. They have failed in no particulars. They have shown that they are worthy sons of those who fought under Washington, Grant and Lee. All things considered, our soldiers are the best on earth. They have added honor, renown and glory to their country. They have rendered a service to all humanity. They have earned the eternal gratitude of all mankind. They turned back the tide of German barbarism and saved Christian civilization from annihilation. Through their unselfish, heroic and noble deeds, the torches of Liberty, Freedom, Justice and Right will burn with increased light and luster throughout the ages to come.

GRATITUDE TO OUR SOLDIERS

The American people appreciate the service rendered by our soldiers, seamen and marines, and will, in my opinion, in every possible way show their gratitude to them. Congress has manifested a disposition to lighten in every way possible the task which the Nation called our soldiers to perform. It increased the pay of the private soldier from \$15 to \$30 per month. It has voted every dollar that could be utilized in clothing, feeding and equipping them. It has provided everything possible to add to their comfort, conserve their health, and to equip them with arms, munitions and weapons, to enable them to fight on equal terms with their antagonists. It passed the War Risk Insurance Act, which provided for a system of pensions, compensations and allotments, which is the most liberal act of its kind ever enacted by any government. It passed the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, designed to shield men in our Army and Navy in their absence from home, from law-suits, and to protect the property rights of themselves and their families.

It passed the act known as the Rehabilitation Act to provide for the re-education of wounded and crippled soldiers to enable them to become self-supporting, independent, useful and happy citizens - an act which will contribute to the industrial strength of the Nation, but far above that, will be a blessing to a class of unfortunate soldiers and seamen ^{whose sacrifices} ~~who sacrificed~~ for their country will be surpassed only by the brave men who have died for it. What Congress has done in this regard has met with the hearty approval of the public sentiment of the Nation, and is directly in line with what the people at home have done along every line of work that would in any way contribute to the welfare and comfort of our boys on our great battleships, in the cantonments, in the trenches and on the firing line. The proof of this is witnessed in the way our people everywhere, men and women alike, have contributed to the support of the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, and other benevolent organizations which have done such a splendid work for the welfare of our soldiers. Indeed, nothing has transpired since the

outbreak of the European War on the 1st day of August, 1914,
that has shown so clearly the real greatness of the American
people, than the almost lavish liberality with which they have
contributed for the relief of people in those countries which
have been devastated by war.

