

PETITION FOR SAFETY OF FRANCE IS MADE (Continued from page 1)

This would be accomplished, he said by keeping only one and a half "classes" in training, whereas at present there are two full "classes" and the existing law authorizes three. Dangers Serious "If anyone asks to go further," said the premier, "I shall have to answer clearly and definitely that it would be impossible for us to do it without exposing ourselves to a most serious danger."

be thought desirable in order to insure final peace for the world. Nothing for my colleagues and myself would be more pleasant than to be about to tell you this: We bring here sacrifices to the fullest extent possible; we have our own security insured; we lay down arms. We should be so happy to be able to make that gesture in order to participate in the final disarmament of the world. Moral Disarmament Necessary "Unfortunately we cannot speak in this way. I say also, unfortunately, we have not the right to do so. I shall tell you, for France, that she wants to make peace. If you want to make peace, there must be two people, yourself and the neighbor opposite. To make peace—I am speaking, of course, of land armaments—it is not sufficient to reduce effectives, and decrease war material. That is the physical side, a physical aspect of things. There is another consideration which we have no right to neglect in such a problem, that touches vital questions which are of the most serious character for the country concerned. It is necessary that besides this physical disarmament there should be in those same circles what I shall call a general atmosphere of peace. In other words, a moral disarmament is as necessary as the material one. I have the right to say this, and I hope to be able to prove it to you. And I have the right to say to you that in Europe, as it is at present, there are serious elements of instability; there are such conditions prevailing that France is obliged to face them, and to contemplate the necessary matters from the point of view of their own security. "In this country you are living

among states which do not know the entangled barriers and the frontier of Europe. You have nothing to fear so it is rather difficult for some of you—it must be difficult for some of you to realize what are the conditions at present prevailing in Europe after war and after victory. "I quite admit every citizen of the United States should come and tell me this. The war is won, peace is signed. Germany has reduced her army to a great extent. Most of her war material has been destroyed. What is that prevents peace from now reigning in Europe. Why is it that France keeps such a considerable army, abundantly provided with war material? "Of course in saying this only certain people have got something at the back of their minds. They suggest that France also has some hidden thought—some hidden design. "This constitutes the most disheartening thing for us. Those that know my country can testify that not one word of it is true. If there is a country that has deliberately turned her steps toward peace, that wants peace with all her heart, believes in it with her entire faith—it is France. "Old War Ideals Remain "I do not want to be unjust; nothing is further from my mind. We know there is in Germany—there is one part of Germany—that is for peace. They are many people, especially among the working classes who want to work, who have had enough of a war altogether and are anxious to settle down in peace. We shall do everything to help that Germany. And if she wants to restore her balance in the bosom of a pacific republic and domestic institutions, then we can help her and we shall be able to contem-

plate the future with feelings of security. "But there is another Germany, a Germany which has not changed her mind and to which the last war has taught no lesson. That Germany keeps the thoughts in the back of her mind; she has the same designs which she entertains before the war; she has kept the same pre-occupations and she cherishes the same ambitions as the Hohenzollerns did. How can we close our eyes to this? How can we ignore this state of things? This happening at our very doors, we have only got to look. We follow the thoughts of Germans or certain Germans, and the evolution which is taking place is more than that we have witnessed certain attempts to return to the state of things. Nobody could be mistaken about the real bearing of what was called the peace, and who is followed by a great part of the elite in Germany. What do we read in this book? This is the first question: "It is necessary that we should learn to understand that we live in a war-like time, that struggle will remain forever for the single individual as for the state, a natural phenomenon, and that the struggle is equal on the divine order of the world. "In the same book, Marshal Ludendorff produces these terrible words of De Moltke on the 11th day of December, 1919: "Eternal peace is a dream. It is not even a beautiful dream, and war is one of the parts of the order of the world, such as it has been created by God. It is by war that is developed the noble virtue of man, courage, disinterestedness, devotion to duty and spirit of sacrifice, up to the abandonment of one's own life. Without war the world would sink in the morass of materialism. "Facts Cannot be Ignored "Such, gentlemen, are the words used by the highest German authorities who have preserved the great part at least of the confidence of the German people and that is what we are listening to now. After a war that has caused the death of millions of men, after the worse wounds that have been inflicted and that are still bleeding in the sides of the countries of Europe, that is the sort of thing that is being taught at the very door of France. How can you expect that France should close her eyes to such words? "I now come to the physical aspect of disarmament. "Germany, just issuing from the war, still has seven million men who have made the war. You will say they are not actually serving under the flag, they are not living in barracks. Certainly. Have these men any officers and non-commissioned officers ready to be marshalled to the field? Is it possible to mobilize such an army tomorrow? "Army of Germany Ready "I answer yes, and I am going to explain it. Since the moment peace was signed, Germany has constituted a force, a so-called police force, which was intended for the maintenance of public order, called the reichswehr. It is to include 100,000 men. But what men? They are nearly all officers or non-commissioned officers. I mean regulars, all having served in or having belonged to the old army. Therefore, the cadres are ready there, the officers and non-commissioned officers are ready to marshal the army of tomorrow. "And what is that army? Is it in conformity with the requirements of the peace treaty? Is it only for purposes of public order? No. "According to secret instructions issued by the military authorities, the reichswehr is to prepare not only for police purposes but also for war, and is to train for war, with the necessary rehearsals and maneuvers. "Second Unit Mentioned "Germany has another denomination, there is another group called sturmwehrges. This group includes almost all the men of good will who are ready to serve their country in time of need, and instead of using it only to preserve internal order, it might be used for other purposes. "The danger was so real that the allies were obliged to send an ultimatum to Germany to demand that this force should be disbanded. "I am ready to recognize that the German chancellor, Wirth, is a man of good will, animated by fair purposes and that he has applied every endeavor, acting with no small merit on his part, in order to really release a state of peace, and done the signature of Germany. But this government in Germany is weak. They might fall at any moment. On our side we are ready to do everything in order to allow this great people to return to normal conditions of peace. "Other Organizations Mentioned "M. Briand mentioned other organizations called "police forces" and continued: "The government keeps them under their hands. These seven million men have not returned to civil life, to civil occupations, entirely. They are grouped together, in this marvellously ingenious way which the German people have when they want to achieve their purposes. They are called frei corps, or former combatants' associations and what not. Any day, any anniversary—and Germans are rather fond of anniversaries—is favorable in order to convene these men and marshal them to see that you have got them under your hand ready to do the work that is to be done. "An example to show you how rapidly these organizations might

be put on a war footing: When the Upper Silesian questions reached an acute stage recently, within a few weeks there were out of these frei corps or other bodies, about 40,000 men ready with guns, machine guns, rifles, armored trains, and with most perfect military instruments, so that this force should have its full combat value. These are facts that have been verified and that everybody can ascertain for himself. Therefore, as a question of fact and from the point of view of effectiveness, Germany can rise in a few weeks, and perhaps almost in a few days and can begin to raise her six million or seven million men with their officers again, and the non-commissioned officers are ready to do the work and to help them do the work. "France is Watching "France is looking upon what is happening. France does not exaggerate. She is only watching and waiting. "I now come to the question of war material. We have been told that there was no more war material. It is true, the commissions of control in Germany have done admirable work. A great many guns—artillery, I mean, have been destroyed. Some of the destruction has been supervised by the allied officers. It is real. "But the problem of war material is one that can easily be solved. "What is Germany but a vast country of industry—industrially organized? Germany always had two aims, the first was trade, commerce and that is only natural. The second was war. All her industries, all her manufactures, have been working to the full during the war and they have developed since. "Everything is ready in Germany. The plans, the designs and callipers. Everything is there ready to insure a steady manufacturing of guns, machine guns and rifles. "Foreign Fortunes Purchased "It is not only in Germany that industry can work to the full. You

can make preparations outside. In fact preparations have actually taken place. Great captains of industry or great industrial magnates have bought important firms in Scandinavian and in other parts of Europe. It is easy enough to fabricate these guns without our seeing it. "Therefore, we have not the right and we do not intend to leave France defenseless. France must, to all intents and purposes protect herself. "What about the rest of Europe? Apparently Europe is at peace although here and there on the ground certain volumes of smoke just arising seem to indicate that the fire is not extinguished everywhere. "I will draw your attention to the subject of Russia. It is a country of 120,000,000 million men which is actually boiling over with anarchy. They have an enormous standing army which is in the ordinary a million and a half men but which has practically the strength of 600,000 men. What will Russia do? Who can say what will happen on that side? About a year and a half ago there was a wild rush of Russia on Europe. Russia tried to rush Poland and through Poland to reach Germany where some people were beckoning to them. "The situation in Russia is far from being settled. It is a sort of permanent anxiety to everybody. What will become of its enormous army? What could, or might Germany do in order to equip Russia and exploit her. We know not. There are so many problems, economic, financial etc., with which we have to deal, that really, gentlemen, we do not know to which to turn, but the greatest problem of all, the greatest question is life. First of all we must be able to live. "Gentlemen, I give you these reflections for you to ponder over. You will see that there is nothing in that that would draw us aside from paths that leads to final peace. I apologize for having been with you for so long and for so

having trespassed upon your attention. Perhaps at another time the president will be less inclined to allow me to speak. "Historical Society Will Have Meeting in Portland The coast branch of the American Historical society will meet Friday and Saturday of this week at the Multnomah hotel in Portland. Dean Governor H. Alder, G. Franklin and Miss Mary Eyrle, who is teaching at Canby this winter, are members of the association. On the program is Professor Robert M. Gatke, assistant professor of history at Willamette university, who will read a paper on "The First Indian School of the Pacific Coast." R. C. Clark, president of the Oregon branch of the University of Oregon, is on the program to read a paper on "The Hudson Bay Company and Early Oregon History."

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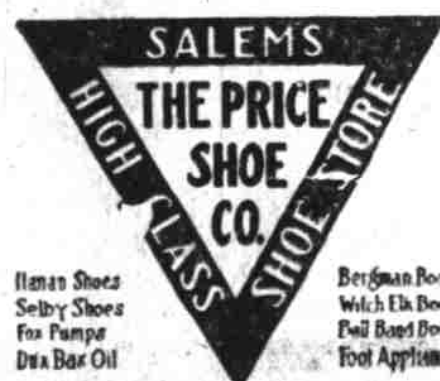
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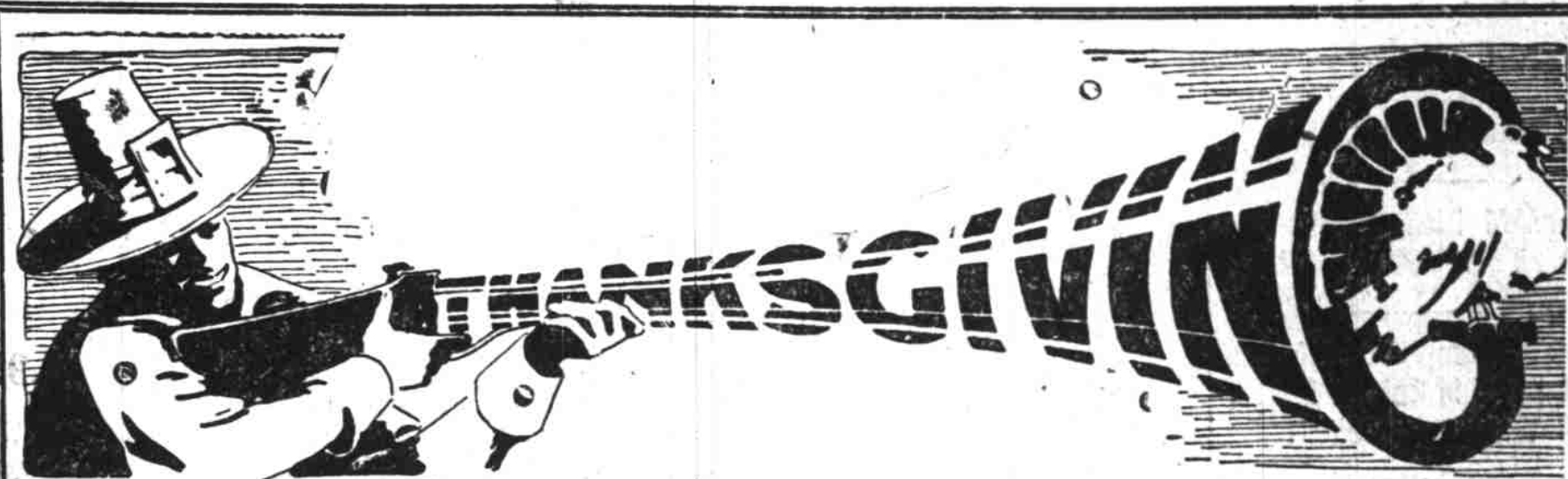
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