## E-East Oresonian




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maxryminaos on miw, -

 GREAT WAR PRESIDENT RETIRES
 be greeted with acclaim and justly' so. He was elected
president of the United States and he will have the good of all as he starts upon his difficult duties.
 than the incoming president. This is Woodrow Wilson's final hour in authority and it marks the close of a period during This is not the time to do fuil justice to the record of President Wilson. We are still too near the scene to view his work in its
true perspective. To a great many people the events with true perspective. To a great many people the events with
which he dealt are beclouded and he is misunderstood but the Which he dealt are beclouded and he is misunderstood but the
day will come when the light will break forth and the Wilson day will come when and as a champion of the League of Nations
record as president and
at the peace conference will shine like a star and always endure. In the words of a great worid-leader-General Smuts:
"At a time of the deepest darkness and despair, he had raisAl a time of the deepest darkness and despair, he had raisdivine words of healing and consolation to a broken humanity.
His lofty moral idealism seemed for a moment to dominate the brutal passions which had torn the old world asunder." In his estimate of President Wilson's place in history, given
elsewhere in this paper, General Smuts shows how Wison failed the peace conference and how he triumphed. He did not

General Smuts goes farther and says that no man ever born
could hive witten the peace that should have been written and
no man alive save Woodrow Wiso could have saved the cove-
naut. "His was the power that carried it though. The cove-
nant is Willon's souvenir to the future of the world. No one
will ever deny him that honor." Ger him that
General Smuts is in position to say that. He was one of the
"inside men" at the peace conference and hee knoww what wwis


 there is significance in the fact that the president-elect, chosen as an opponent of the league, has already named for secretary
of state a If state a man who was noted as a champion of the covenant.
It the league does live the chier honor will belong to Woodrow
Wilson because it Wilson because it was through his influence that the covenant
was adopted at Versailes. But the fame of President Wilson does not rest alone upon
his championship of the peace covenant. On strictly American subjects he has a record of aceomplishment that can be claimed
by no other president. It was under his leadership that the re gy no other president. It was under his leadership that the re
serve act was passed. Likewise the farm loan act, the water serve act was passed. Likewise the farm loan act, the water
power law and other measures too numerous to mention here.
But the real executive greatness of the president was tested hhen this nation went to war. The most preaceent was country of on
carth became the most warlike and the most invincible in on earth became the most warlike and the most invincible in an in-
credibly short space of time. The story of our war preparations credibly short space of time. The story of our war preparations
and of the A. E. F. may properly be classed as one of the wond-
ers of history. Never before did a country rush to the front so crs of history. Never before did a country rush to the front so
vigorously and so thoroughly. Mistakes were made of course, as was inevitable, but taken as a whole. America's part in the
war was a gigantic success The kaiser has admitted it. In carrying on the war almost supreme power was placed in
the hands of the president. He named the men who handled all the big affairs at home and in the field. He was commander purpore of viotory. Men who saw anffairs at ality cn the single
president say the
prove all departments with a fierce relentlossness president drove all departments with a fierce relentlessness
never before duplicated. It must have been so because it is never before duplicated. It must have been so because it is an
accepted principle that no organization can function any better accepted principle that no organization can function any better
than its executive head and the American army functioned with
There are those who have sought to place upon the presi-
dent full responsibility for all mistakes made but who would begrudge him credit for the successful work that was done.
That is obviously unfair. II he is entitled to blame for failures,
is he is, he is entitled also to the glory of victory. President
Wilson wis the ilson was the renl unknown hero of the war. As a politician ead and had he not done so the war might still be underway. of we had had an incompetent in the we enite house so the drealy and
long war could easily have been realized ne knowing why.
On his withdrawal from the presidency Woodrow Wilson eeds no words from anyone to make hls fame secure. His
name is irretrievably linked with America's part in the gres name is irretrievably linked with America's part in the greatest
struggle men ever fought, and is stamped as n, name was ever struggle men ever fought, and is stamped as
stamped before upon the heart of the world.
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