

WHY WE ARE AT WAR WITH GERMANY

By
EDWIN DOUGLASS ADAMS
 Executive Head, History Department
 Leland Stanford Junior University

"The object of this war is to deliver the free peoples of the world from the menace and the actual power of a vast military establishment controlled by an irresponsible government, which, having secretly planned to dominate the world, proceeded to carry out the plan without regard either to the sacred obligations of treaty or the long-established practices and long-cherished principles of international action and honor. This power is not the German people. It is the ruthless master of the German people. . . . It is our business to see to it that the history of the rest of the world is no longer left to its handling."
 —President Wilson, August 27, 1917.

THIS WAR IS ONE OF SELF-PRESERVATION.

"Here," says *Everyman*, "was a Kaiserdom seeking world domination—and perilously near encompassing it unless the world united to repel him." Thus the radical land reformer sees the issue. Is there any one still blind to it?

But were we in America directly threatened? *We were, and we are threatened.* A German book published in the United States in 1914, and called "Truth About Germany," sought to inflame us against England and France, and to persuade us that America and Germany had common ideals, characteristics, and methods. (May God save us!) It argued smoothly: "Two nations united by such common inclinations and ideals, boldness of enterprise, far-sightedness, quickness of decision, admiration for intellectual achievements, can not help being exceedingly congenial to each other." Pleasant words—but a lying tongue. Would Germany, once master of Europe, remember our "congeniality," and be a good neighbor in the Americas?

The Germans when writing for home consumption hold a different language about world relations and "neighbors." "Formerly German thought was shut up in her German corner, but now the world shall have its coat cut according to German measure, and as far as our swords flash and German bloods flows, the circle of the earth shall come under the tutelage of German activity." "A sturdy German egoism must characterize all political action. . . . The first principle of our policy, both at home and abroad, must be that in everything that happens the Germans should come off best, and the others should have a bad time of it." A nice, congenial neighbor!

But Germany, when honest, directly avows her purpose, ultimately, against America. We must "wake up," or we will be the easy "next step" in her ambitions. "Germany . . . may in less than two centuries succeed in dominating the whole globe . . . if only it can in time strike out a 'new course,' and definitely break with Anglo-American methods of government, and with the state-destroying ideals of the Revolution." She is trying out her "new course" now. "One thing alone can profit the German people: the acquisition of new territory, . . . that alone can really promote the diffusion of Germanism, and the deepening of Germanism." "Before seeking to found a Greater Germany in other continents, we must seek to create a Greater Germany in Central Europe." "We must . . . see to it that the outcome of our next successful war must be the acquisition of colonies." "We must make room for an empire of Germanic race which shall number 100,000,000 inhabitants, in order that we may hold our own against masses such as those of Russia and the United States."

Still further, it is no longer a secret that Germany, while we were still

unprepared—were neutral—and while Germany still ostensibly sought our friendship, secretly planned, when victorious in Europe, to pick a quarrel with us and wring from us part of the costs of her European war.

If the American "easy chair" is still too comfortable for serious thought of what Germany means to do to us, then America deserves the fate in store for her. This is the material side of our peril, but there is another and deeper side.

This war is *our* war, to secure *our* purposes in national and in international development. If Germany should win, her principles must triumph and force alone must rule the world, with the strong exploiting the earth. If the war ends in a *drawn battle*, with Germany unchanged in ideals and purposes, all that is left of the world will be compelled to engage in the race of military preparedness, and the world will be forced to adopt Germany's methods—now so hateful to us. A Germany undefeated would force us to destroy the very basis of our government, our policy, our social and industrial life—to devote ourselves, capital and labor, persons and property, to one object—a mighty militarism. Unless we win this war the mightiest, most upsetting, most far-reaching change this nation has ever known is upon us. We are fighting for *liberty to continue* in our accustomed line of progress.

This is the sixth of a series of ten articles by Professor Adams.



It's Up to Us.

"Germany's war of starvation is a challenge met of all to America," says a *Food Administration Bulletin*. "Against Germany's lust for dominion, America's purpose is to establish the society of nations. Against destruction, America's aim is healing. Against mastery, America's ideal is service."

"We cannot surpass the steadfastness of Britain, the courage of Italy, the exaltation of France.

"We cannot excel the Allies in heroism, in endurance, in fortitude. Our force in battle, though it may be decisive, will not be as great as theirs.

"We can hope to contribute most to the common cause from our larger resources. To relieve desperate privation, America can supply food.

"Giving up wheat is a little thing compared to their death struggle—in which our soldiers are splendidly sharing.

"A little thing—yet we can do it with greatness of spirit. Supporting our army and adding whole-hearted service to humanity, it is in America's power to defeat forever the passion of conquest.

"Now is the hour of testing. Wheat is the test."

Give the Children Milk.

Milk is one of the most important food sources the human race possesses. For the proper nourishment of the child, it is absolutely indispensable and its use should be kept up in the diet as long as possible. Not only does it contain all the essential food elements in the most available form for ready digestion, but the recent scientific discoveries show it to be especially rich in certain peculiar properties that alone render growth possible.

It is not enough to take off your hat to the flag—take off your coat and roll up your sleeves, and having made those preparations, do something useful for America and her cause.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION Credo

- By willing service of a free people to do these things:
- To feed the Allies that they may continue to fight.
- To feed the hungry in Belgium and other lands that they may continue to live.
- To feed our own soldiers overseas that they may want nothing.
- To keep prices steady and the flow of distribution even that the poor at home may be fed.
- To make everyone's effort count its utmost for winning the war for freedom.

FOOD CONTROL IN AMERICA IS FOR AND FOR THE PEOPLE

OUR GREAT TASK

By Herbert Hoover.

If you could stand in the middle of Europe today and survey the land to its borders, you would discover its whole population of 400,000,000 human beings short of food. Millions of people in Poland, Finland, Serbia, Armenia and Russia are dying of starvation and other millions are suffering from too little food. Our Allies and the neutrals are living on the barest margins that will support life and strength.

This, the most appalling and dreadful thing that has come to humanity since the dawn of civilization, is to me the outstanding creation of German militarism. The Germans themselves are not the worst sufferers. They are extorting at the cannon's mouth the harvests and cattle of the people they have overrun, leaving them in desolation. If the war were to cease tomorrow, the toll of actual death from starvation within the German lines would double or treble the 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 of men who have been actually killed by Germany and her allies in arms. The 10,000,000 people in occupied Belgium and Northern France would have died of starvation had it not been for us and the Allies.

We must build our food resources to stand ready for any demands upon us by the Allies. It is of no purpose to us to send millions of our best to France if we fail to maintain the strength of their men, women and children on our lines of communication. This United States is the last reservoir of men, the last reservoir of ships, the last reservoir of munitions and the last reservoir of food upon which the Allied world must depend if Germany is to be defeated and if we are to be free men.

Now is the time to eat and to preserve home grown products. Perishable fruits are coming on the market, the gardens are making available daily supplies of food that will take the place of the commercial canned articles that are needed for shipment abroad. Sugar has been made available for home canning purposes and the supply is good at the present time. The home garden and the canning of its products means more this year than it ever did before because it will play a very important part in keeping the fighting forces supplied with the kind of food they need at the time they need it most.

America expects every civilian to do his or her duty in the same spirit as she expects each soldier when the command comes, "TO GO OVER THE TOP" without turning to see if his neighbor had gone first.

We have often quoted that old verse, "Gather your roses while ye may," and we can well now change it to "gather your vegetables," for by so doing we can accomplish great good.

"We stand behind our boys in France and we will not call it a sacrifice but a privilege to do our bit toward feeding them Over There."—Emma V. Milliken.

Conserve, reserve and preserve all of these fine fruits and vegetables that are now within your reach; you will need them the coming winter.

By eating more perishables here at home we may save others from perishing "Over There."

The farm as well as the front needs men who see straight and shoot straight.

War is OUR BUSINESS; we can't win by carrying it as a side line.



RESULTS FIRST YEAR OF FOOD ADMINISTRATION

Preliminary Work Began May 19, 1917.

Food Control Act passed August 10, 1917.

WHEAT EXPORTS (since July 1):

Estimated surplus for export, 20,000,000 bushels.

Actual shipments to June, 120,000,000 bushels.

BEEF EXPORTS:

Ordinary rate one to two million pounds monthly.

Largest single month this year, 87,000,000 lbs.

PORK EXPORTS:

Ordinary rate, 50,000,000 lbs. monthly.

Largest month this year, 308,000,000 lbs.

PRICE OF FLOUR (Minneapolis):

One year ago, \$16.75 a barrel wholesale.

Present price, \$9.80 per barrel.

PRICE MARGIN (between farmer's wheat and flour made from it):

One year ago the difference was \$5.68.

Present date the difference is 64 cents.

IN GENERAL: To the farmer going to market, 27 per cent more than last summer; to the housewife buying in market, 13 per cent less than last summer.

And the Allies have been sustained.

Oh, Dear.

"Did Reggie bag any game?"

"Oh, dear me—no—Reggie didn't have his regular hunting togs along and so bagged nothing but his trousers."