

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON

It is now conceded by all nations, great and small, that President Woodrow Wilson is the leading statesman of the world today. He, in addition to being the president of the greatest republic on earth is the man who has the broadest conception of liberty and justice of any ruler of a nation, great or small.

His statement of why the allied nations were at war with the central powers and what terms the central powers must subscribe to in order that a general peace can be restored are so just and equitable to all nations and oppressed peoples that the allied nations accept his dicta as the only basis of real justice—as the only basis upon which the world can expect a lasting peace.

The central powers owe a tremendous debt to the nations upon which they have made war. They owe a heavy debt to the neutral nations whose property they have destroyed. Whether it is possible for these powers to right the wrongs resulting from a needless and unnecessary war—a war wholly without justification, will be determined when the terms of peace are defined. Of course the millions of lives lost and the millions of maimed cannot be restored, nor can any financial accounting on the part of the central powers make good, for these dead and cripples cannot be measured in terms of dollars. But the countries which grim visaged war has laid waste; the thousands of vessels sunk by submarines; the cities ruthlessly destroyed by shot, shell and fire; the shops which have been looted of machinery; the furniture looted from dwellings; the machinery stolen from farms; the vandalism in destroying works of art; the churches destroyed; these, these can be measured in terms of dollars and Germany should be made to restore to the uttermost farthing.

President Wilson's dicta implies that such penalty should be the price required at the peace table. Yet no spirit of revenge nor of reprisal is breathed in his utterances. He simply demands that justice so far as is possible shall be required and that small nations which have suffered wrong and oppression shall be set free.

The president or his representative will be the ruling spirit at the peace table; for the world, both victor and vanquished, has such confidence in his justness and broadness of view that his verdict will be accepted as the basis of what is just and fair.

Because of the above conclusions it is very necessary that Woodrow Wilson shall be the representative head of the world's leading republic. The American people and the other nations of the world will demand that he shall be the central figure in fixing the peace terms. But to have the necessary power and influence he must occupy his present position. He should finish the herculean task he was required to undertake a year and a half ago; for no other man in the nation over which he presides can so justly and impartially arrange a peace which will be so willingly submitted to as he.

It is extremely fortunate for the United States and the world as well that Woodrow Wilson was selected as president just when he was elected. Another in his place might have done well but none could have done better. No other president since Washington has had the confidence and has been so universally supported as he. Never in the history of the American nation have the people been so unified in purpose and never has there been so little graft and dishonesty in the conduct of a great war as under the direction of President Wilson. Never have the rich and the rich men's sons been compelled to bear their just and equitable burden of a war as at the present time. Because of this fact the poor man and he of medium circumstances answer to the call to arms and loan money to the government without a murmur.

President Wilson is not personally responsible for these satisfactory conditions only in part. Yet he has inspired congress and the people in general with a spirit of justness and fair dealing through which these conditions have been brought about. He is indeed the man for the hour. Again we repeat, it is fortunate for the American people and the world at large in this the greatest test of democracy and modern civilization that Woodrow Wilson is president and it is more than fortunate for the oppressed small nations of Europe that his voice will wield a dominating influence at the peace table.

"POLITICS ADJOURNED."

The Tribune in a measure admires the term "politics adjourned." It savors of the idea that men will lay aside partisanship and concentrate their political efforts toward electing the best men, all things considered, to office. But if the word "partisan" be placed before the caption of this article then this paper is ready to say "bully" with all the word may imply.

The meaning of the word "politics" is the science of government rather than to slow up or retard governmental functions providing these functions are directed in the interests of the great masses of the people. Therefore this writer does not favor unqualified the adjournment of politics. On the contrary, if there has ever been a time in the history of our government when our wisest, most level-headed, and men whose patriotism may not be questioned, should be selected for office, it is at the present time.

When this great war is over and the reconstruction period is on, our country needs in congress the wisest most far-seeing minds it is possible to get. The reconstruction and refunding of tremendous war debts and the adjustment of our relations with the other nations of the world can be so fixed that the interests of the great masses of the people and also our relations with foreign governments will be protected and placed upon an equitable basis, or they may be so adjusted that the masses of the people will be required to bear an unjust share of the burden and our government as in the

past, give up rights and privileges to which she is justly entitled.

Therefore if partisan politics can be adjourned and the selection of our most efficient men for office be made the rule of action for the hour regardless of to which political party they may adhere, The Tribune says AMEN in capital letters.

Extreme partisanship has been the bane of American politics in the past. They have been too much of the yellow dog variety. In both political parties men have been elected to offices of trust who were totally unfitted for the place morally or of qualification. These men have been elected simply because they were democrats or republicans, as the case may be.

In far too many instances men have been elected to congress whose campaign expenses far outstripped the total of the salary the office would pay. Of course such officials would recoup in some way and usually from some private interests who in the end made the people pay the bill.

We do not want such men in congress or in our state legislatures if it can be avoided and if the adjournment of partisan politics will aid in bringing about that result, by all means let the adjournment take place.

There is no doubt but what American patriotism has largely displaced American partisan politics in the American mind. The almost universal endorsement of President Wilson in his conduct of the war is a convincing evidence of the fact.

The American people realize that the president must have the solid backing of the citizens of our great nation. They regard the life and welfare of our nation far superior to the life and welfare of the political party. Political parties of the past under one name or another have arisen, flourished and died. The Federalist and the Whig parties of the past were great political parties. Each in its time wielded a dominating influence in the conduct of our government in their day. Yet both are dead and forgotten. But our government still lives and was not materially disturbed by their demise. They served their purpose and no doubt our nation is the better because of their existence.

So in time we may expect the democratic and republican parties to pass away. They, like the federalist and whig parties, will in time outlive their usefulness and be cast into the discard. Yet no one expects our government to perish with either of them. No indeed. Our American government is greater than any political party of the past, those of the present or those which may be organized in the future.

The idea which has been nurtured in the past that once a democrat or a republican always a democrat or a republican, has been fully exploded. Political parties may and do err and when they err they are generally defeated. Selfish and unscrupulous politicians secure control of a political party and use it to further a particular man or idea. As a result the good sense of the American people consigns such party to defeat. A political party must keep step with progress and reform else be relegated to oblivion. A great democracy such as ours cannot remain at a standstill. It must embrace the ideas of just and right thinking men and women. It may advocate what may be termed radical and un-baked ideas; yet it must keep pace with the mass of general thought. It must keep pace with such ideas as conduce to the uplift and benefit of the great masses of the people.

Therefore The Tribune is very much in favor of the adjournment of partisan politics. It is an evidence of a step upward and onward in the science of government.

A NATION OF COWARDS.

The Prussian government with that of its satellite, the government of Austria-Hungary, will be written down in the pages of future history as nations of cowards. They commenced the greatest war in the history of the world as great bluffers and the bluffer is always a coward when applied to individuals or nations. The proof of this fact, if it has not been demonstrated by the hitherto unheard of cruelties and atrocities committed by their soldiery upon unarmed and defenseless peoples, towns, cities, ships, hospitals, etc., will be made manifest when the theatre of war is transferred to the territory of their own countries.

Now that the allied armies are thoroughly organized and are placed under the command of one of the most capable men of modern times, the armies of the central powers are being driven back to the confines of their homeland the spirit of the coward appears. These Hun hordes know that the ravager of war will destroy their towns and cities and their farms just as have been the destruction of Belgium, Northern France and Servia. Hence strong appeals for peace terms may be expected; aye, are now being made.

It was great sport to lay waste and destroy property in the enemy country; to transfer manufacturing equipment from captured enemy country to their own; to send into industrial slavery a captured people; to mutilate non armed men, women and children, and to ravish young women and girls. But it makes a difference when the shoe is on the other foot and the theatre of war is transferred to their own soil. They at once conclude that war is the extreme of folly and international differences should be adjusted by more peaceable means. They are unwilling to undergo the punishment they so richly merit.

Americans will not maim and mutilate people. They will not ruthlessly destroy property except as a war necessity. They will not enslave a captured people nor murder or mistreat or humiliate prisoners of war, for they are not built that way. They are not personally or nationally cowards, and none but cowards will indulge in such atrocities.

The American soldier will fight ferociously and bravely. He will kill and destroy when the battle is on. But when the battle is over he will not mistreat the vanquished. He will succor and care for the enemy wounded and feed the hungry, for he is built that way.

Prior to the commencement of this war the German nation was regarded as one of the foremost nations. In science, art, music, manufacturing industries, municipal government, industry, etc., the German nation and the German people were regarded as models worthy of imitation. But war has developed an unknown portion of the German character. The world did not know of her despicable methods of diplomacy. Her depth of bombast was unknown and the terrible cruelty and treachery of her soldiery had not been heard of.

But now the mask is off. The true German character is an open book to other nations of the world. If the other nations of the world refuse to neighbor with Germany; if the German man or woman is treated with suspicion by other peoples and refused entrance to the inner circle of friendship they must blame themselves for such condition. They have forfeited respect and confidence and must bear the consequences.

We cannot measure German character of the fatherland by the stan-

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