

THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY
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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.

AFTER THE WAR, WHAT?

All indications of today point to an early closing of the war. Turkey has surrendered; Austria is on the verge of collapse and may have surrendered before this issue of The Tribune reaches its readers, and Germany proper is on the anxious seat. She wants to surrender and will if the allies will make a small concession upon which she can appease her so called honor. All indications point to a cessation of hostilities within the present month.

What will be the position of the United States when the war closes? There is no doubt but what the United States now occupies the central position in the politics of the world. This is due of course to our advanced position in world democracy, to our wealth and resources, and to our entrance in the war when a friend was needed and which friendship we have proven indeed. Any impartial observer will say: Without American food, American ammunition and ships, and without American soldiers, Germany would have won the war.

England and France and Italy realize the vital importance of America's help and Germany no doubt holds America and America alone responsible for her downfall.

It is not a matter of speculation why America stands almost in the position of arbiter in the adjustments of the peace which will soon follow. England and France and Italy look upon the United States as the most advanced of all nations in the ways of democracy—as the leader pointing the way.

Germany looks to the United States as the most merciful of all nations and as the nation the least given to the spirit of revenge. She knows the great depth of her guilt, and as she has offended the American nation the least of all her enemies she hopes that the American influence will make the penalty she knows she ought to pay the less severe.

Therefore, when a council meets to arrange peace terms the wishes of America, of President Wilson, will wield a large influence.

All nations, including friends and enemies, seem to have great confidence in the judgment and justice of American statesmen and the people. They believe President Wilson and the American congress are broad enough in mind and just enough in principle to mete out justice tempered with mercy to all.

This is a proud position to occupy among the nations of the world. To have both friends and enemies look

upon us as a nation which will not stoop to a little and mean action; as a nation which would despise taking advantage of a weak people or a conquered foe, pays us the highest possible compliment, within the power of other nations to give.

Occupying this exalted position the United States will come out of the war with the friendship of all nations. Our allied friends must admire us because of our forbearance and refusal to take advantage which power might confer; and our enemies will admire us because we dare to be just and merciful to an enemy. This is an element of greatness which is never an attribute of autocracy. It is an element of greatness which the United States has manifested at the conclusion of all the wars in which she has engaged.

So when peace is declared and the final adjustments have been made the United States will be the acknowledged friend of all nations. Her merchant ships, of which she will have as large or larger fleet than any other nation, will be welcome in every harbor of the world. Our merchants, provided they deal fairly and justly, will be cordially greeted in all the marts of the world and their goods and wares will be given just recognition.

As a matter of fact the United States as the exemplar of democracy will for the first time in history be regarded in a friendly and truthful spirit by European nations. Here before those nations have regarded us with a sort of jealous and revengeful spirit. Autocracy regarded our examples of progress and enterprise as something that was dangerous to the principle of the divine right of kings or emperors to rule. They know that the education and enlightenment of democracy meant the death of autocracy in the end.

Now the end has come. The autocracies of Russia, Turkey and Austria have crumbled to the dust. Germany, the last of autocracy, is crumbling and the people of these king-burdened nations are awakening to the fact that the divine right to rule rests among and on the people themselves and all desire the friendship of a government of the people, by the people and for the people. They want to be friends with the nation wherein the people have ruled successfully for 142 years.

No wonder European nations want the friendship of the nation which has never lost a war. Perhaps they could not understand that a nation not of a military turn or desire could muster an army and navy that knew not defeat. But they understand it now. They have had a demonstration of Yankee capability, resourcefulness and bravery which has inspired the unbounded respect of both friends and enemies. They have been made to know that America though hating war possessed a latent power and capability which is unwise to arouse.

England and France knew something of it heretofore. Now Germany has learned that fact to her sorrow. All of these nations have learned something of American capability and resourcefulness which they never will forget. Having learned our power and might and our unwillingness to use that power and might except as a last resort they are now most willing to cultivate our friendship.

Therefore the United States will emerge from the war with a luster undimmed and with the friendship and trust of all. Knowing our power and resourcefulness in war we have inspired a respect and confidence which will reach out over let us hope a perpetual peace among all nations. They know that as a nation we are just, broad in conception and true to the principles of democracy. This is why Germany

though despising democracy, appeals to President Wilson to propose terms of peace to the allied powers. She seeks to enlist the United States in the arrangement of peace terms because she has a larger faith in the justness of the United States than in the entente nations.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

Luring the 142 years of our national existence we have valued the privilege of American citizenship far too lightly. By very lax immigration laws we have made it much too easy for the foreign born to become a citizen of the greatest and freest republic on earth. In some of our states the foreigner could become a citizen for all intents and purposes in one year.

As a result while the vast majority of the immigrants landing at our ports have become worthy and law abiding citizens we have admitted far too many who are unworthy of becoming a citizen of any country.

We have received at our immigration doors members of the Mafia organization of Italy, the Nihilists of Russia, the rank Socialists of Germany, and the criminals and those of criminal intent from all countries of whom we have tried to make law abiding citizens.

As a result we have had labor strikes composed largely of foreign born and have filled our penitentiaries and reformatories with men scarcely able to speak the English tongue. Two of our presidents have been assassinated by men bearing foreign names and our detention camps are now filled with men who would destroy the government under the folds of whose flag they have sought shelter.

These conditions and crimes have been made possible by laws too lax which have made the price of citizenship so cheap that the privilege has been abused and spat upon.

It is now up to us to protect our material life from these foreign criminals and undesirables. We have long since passed the period in our national existence where we needed to encourage or offer inducements to the foreigners to come to our shores and become citizens. It is now quite time to close the door to all foreign born who are of doubtful value as addition to our citizenry.

Suppose our laws admitting foreigners to citizenship be amended somewhat as follows and much of the ills which now afflict us would be removed:

Require every person seeking entrance into the United States, either as a visitor or as a prospective citizen to possess a certificate of good moral character, attested by some recognized authority. If a visitor, require him or her to be duly provided with a proper passport, and if a prospective citizen require him or her to file intention of becoming citizen within a period of six months after passing through a port of entry. When filing intention paper require a cash bond of \$500 to be deposited as a guaranty of good behavior and against becoming a pauper during a probationary of not less than five years.

When application is made to become a citizen and to enjoy the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, as a test of worthiness in addition to the qualifications now necessary require the applicant to be able to both read and speak the English language. When it shall appear to the examining court that the applicant is worthy and has been law abiding, with the issuance of full citizenship papers return the cash deposit of \$500 made when intention was declared.

While the above requirements may appear somewhat severe to the embryo citizen it is but a small price to pay for citizenship in the greatest

democracy on earth. Moreover, the deposit of \$500 as above specified would be an incentive to the applicant to be law abiding and to prepare himself for citizenship by learning to speak and read the language of the country to which he seeks affiliation.

We have among us a class of foreign born and Hun sympathizers that are not now, never have been and never will be good American citizens. They have proven themselves a menace to the American people. We allude to such as are now confined in detention camps and to those who have renounced their intentions to become American citizens.

The only just penalty which can be visited upon such is to send them back to Germany, Austria, Russia, etc., to help rehabilitate the country of their preference. The conquered lands will need them and we have no possible use for them here. They have been tried in the balance or crucible and have been found wanting.

American citizenship is something one should be proud of. Most all Americans are. They think no handsomer flag floats in the breezes of heaven than the Stars and Stripes. It is the flag which represents more liberty and more humanity than the flag of any other nation. It is the flag which on the battlefields of Europe represents the rights of humanity as against the flag of the despot. It is the flag now being carried to victory by two millions of freemen who are fighting the battle for humanity and the progress of liberty.

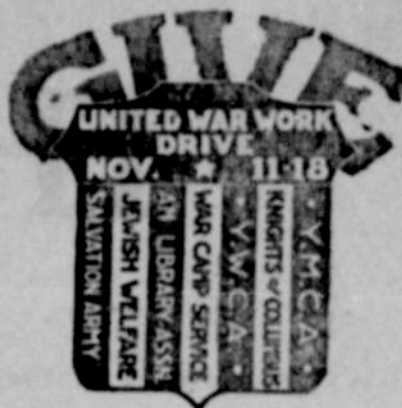
And these European peoples, many of them, seeing Old Glory for the first time will, after the war is over want to come to the land where liberty means so much to the citizen. And this is just the reason why we should close the doors to the men who have been fighting for four years to destroy everything the American flag represents. We do not believe such people could ever become good American citizens. We do not need them and those of their kind and sympathizers which we now have in detention camps. We have less use for these last than for the people in Germany who have no acquaintance with liberty as we know it.

The Tribune thinks that no European who fought to break down liberty and the principles of humanity; who have been raping Belgium and northern France, will ever become good material of which to make American citizens. The bars should be closed to all such indefinitely. We should do this as a matter of self preservation and to transmit to our children a government untainted with blood which sustains the doctrine that might is right.

When the war is over General Foch should tour America and give us all a chance to see the generalissimo who has destroyed autocracy in Europe and brought the boastful Prussian to his knees.



"Good morning, papa," says the Crown Prince to Wilhelm. "The United War Work Campaign has gone over the top." And what Wilhelm answers in reply is something that no father should say in the presence of his eldest child.



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