

WAR MESSAGE TURNING POINT OF ALL HISTORY

Wilson's Declaration to Mark, in Posterity's Wide View, Day Which Changed Forever the Nature of Government From Controlling People to Those Controlled by Them.

BY CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—One hundred thousand released political prisoners, say the dispatches, are now on their way from Siberia back to Russia.

Only those that know something of the hell provided for revolt by the old Russian autocracy can know what that means.

One hundred thousand souls rescued from living death, returned from despair to hope, from the horrors of premature burial to be free like other men, from the infinite tortures of infinite fiends to the sudden realization of the republic, the vision of their dreams.

Some will go mad with joy and some will not for a long time believe they are alive and awake.

Saint of Democracy.

Marie Spirodonova, that saint of democracy, she is free! Never did she imagine she should see again the sunlight on the grass and hear the speech of men. Agents of the old Russian autocracy stripped her naked and with the butts of their cigars burned elaborate patterns into her flesh, before with their fists and their knees they beat her to a pulp and with their heels stamped into her face the cruel disfigurements she will carry to her grave. And she is free now and so is old "Mother Katherine," the dauntless soul that escaped once and went back deliberately to put her head into the beast's mouth rather than be safe and far from the fight.

She is free. A hundred thousand of them are free. There is no more Siberia, there are no more horrors, no more knout and lash, no more beatings and wrackings, no more lurking spies, no more chains for the limbs of liberty.

Great days, great days. The whole horrible nightmare of old Russia has passed, and nothing seems to make the wonderful, throbbing, incredible truth so real to us as that news about the 100,000 restored from the living grave.

Great days! They seem like some impossible good dream. What we had thought might come in the year 2200 or the year 2500 has come now. It is even so. The day when Russia came from her the blight of kings was one great day and the day when President Wilson formulated the faith of American democracy was another.

They will seem to the end of time the corners around which mankind marched when it turned its face forever from the whole bedevilment of monarchy, rank, caste, and special privilege and started on the march to complete an universal democracy.

Death of Privilege.

There were some things about that message that were even more important than its declaration that the United States was ready to enter the war. We haven't had time to think much about them yet because we have on our hands the immediate job of putting the Hohenzollerns out of business. But we shall come back to think more and more about that message and so will all the world.

Because for one thing it announced definitely and for all time extinction of one theory of government that has plagued and poisoned the race for thousands of years.

It announced the death of the idea that men because of their birth have any privilege to reign or govern or have power or influence. It knocked out forever the old idea of the tribal chief and the son of his father. It knocked out the old ridiculous fantasy about superior families, blue blood and the pride of descent.

It took all that survived of unknocked the stuffing out of it and kicked the stuffing out of it and threw it in the ash can of history.

It not only gave the final verdict of civilization on the king business but drew the noose and sprang the trap and buried the remains—in quicklime!

Statement of Real Issues.

The grandest thing about it we have not yet had a chance to dwell on. While it was the most eloquent moving, just and true statement of the real issue involved in this war and the real issue involved in this war and the real duty of all democracies to such a struggle, it had not a word in it that was not in the

RAG TIME IS CHARACTERISTIC MUSIC SAYS DAMROSCH



Walter Damrosch, who appears here at the Natatorium April 17, with his famous New York orchestra and Etam Zymbalist, when asked to account for the fact that there is no characteristically American music, while that of the other nationalities may be all identified readily, said: "There is. You have forgotten ragtime. It is peculiarly American. I suppose it is of darky origin, the darky songs are typical of America, but ragtime is the work of 'city composers'; it is distinctly the product of town life and the nature of it is such that it could never have developed from the soil, whatever its origin."

"But seriously, the reason we have no great characteristically American music, to my mind, is that we have as yet no great national sorrow. We are a country of prosperity, a nation of success, the land of promise and the realm of hope. That is why we have no folk songs with their exquisite beauty of racial character, born of racial trouble and suffering, such as you find in all parts of Europe. In even the dances of Russia, for instance, there is an undercurrent of sorrow."

CUBAN CONGRESS SENDS MESSAGE OF CONFRATERNITY

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Amid applause Speaker Clark laid before the house today a message from Miguel Coyula, speaker of the Cuban house of representatives regarding the Cuban declaration of war against Germany. It read:

"The house of representatives of the Republic of Cuba, in declaring that a state of war exists between this nation and the German empire, resolved, all members rising to their feet and amidst the greatest enthusiasm, to address a message of confraternity to that body announcing the pride felt by the people of Cuba in uniting their modest efforts to those of the great nation contending for the triumph of right and respect for the liberty of small nationalities.

"The house also resolved to express the special gratification of the Cuban people in uniting their flag side by side to that of the glorious nation, which in the days of unending memory, sacrificed the blood of her sons to help the people of Cuba to obtain their liberty and independence."

Thought of the people for whom it was speaking. It didn't lead anybody or seek to lead anybody; it was just a voice for 100,000,000 people, for that is our system and our style of democracy. And having been abroad when this war started and knowing how some of the nations were dragged into it, I declare this one fact to prove and establish that whatever may be the faults of our constitution this is the most democratic of all governments.

The president waited until he knew perfectly well he had the full authority of the nation. Then he let go with the very gospel of democratic faith to which we are pledged, and all the rest of the world sat up to listen.

It will never go back to the shadows of the old jungle, this world, having heard that call. We have shaken down every throne in Christendom and beyond. The federation of the world is no longer the poet's dream but on the way to be an accomplished fact. All the horrors of this war—how differently they look now that we see how they are consecrated to such an end! Not one drop of blood shed in vain nor will be, and not one sacrifice lost!

Because democracy wins now the four thousand years of battle. The federation of the world, no more kings, no more wars!

DETAILS OF SINKING AMERICAN UNARMED STEAMER SEWARD

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Details of the sinking of the American unarmed steamer Seward and exposure of her crew of thirty-one men including twenty-four Americans, in open boats, 25 miles from land in the Mediterranean was received at the state department today from Consul Hurst at Barcelona, Spain. His dispatch dated April 10 says:

"Unarmed steamer Seward of New York with machinery and miscellaneous cargo, New York to Genoa abandoned after encountering German submarine April 7, 11:45 a. m. some thirty-three miles northwest by north from Vendries, France. Entire party, thirty-one, including captain and seven officers, arrived Barcelona last night, April 9. At time of encounter submarine fired shell across bows, flying two unintelligible signal flags, about one minute later fired second shell over ship. Submarine then disappeared. All on board immediately took to two lifeboats.

About ten minutes after second shot and when three to four hundred yards from the Seward, submarine came to surface again and approached lifeboats, captain of Seward being ordered on board submarine. After being questioned as to destination of Seward and ship's papers, captain was ordered to make for shore about 25 miles distant, with his two lifeboats. Submarine's crew went on board abandoned ship. Seward's party does not know whether Seward was destroyed or not, although chief engineer states he heard faintly two explosions after lifeboats out of sight of Seward.

"Submarine flew German flag. No other ships in sight and fine smooth weather most of the time. Cutting wind came up and sea broke, making rowing dangerous before two lifeboats reached land at 9:30 and 10 p. m. respectively at Cibeiro and Banyuls on French coast. Of Seward's party twenty-four claim American citizenship, four Spanish, one Jamaican and one Venezuelan."

BIDS ASKED FOR CONSTRUCTION 34 LARGE SUBMARINES

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Specific bids for 34 seagoing submarines of the 800-ton type were received at the navy department today in response to advertisements asking for proposals on 38 such craft.

In addition to the formal bids the department proposes that the government itself construct submarines under license by the holder of the patents and rights used.

The Electric Boat company proposed to build 18 submarines in from 16 to 26 months and at a price of \$1,524,000 for each vessel constructed on the Atlantic coast and \$1,592,000 for each constructed on the Pacific coast. The limit of cost set by congress for the submarines apparently excludes these proposals, as it is \$1,300,000.

The company proposed as an alternative to construct the submarines on a cost plus fifteen per cent profit basis.

The California Shipbuilding company of Long Beach, Cal., and the Lake Torpedo Boat company of Bridgeport, Conn., proposed to build from four to eight submarines in from 24 to 32 months at prices ranging from \$1,288,000 to \$1,299,000, depending upon design. The cost plus percentage of profit plan also was proposed by the companies as an alternative and the Lake company offered to license the government to construct on its plans for \$100 per net ton submerged displacement.

SUGAR BEET LOADING STATION FOR MEDFORD

The Utah-Idaho Sugar company has decided upon the location of three of their loading stations in Jackson county. One of them will be in Medford, one at Talent and one at Seven Oaks. There will probably be others located in the county later, but just where the company has not decided. Each of these loading stations will be 36 feet in length, 12 feet wide and 17 feet high at the dumping platform. The platforms are so constructed as to enable a wagon loaded with beets to be dumped into cars without hand labor. Thirty thousand feet of lumber is required for the construction of each station.

BOARD TO DIRECT RAILROADS IN WAR

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Heads of the principal railroads in the United States, meeting here today at the call of the council of national defense, named a board of five men to direct the operation of American railroads throughout the war.

It was announced that the purpose of the board would be to give the government the best possible service, not only in transporting troops and military supplies, but in handling every necessary commodity.

Members of the board are: Fairfax Harrison of the Southern, chairman; Howard Elliott, of the New Haven; Samuel Rae of the Pennsylvania; Hale Holden, of the Burlington, and Julius Kruttschnitt of the Southern Pacific.

MURGIA VICTORY OVER VILLA A MYTH

LAREDO, Texas, April 12.—Passengers reaching the border say that in a recent engagement with Villa followers the constitutionalist forces under General Murguia lost a total of 1500 dead and wounded. They add that in the campaign around Chihuahua City the alleged routs inflicted on the Villa forces by the government troops are myths.

Though the Villa soldiers are said to have plenty of guns and ammunition it is reported that they are none to well supplied with food.

The passengers state that railroad traffic is badly interrupted by the transportation of trainloads of wounded to base hospitals.

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ASHLAND—Ashland Fruit and Produce Association.

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LARGER ACREAGE OF FOOD CROPS NEED OF HOUR

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The importance of increasing the acreage of food crops because of war conditions is being fully realized and acted upon in nearly all sections of the country. Section directors of the weather bureau in their reports on weather and crop conditions for the week ending yesterday, noted these facts. They say farm work was delayed by cold and wet weather over a large portion of the country and that vegetation is backward in most districts.

Better conditions for winter wheat were reported in the central and eastern parts of the principal wheat belt. Weather conditions generally were favorable as the crop continued to show improvement. From Nebraska southward the weather was very detrimental and the crop shows further deterioration. In Kansas wheat is very poor, further damage being reported in the west and central parts although some improvement was shown in the northeastern part. Many fields have been plowed up in Nebraska.

Cotton planting was still further delayed by bad weather except in Florida, Texas and southern Alabama.

RAIN SAVES GRAIN CROP OF KANSAS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 12.—Rains that soaked the wheat and grain belts of Oklahoma and Kansas yesterday saved thousands of acres that would have been ruined had the drought continued a few days more, according to the opinions expressed today by agricultural experts.

Frank M. Gault, president of the state board of agriculture of Oklahoma, declared last night that if the rain continued today the wheat crop in that state would be from 20,000,000 to 23,000,000 bushels in contrast to last year's crop of 27,000,000. The situation in Kansas was summed up by J. C. Mohler, the secretary of the state board of agriculture, with a statement that the general rain would save much of the grain and that it had been of untold value to the winter wheat.

Unofficial messages received told of rains early today in south central and southeastern Kansas and Oklahoma.

Preparations of fields for corn and the planting of the crop were delayed by rainy weather in central and eastern sections and by dry soil in some sections of the southwest.

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