

WHY THE U.S. ENTERED THE WAR.

To Vindicate American Rights and Not to Democratize the World--Pre-war Speeches by President.

In a speech delivered in the senate on January 21st, Senator Thomas Hardwick, of Georgia, contributed the following to the discussion of why the United States entered the war:

Mr. President, why did we enter this war? I call the attention of the members of this body to the fact that on August 19, 1914, soon after the European war had begun, the President of the United States proclaimed the strict and impartial neutrality of this country in a most remarkable state document. I cannot at this moment lay my hands on the exact words of the proclamation, but its substance was that this country had nothing whatever to do with the struggle then beginning in Europe, that its causes were foreign to our interests and to our people, and the American people, drawn from many sources, were advised to keep strictly neutral in the matter and to avoid taking sides even in a conversational way in any passionate manner.

Again, in his second annual message to the Congress of the United States delivered December 8, 1914, five months after the war had begun the President gave expression to a similar statement. He said:

"We are at peace with all the world. No one who speaks counsel based on fact or drawn from a just and candid interpretation of realities can say that there is any reason to fear that from any quarter our independence or the integrity of our territory is threatened. Dread of the power of any other nation we are incapable of. We are not jealous of rivalry in the fields of commerce or of any other peaceful achievement. We mean to live our own lives as we will; but we mean also to let live. We are, indeed, a true friend to all the nations of the world, because we threaten none, covet the possessions of none, desire the overthrow of none. Our friendship can be accepted and is accepted without reservation because it is offered in a spirit and for a purpose which no one need ever question or support. Therein lies our greatness. We are champions of peace and of concord. And we should be very jealous of this distinction which we have sought to earn. Just now we should be particularly jealous of it, because it is our dearest present hope that this character and reputation may presently, in God's providence, bring us an opportunity such as has seldom been vouchsafed any nation, the opportunity to counsel and obtain peace in the world and reconciliation and a healing settlement of many a matter that has cooled and interrupted the friendship of nations. This is the time above all others when we should wish and resolve to keep our strength by self-possession, our influence by preserving our ancient principles of action."

"After discussing the military policy, the proposition for a general enforced service, the president said: "More than this the volunteer system carries with it a reversal of the whole history and character of our policy. More than this, proposed at this time, permit me to say, would mean merely that we had lost our self-possession, that we had been thrown off our balance by a war with which we have nothing to do, whose cases cannot touch us, whose very existence affords us opportunities of friendship and disinterested service which should make us ashamed of any thought of hostility or fearful preparation for trouble."

Again in a speech delivered at Des Moines, Iowa, on February 1, 1916, President Wilson used this language: "On the one hand there is a considerable body of men who are trying to stir the very sort of excitement in this country upon which every true, well-balanced American ought to frown. There are actually men in America who are preaching war, who are preaching the duty of the United States to do what it never would before, seek entanglement in the controversies which have arisen on the other side of the water—to abandon its habitual and traditional policy and deliberately engage in the conflict which is now engulfing the rest of the world."

"Every nation now engaged in the titanic struggle on the other side of the water believes, with an intensity of conviction that cannot be exaggerated, that it is fighting for its rights, and in most instances that it is fighting for its life; and we must not be too critical of the men who lead those nations."

Such, Mr. President, truly and accurately voted by the President of the United States, was the real policy of this country defined to be neutrality in accordance with its settled principles and in accordance with its unbroken practices in matters of this sort, and such, Mr. President, remained the policy of this country until dishonor of the American flag and a destruction of life of American citizens forced its abandonment. Let me proceed now to prove that proposition.

This time came when Germany's announced intention to resume an unrestricted submarine warfare; forced, and properly forced, let me say, in my opinion, a severance of our diplomatic relations with that country. In announcing that fact to Congress, Mr. Wilson said on February 3, 1917, addressing both houses of Congress, referring to the men who were administering the German government:

"I cannot bring myself to believe that they will, indeed, pay no regard to the ancient friendship between their people and our own, or to the solemn obligations which have exchanged between them and destroyed American ships and take the lives of American citizens in the wilful prosecution of the ruthless naval program they have announced their intention to adopt. Only actual overt acts on their part can make me believe it even now."

Again, when it proved unfortunately true that the Germans had committed the overt acts in question, had sunk three peaceful and peaceable American ships, two of which were not even within the war zone declared by the German government, and all three of which were returning to this country empty and in ballast, President Wilson again addressed the American Congress, urging a declaration of war. I read now from what he then said:

"Just because we fight without honor and without selfish object, seeking nothing for ourselves but what we shall wish to share with all free peoples—

That is, the freedom of the seas and the rights of neutral peoples—

"We shall, I feel confident, conduct our operations as belligerents without passion and ourselves observe with proud punctilio and principles of right and of fair play we profess to be fighting for.

"I have said nothing of the governments allied with the Imperial Government of Germany, because they have not made war upon us or challenged us to defend our right and our honor. The Austro-Hungarian government has, indeed, avowed its unqualified indorsement and acceptance of the reckless and lawless submarine warfare adopted now without disguise by the Imperial German Government, and it has therefore not been possible for this government to receive Count Tarnowski, the ambassador recently accredited to this government by the Imperial and Royal Government of Austria-Hungary; but that government has not actually engaged in warfare against citizens of the United States on the seas, and I take the liberty, for the present at least, of postponing a discussion of our relations with the authorities at Vienna. We enter this war—

Mark it Senators—only where we are clearly forced into it, because there are no other means of defending our rights."

Mr. President, in spite of recent occurrences, it still remains written in the organic law of the republic, the old and much abused Constitution that the power to declare war rests in the Congress of the United States and in it alone. Therefore, it becomes a matter of some importance to all men who profess to believe in any of the ancient principles what purpose the Congress had in view, what the object with which Congress went to war was.

I want to call attention to the fact that the joint resolution of April 6, 1917, by which this Congress declared war on Germany is couched in the following language:

"Whereas the Imperial German Government has committed repeated acts of war against the government and the people of the United States of America: Therefore be it

Resolved, etc., That the state of war between the United States and the Imperial German Government which has thus been thrust upon the United States is hereby formally declared, and that the President be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on war against the Imperial German Government, and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the Congress of the United States."

Senators, when the prejudices and passions of this hour shall have passed away and when impartial history is written, no candid or thoughtful man who has the slightest regard for the truth will ever again insist that this country entered this war to democratize the world or to make the world safe for democracy; that it entered this war for any reason on earth except that the German navy, acting under orders of the German government, fired upon the American flag and murdered American citizens upon the high seas.

That was reason enough, and, for my part, I voted for that war unhesitatingly, just as I should have voted

with no greater hesitation for war against England, or France, or Brazil or Mexico, or any other power on the face of the earth, in Europe, Asia or Africa, which, on the high seas had fired on the American flag and murdered American citizens. Now, the senate, or those senators

who have kindly followed me so far in my argument, will, I think, be forced to concede in their own minds at least, no matter what their vote may represent, that we did not enter this war for any other purpose except to vindicate American honor and to establish American rights.

No Friendship with Huns.

Weeks ago there was disquieting reports of fraternization between American troops and German civilians in the occupied zone along the Rhine. That was at the Christmas season, however, and it was hoped that such improprieties would be ephemeral. But now we are told that the mischievous thing is going on and is increasing with the result that a certain degree of coolness if not of antipathy and mutual distrust is being engendered between the American and French troops. That, if true, is simply monstrous, though, of course, it is precisely what the Hunnish propagandists have been working to accomplish.

We cannot imagine the American soldiers would deliberately fraternize with the ravishers of women and the murders of infants. Yet that is what they are doing when they enter into social relations with the civilian population of Coblenz and other German territory. Those civilians did not do the devil's deed in France and Belgium, but their sons and brothers did, and they themselves not only condoned but approved and exulted in the infamy. The average German hausfrau chuckled when she learned that her husband had bayoneted Belgian babies in their cradles, and gayly decked herself with the trinkets which he stripped from the bodies of

women whom he murdered. The Prussian maiden welcomed back to her arms the more eagerly the lover who could boast of having ravished a dozen maids of France and murdered.

It is to be wished that these facts could be kept constantly in the minds of all our soldiers in the army or occupation to guide them in their conduct toward the whelps of the Blond Beast. We could wish that every one of them were required to commit to memory the words of William Hohenzollern, then King of Prussia and German Emperor, in the early days of the war. These were:

"Everything must be put to fire and blood. The throats of men and women, children and the aged, must be cut, and not a tree or a house left standing."

Quo Warranto?

By what warrant, for instance, did President Wilson inform the city government of Paris, at Hotel de Ville on Monday, that he had this nation into war on account of sympathy for France and Belgium in their sufferings, and indignation at the hideous practices of the Teuton invaders? His exact language in explaining the entry of the United States into this war was this:

"I beg that you will not suppose that because a wide ocean separated us in peace we were not in effect eye witnesses of the shameful ruin that was wrought and the cruel and unnecessary sufferings that were brought upon you. These sufferings have filled our hearts with indignation. We know not only what they were, but we know what they signified, and our hearts were touched to the quick by them, our imaginations filled with the whole picture of what France and Belgium in particular had experienced."

"When the United States entered the war, therefore, they entered it not only because they were moved by a conviction that the purposes of the Central Empires were wrong and must be resisted by men everywhere who loved liberty and the right, but also because the illicit ambitions which they were entertaining and attempting to realize had led to the practices which shocked our hearts as much as they offended our principles."

"Our resolution was formed because we knew how profoundly great principles of right were affected, but our hearts moved also with our resolution."

That intense sympathy was felt by most Americans for the sufferings of the Belgians and the French, that our people were profoundly indignant at the nation which inflicted these cruel and unnecessary sufferings is without qualification true as gospel. America knows this, and France knows it, too. But that President Wilson was moved by this national sympathy and indignation to recommend to Congress a declaration of war against the invader of Belgium and the devastator of France does not appear from the record of his utterances. For after the neutrality had amazed the world and shocked the moral sense of civilization and brought Great Britain to the side of France, President Wilson was exhorting his fellow countrymen to be neutral in thought as well as in act. He said on August 18, 1914:

"The United States must be neutral in fact as well as in name during these days that are to try men's

souls. We must be impartial in thought as well as in action, must put a curb upon our sentiments as well as upon every transaction that might be construed as a preference of one party to the struggle before another."

And on September 16, 1914, after the Hun policy of frightfulness had developed in its full atrocity, after the destruction of Louvain, the murders and mutilations and rapes and burning of cities in Belgium and in northern France had marked the German government with the brand indelible, President Wilson judicially remarked to a Belgian delegation which visited him at the White House to move his sympathy and stir his indignation:

"It would be unwise, it would be premature for a single government, however, fortunately separated from the present struggle, it would be inconsistent with the neutral position of any nation which like this has no part in the contest, to form or express a final judgment."

This attitude of President Wilson was not a matter of days or weeks or months merely. It endured for years. It persisted throughout the entire period of the accumulation of the horrors which proved that the German government and Prussian militarism were the enemies and assailants of all mankind. It was not before but after the assassination of the Lusitania that he demonstrated his superiority to ordinary emotions and passions by telling the American who were urging him to action:

"The example of America must be a special example. The example of America must be the example not merely of peace because it will not fight, but of peace because peace is the healing and elevating influence of the world and strife is not. There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight. There is such a thing as a nation being so right that it does not need to convince others that it is right."

More than two years after the outrage on Belgium, more than two years after the beginning of the devastation of France, half a year after the sinking of the Lusitania, Mr. Wilson was claiming re-election on the ground that "he kept us out of war". And it was not until April 2, 1917, that, impelled by force of public sentiment in this country which he could no longer dissipate with phrase or master by the domination of personal will, he went to Congress to ask a declaration of war against the criminal German government—New York Sun.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION

Notice is hereby given that the County School Superintendent of Tillamook County, Oregon, will hold the regular examination of applicants for 1 year state certificates at the court house as follows:

Commencing Wednesday, Feb. 26, 1919, at 9 o'clock a.m. and continuing until Friday Feb. 28, 1919, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Wednesday forenoon—U. S. History, Writing (penmanship), Music Drawing.

Wednesday afternoon—Physiology, Reading, Manual Training, Composition, Domestic Science, Methods in Reading, Course of study for Drawing, Methods in Arithmetic.

Thursday forenoon—Arithmetic, History of Education, Physiology, Methods in Geography, Mechanical Drawing, Domestic Art, Course of study for Domestic Art.

What the Editors Say

Secretary of State Robert Lansing is acting gas chairman of the committee at the peace conference which has to do with deciding who caused the war; or, started the war. The committee's work of hunting out skeletons of the past will be rather gruesome.—Williamina Times.

Booze dispensers, the illegal variety, and by the way, this is the only kind now operating, have found a new method of conveying their stock. The last wrinkle was the shipment of a large consignment of wet goods to Portland in a casket, and to make the charge more secure, four "mourners" accompanied the "body." Unfortunately the stopper in one of the bottles got dislodged with the result that a very peculiar smell emanated from the "casket." It was sometime before Portland sleuths could determine the difference between the odor of bootleg whiskey and what was supposed to be in the casket, but they finally solved the problem and took charge of the consignment. The four "mourners" escaped.—Umpqua Valley News.

If the legislature succeeds in referring capital punishment again to the people we must expect a revival of the sentimental twaddle which succeeded in wiping the punishment off the statutes books when it was brought up before. Hard, common sense is necessary in considering a matter of this kind, the facts and not sentimental theory should prevail. No right-thinking person likes the idea of taking human life, either legally or otherwise, but neither states nor individuals can shirk plain duty because it is distasteful. The death penalty should only be imposed in extreme cases, not as a punishment, but as the only solution of a problem. There are men so constituted that reform is plainly impossible. They are cold-blooded, calculating brutes who prey remorselessly and do not hesitate to take human life if it stands in the way of their purpose. Society should not be burdened with the care of keeping them safely, with the danger always present of escape and repetition of their crimes. We dispose of a vicious animal for our own protection, and the menace of the incurably vicious human being is far greater. But notwithstanding all this there will be opposition, and it will prevail. However, the opponents, instead of spinning theories, might get down to recent facts and see if they can reconcile them. Take two cases: Laird habitual criminal, who planned kidnapping and murder, and who coolly shot down the officer who attempted his arrest after he had committed a robbery; then Bennett Thompson, convicted at Hillsboro of killing the man who drove him to the scene of a premeditated crime and then killing a woman in her bed as she slept. They are also reminded that the latter escaped from the penitentiary and was only recaptured at great danger and expense. Laird may do the same. Why should the state be burdened with these fiends, with the danger of escape and repetition? Both have shown that they are not fit to live but mistaken humanity prevent following the only logical course.—Independent.

The Highway Situation.
Highway construction was held up all over the country while the war was on. With more trucking and motoring than ever before, and with repair work scarcely kept up, the roads in most places have deteriorated. There is growing dissatisfaction with the old policy of piecemeal road construction. Pennsylvania has voted for a bond issue of \$50,000,000 for highways, and Illinois for one of \$60,000,000. There is a new movement in Minnesota to raise \$100,000,000 and the legislature of Oregon now in session is expected to pass a bond measure of \$10,000,000 for this purpose. These sums are enormous and they alarm many conservative taxpayers. But at the old rate of road building the present generation will be dead before a comprehensive system is built.

There are now a good many handsome main line boulevards on which speeding motorists can get smashed up to their heart's content, but the hard roads do not touch the mass of farm property. You cannot produce food economically on a farm the outlet of which is a soft road. Either the farmer realizes a low figure, or the consumer pays high. But when trucks and teams make a quick trip the farm can be run with less labor. The trucking charges for getting food to the markets will continue a high tax until a nation-wide movement has made the bulk of the farms more accessible to the railroads. The question whether road building on a big scale will pay is one to be decided only after expert investigation. The cost is great and should be undertaken only when a substantial gain can be figured over a term of years. Authorities on rural development usually think it pays. Even a cautious business man would probably spend 5 to 10 per cent of his capital to bring an antiquated plant up to date. So it does not seem wholly reckless when a state puts up two or three per cent of its wealth to modernize its highways.—Itemiser.

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