

MR. TAFT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Taft embraced the occasion of a Washington's birthday speech—and what could have been more favorable?—to warn the country in a serious way that the clouds upon the international horizon, shifting and uncertain, are certainly dark and more or less threatening.

The ex-President tells the country that this is not a time for partisanship. Mr. Mann, the Republican leader in the House of Representatives, has previously said much the same thing. All appear to be about agreed that the ship purchase project is dead. Congress is hurrying through with the appropriations and preparing to take its exit into history. With that body off their hands, the administration forces will have much more time to attend to the international situation. And they will not have more than they need. Doubtless a realization of this fact is responsible for the abandonment by the President of his expressed determination to call the new congress into session at once. Moreover—congress cannot declare war when it is not in session.

Never before, in our times, has the ship of state found herself in such dangerous waters. The perils that beset her course are of both the seen and the unseen. Accident might plunge us into the maelstrom of war. That we may surely escape there will be needed the exercise of the utmost wisdom, the utmost of tact, the utmost skill of statesmanship. And yet what is demanded of the administration is that it shall bring us safely through. Such a time might well be expected to witness a subsidence of partisanship, the full unity, the utmost restraint, the complete sympathy of all of us, so dependent for our well being upon the avoidance of the dangers to which the whole world is now exposed, and which so great a part of it has not been able to avoid.

Such, however, will not be the case we surmise, judging from history. To go no farther back than Lincoln, the season of gravest responsibility for a president of the United States has been the season of his greatest calamity. It was a matter of course that to our people in the South, being at war with his government, Mr. Lincoln, no matter what we may think of him now, was then hardly less of a monster than the devil. But there was intense hatred, active enmity, toward him amongst his own people. Some of the ablest men of the North, whom the President found it necessary, because of their ability, to have in his closest counsels, considered him a fool, and were at no pains to conceal the thought. The North made war in an unscientific manner, there were gross administrative blunders, and all that; but these things by no means measured the extent of the abuse and the hatred of Lincoln. We suppose the heart of "the great common people," of which he thought so much, was mainly warm to Lincoln, and that base, sordid motives underlay much of the contumely which was him poured upon; nevertheless this lack of unity and sympathy became the more evident as conditions became more critical.

The President, historian by trade, will probably depend upon other sources of strength in these perilous times than the thought of a people absolutely united, an entire subsidence of partisan bitterness. We have heard the opinion advanced that Mr. Taft had probably been asked to say some of the things he said. The idea is that those who know most of the situation wished the country to be advised as to its seriousness, and thought it would be best for the ex-President, of the opposition party, to make the announcement. It is safe to assume at least that Washington indorses what was said at Morristown. And the people of the United States are perhaps today in a more serious frame of mind about the whole situation than they have been at any time since the war began.—Greensboro News.

We cannot afford to risk what little we have in the way of a merchant marine by daring Germany.

Of course an extra session of congress would cost considerable, still the government will spend all it can get its hands on anyway.

SAVE THE DAILY ROUTE.

The Albemarle Enterprise, whose editor is a postmaster, states the ruling of the Postoffice Department as to the maintenance of rural routes to be in effect that "a route 24 miles in length, serving its patrons daily, must average 75 pieces of mail a mile each month, or a total of 1,800. A route being served three times a week must average 50 pieces a mile each month. In either event, the average must be maintained over a period of six months." And then he suggests an easy and wholesome way in which the people along the daily route may prevent it from lapsing into a thrice-a-week service. "Every route in the county," says Editor Bivins, "should have a large list of readers of both daily and weekly papers." A good slogan: "Subscribe for the paper and save the Route!" In that way the people will reap a double benefit. There is no reason why any daily rural route in the State should be reduced to a tri-weekly.—Charlotte Observer.

AN UNLOVED NATION.

Some critics seem to think that when the war is over the United States will be the most unloved nation in the world—that the present warring nation will think more of one another than they will of us.

This criticism is made because of the apparent failure of the United States to impress upon any country a belief in our neutrality. The Germans are sure we favor England; England is sure we favor Germany; Russia views us with suspicion and France thinks we are lacking in gratitude. Only poor little Belgium is really grateful for what we have done.

Germany, if defeated, will blame the United States for supporting England with our wheat and other products; England, if defeated, will blame us for hampering their program on the sea. So, in any event, we are in for criticism.

But, after all, envy may have something to do with it. The United States, alone of the great nations, has had sense enough, so far to keep out of the fight. In the universal wreck we have kept our heads and gone forward much in our usual way.

The war, if long continued, will make us the leading nation of the world financially as in every other civilized way. And if the other nation don't like us—well, their enmity won't hurt us much, for they can't get along without us.—Durham Sun.

WAY IT LOOKED TO HIM.

Plubdub—Isn't there some fable about the ass disguising himself in a lion's skin?
Cynicus—Yes, but now the colleges do the trick with a sheepskin.

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Middle—"The sea is very treacherous today."
Biddie—"Yes; full of craft, isn't it?"—Harvard Lampoon.

SAM JONES FLAYS A RASCAL.

With a stingy man trying to shirk his simple duty the late Sam Jones, had no sort of patience, as the following striking little story shows. A man once said to Sam Jones: The church is getting my assessment too high." Jones asked: "How much did you pay?" "Five dollars a year," was the reply. "Well," said Jones, "how long have you been converted?" "About four years," was the answer. "Well, what did you do before you were converted?" "I was a drunkard." "How much did you spend for drink?" "About \$250 a year." "How much were you worth?" "I rented land and plowed a steer." "What have you got now?" "I have a good plantation and a pair of horses." "Well," said Sam Jones, "you paid the devil \$250 a year for the privilege of plowing a steer on rented land, and now you don't want to give to Lord, who saved you \$5 a year for the privilege of plowing horses on your plantation! You are a rascal from the crown of your head to the sole of your feet."—Biblican Recorder.

The lanky youth who occupied a seat in a passenger coach persisted in sticking his head and shoulders out of the window. The brakeman was passing through the coach and he touched the youth on the back. "Better keep your head inside the window," advised the brakeman. "I kin look out the window if I want to," answered the youth. "I know you can," warned the brakeman. "But if you damage any of the ironwork on the bridges you'll pay for it."

Those people who were wanting prohibition that would not be a farce should immediately rally to the support of the anti-saloon league.

The rumors in circulation touching the private life of Judge Frank Carter are not new. The allegations were credited and circulated by responsible persons more than a year ago. We incline to believe there is nothing in these stories, because Judge Carter has since stirred old animosities to the depth, in his home town, and created new animosities; and his enemies took their medicine. Not a word was said about these allegations, and surely the men he was after would have left nothing undone to "get something on him."—Greensboro News.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN VERSE.

Thou shalt have no Gods but me, Before no idol bow thy knee, Take not the name of God in vain, Dare not the sabbath day profane, Give both thy parents honor due, Take heed that thou no murder do, Abstain from words and deeds unclean, Steal not though thou be poor and mean, Make not a wilful lie nor love it, What is thy neighbor's do not covet.

SUN STROKES.

William Howard Taft seems to be of the unanimous opinion that he can "come back."

After the war is over poverty is going to be respectable in a lot of European countries.

Some people never talk unless they have something to say, but we must fill up this column every day.

Mr. Wilson would hardly care to suggest that the situation in Europe was "merely psychological."

First a woman gets a new spring hat on her mind—then she gets it on her head and her husband gets it on his mind.

The fact that the moon will not be full this month need not be taken as an indication of a permanent reform in this direction.

"Ma'am, I'm a member of the great army of the unemployed."

"Well, by the looks of you, I should say you were a veteran."—Philadelphia Ledger.

TAFT STANDS BY WILSON; GUARD NATIONAL HONOR.

Morristown, N. J., Feb. 23.—The United States is threatened with a serious invasion of its rights as a neutral power by the warring nations of Europe and in preserving its commerce with those nations is face to face with a crisis, in the opinion of former President W. H. Taft. In the solution of that crisis, should it arise, no jingo spirit must be allowed to prevail, Mr. Taft advised; neither pride nor momentary passion should influence judgment.

"And when the President shall act," Mr. Taft declared, "We must stand by him to the end. In this determination we may be sure that all will join, no matter what their previous views, no matter what their European origin. All will forget their differences in self-sacrificing loyalty to our common flag and our common country."

Mr. Taft's reference to the situation confronting the United States was made at the conclusion of an address yesterday before the Washington association of New Jersey. Concerning a reservation in the treaty of Algiers proclaimed in 1907, and entered into by the United States and 11 European nations, including most of these at war now, Mr. Taft said:

WORLD'S PRICE GOVERNS THE WHEAT.

President of the Chicago Board of Trade is Strong for Trade—Wheat Crop Good.

New York, Feb. 22.—C. H. Candy, president of the Chicago Board of Trade, who will testify tomorrow in the New York state investigation into the rise in the price of bread, declared that the law of supply and demand and not the furore of the Chicago wheat pit was the cause of the increase in wheat.

"Europe wants our wheat," Mr. Candy declared, "and the world's price governs the American price. Every country in the world is trying to purchase wheat here. It is a matter of the bidding between the American consumer and the foreign buyer."

"I think the New York problems are on the wrong track. No group of men have sufficient power to boost artificially the price of wheat. A conspiracy to restrain trade in wheat and flour is well nigh impossible."

"I am unalterably against a Federal embargo on wheat exportation. Not only would that be a great blow to our commerce but it would be tampering with our economic fabric."

"Speculation has been but a drop in the bucket in comparison with the real cause of the increase in wheat prices—the war."

"There is no shortage in our supply. We still have 75,000,000 bushels for export. The new crop will be in circulation in fifteen weeks."

"For the first time in years the farmer is getting a fair price. Formerly he had to compete with cheap labor in Austria, Argentina and other wheat raising countries. Begin to investigate him and try to shave him and he is going to cut down his crop and the price is going to soar to the heavens."

UNCLE JOE CANNON AT A LUNCHEON IN DANVILLE SAID IN RATHER PESSIMISTIC MOOD.

"It is easy enough to read a man's future. You read it by the past." Uncle Joe selected a long and black cigar. "In other words," he said gravely, "you'll always find that this year's resolution breaks in about the same place that last year's did."—Washington Star.

"Daddy, here's the paper says that wheat is nervous."
"Well, so it is, my son."
"Maybe, daddy, it wouldn't be nervous if they didn't thrash it."—Baltimore American.

A judge somewhere says "a wife is entitled to a regular salary for cooking, washing and doing housework." Then there's no economy in getting married.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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FRONT STREET M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

Rev. D. H. Tuttle, Pastor. Peace to those who enter. Blessings to those who go.

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Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with offering for Church charities, First Sunday in each month.

Sunday School, every Sunday, 9:30 A. M.

Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 8:00 P. M.

Board of Stewards meet on Monday 8:00 P. M., after Fourth Sunday in each month.

Woman's Missionary Society meets 4:00 P. M., on Monday, after 1st and 3rd Sundays.

WEBB AVENUE M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

Rev. E. C. Durham, Pastor. Preaching every first Sunday at 11:00 A. M., and 7:30 P. M. Second Sunday at 7:30 P. M.

Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00 A. M. A. M. H. F. Moore, Superintendent. Everybody Welcome.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Rev. Donald McIver, Pastor. Services every Sunday at 11:00 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.

Sunday School at 9:45 A. M. B. R. Sellars, Superintendent. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

The Public is cordially invited to all services.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Rev. M. W. Buck, Pastor. Sunday Worship, 11:00 A. M., and 7:30 P. M.

Sunday School at 9:30 A. M. J. L. Scott, Superintendent. Praise and Prayer Services, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

Christian Culture Class, Saturday at 3:00 P. M. Church Conference, Wednesday before First Sunday of each month, 7:30 P. M.

Observance of Lord's Supper, First Sunday in each month. Woman's Union, First Monday of each Month, 3:30 P. M.

THE METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

East Davis Street. Rev. George L. Curry, Pastor. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

Ladies' Aid and Missionary Societies every Monday afternoon after First Sunday in each month.

Christian Endeavor Society meets at 6:30 Every Sunday Evening. Sunday School, 9:30 A. M. J. G. Rogers, Superintendent.

Good Baraca and Philathea Classes. You are invited to attend all these services.

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Morning Service 11:00 A. M. Vespers 7:30 P. M. Services every Sunday except the morning of Third Sunday.

Sunday School, 9:45 A. M. Prof. J. B. Robertson, Supt. Teachers' Meeting Wednesday 7:30 P. M. (Pastor's Study).

Woman's Missionary Society, First Thursday, Monthly, 3:30 P. M. L. C. B. Society, Second Thursday, Monthly, 7:30 P. M. Young People's Meeting, Second Sunday at 8 P. M.

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