

AN IGNOBLE PART SAYS ROOSEVELT.

The Colonel By No Means Satisfied With the Administration.—Condemns Germany.

Thinks the United States Should Pitch in and Give the Teutons the Licking of Their Lives.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Aug. 25.—"Don't applaud unless you feel a burning sense of shame because the United States has not stood up for Belgium."

Theodore Roosevelt, former President of the United States, snapped these words tonight at a crowd at the military instruction camp during a speech in which he censured the Administration for its attitude in the European situation and strongly urged preparedness for war. As he paused after uttering the sentence, his audience consisting of about 1,200 members of the camp and more than 2,000 other persons burst into wild and prolonged applause.

"The surest way for a Nation to invite disaster is to be rich, aggressive and unarmed," the former President said at another time in speaking of preparedness.

In another statement made at the railway station shortly before leaving for New York Colonel Roosevelt defended his criticism of the Administration's course in the present situation.

"I wish to make one comment on the statement so frequently made that we must stand behind the President," he said. "I heartily subscribe to this on condition, and only on condition, that it is followed by the statement so long as the President stands by the country."

Shortly before leaving here for New York tonight Colonel Roosevelt made the following statement:

"I wish to make one comment on the statement so frequently made that we must stand by the President. I heartily subscribe to this on condition, and only on condition, that it is followed by the statement so long as the President stands by the country."

"It is defensible to state that we stand by the country, right or wrong. It is indefensible for any free man in a free Republic to state that he will stand by any official right or wrong, or by any ex-official. Even as regards the country, while I believe that once war is on, every citizen should stand by the land, yet, in any crisis which may or may not lead to war, the prime duty of the citizen is by custom and advice been, even against what he may know to be the majority opinion of his fellow citizens, to insist that the Nation take the right course of action.

"There is even a stronger reason for demanding of every loyal citizen that after the President has been given ample time to act rightly and has either not acted at all or has acted wrongly, that he shall be made to feel that the citizens whom he was elected to serve, demand that he be loyal to the honor and to the interests of the land.

"The President has the right to have said of him nothing but what is true, he should have sufficient time to make his policy clear. But as regards supporting him in all public policy, and above all in international policy, the right of any President is only to demand public support because he does well, because he serves the public well and not merely because he is President.

"Presidents differ just like other folks. No man could effectively stand by President Lincoln unless he stood against President Buchanan. If after the firing on Sumter, President Lincoln had in a public speech said that the believers in the Union were too proud to fight, and if instead of acting there had been three months of admirable elocutionary correspondence with Jefferson Davis, by mid-summer the friends of the Union would have followed Horace Greeley's advice to let erring sisters go in peace, for peace at that day was put above righteousness by some mistake of souls, just as it is at the present day.

"The men who believe in peace at any price or in substituting all-inclusive treaties for an army and navy should instantly leave the country. If he stays here, they more than make up for him. Let him get out of the country as quickly as possible. To treat elocution as a substitute for action, to rely upon high-sounding words unless backed by deeds is proof of a mind that dwells only in the realm of shadow and shame."

Plattsburg, N. Y., Aug. 25.—Theodore Roosevelt in an address tonight at the military instruction camp here, declared that for 13 months the United States had "played an ignoble part among the Nations," in that it had "tamely submitted to seeing the weak, whom we had covenanted to protect, wronged" and "had seen our own men, women and children murdered on the high seas without action on our part."

The former President condemned the Government for having "not taken the smallest step in the way of preparedness to defend our own rights." Germany, he condemned as "utterly brutal and ruthless in its disregard of international morality" and declared that it "would be a base abandonment of morality" for American manufacturers of munitions of war to refuse to make shipments "for the use of the armies that are striving to restore Belgium to its own people."

Munition makers who refused to make such shipments should be put, he said, on a "roll of dishonor." He added that they should be encouraged so that we may be able to hold our own when the hour of peril comes to us in our turn."

His speech follows in part:

"Free citizens should be allowed to do their own fighting. The professional pacifist is as much out of place as in a democracy as is the poltroon himself and he is no better citizen than the poltroon. Probably no body of citizens in the United States during the last five years, have wrought so efficiently for National decadence and international degradation, as the professional pacifists, the peace-at-any-price men, who have tried to teach our people that silly all-inclusive arbitration treaties and the utterance of fatuous platitudes at peace congresses are substitutes for adequate military preparedness.

"Under the conditions of modern warfare it is the wildest nonsense to talk of men springing to arms in mass unless they have been taught how to act in mass and how to use the arms to which they spring. For 13 months America has played an ignoble part among the Nations. We have tamely submitted to seeing the weak, whom we had covenanted to protect, wronged. We have seen our own men, women and children murdered on the high seas without action on our part. Yet these 13 months have made evident the lamentable fact that force is more dominant now in the affairs of the world than ever before; that the most powerful of modern military Nations is utterly brutal and ruthless in its disregard of international morality, and that righteousness divorced from force is utterly futile.

"The Government has not paid a dollar for your direct expenses. Inasmuch as we as a Nation have done nothing whatever for National defense during the past 13 months, the time when during all our history it was most necessary to prepare for self-defense, it is well that private individuals should have tried, however insufficiently, to provide some kind of substitute for proper governmental action. The army officers and enlisted men have put all good Americans under a fresh debt by what they have done in connection with this camp; and we owe much to the private citizens who have advanced the money without which the camp could not have been held. But you men have had to buy your own uniforms; you have had to spend money in 50 different ways; in other words, you have had to pay for the privilege of learning how to serve your country.

"This means that for every one man like yourselves who can afford to come here there are a hundred equally good American citizens, equally patriotic, who would like to come and are un-

able to. It is undemocratic that the young farmer, that the young hired man on a farm, that the hardworking clerk or mechanic or day-laborer, all of whom wish to serve the country as much as you do and are as much entitled to the benefit of this camp as you are, should be unable to attend such a camp. They cannot attend it unless the Nation does as Switzerland has done and gives the opportunity for every generous and right-thinking American to learn by say six months actual service in one or two years how to do his duty to the country if the need arises—and the Americans who are not right-thinking should be made to serve anyhow for a democracy has full right to the service of its citizens.


"Camps like this are schools of civic virtue as well as of military efficiency. They should be universal and obligatory for all our young men. Every man worth his salt will wish to come to them. As for the professional pacifists and the poltroons and college issres who organize peace-at-any-price societies, and the mere money-getters and mere money-spenders, they should be made to understand that they have got to render whatever service the country demands. They must be made to submit to training in doing their duty. Then if in the event of war, they prove unfit to fight, at any rate they can be made to dig trenches and kitchen sinks, or do whatever else a debauch of indulgence in professional pacifism has left them fit to do."

"Camps like this are the best possible antidotes to hyphenated Americanism. * * * The events of the past year have shown us that in any crisis the hyphenated American is an active force against America, an active force for wrongdoing. The effort to hoist two flags on the same flagpole always means that one flag is hoisted underneath; and the hyphenated American invariably hoists the flag of the United States underneath. We must all be Americans and nothing else. * * *

"There exists no finer body of American citizens in this country than those citizens of German birth or descent who are in good faith Americans and nothing else. * * * The professional German-American has shown himself, within the last 12 months to be an enemy to this country as well as to humanity. The recent exposures of the way in which these German-Americans have worked together with the emissaries of the German Government—often by direct corruption—against the integrity of American institutions and against America doing its international duty, should arouse scornful indignation in every American worth calling such. The leaders among the professional German-Americans have preached and practiced what comes perilously near to treason against the United States.

"Under the Hague Convention it was our bounden duty to take whatever action was necessary to prevent and if not to prevent, then to undo, the hideous wrong that was done to Belgium. We have shirked this duty. We have shown a spirit so abject, that Germany has deemed it safe to kill our women and children on the high seas. As for the export of munitions of war, it would be a base abandonment of morality to refuse to make these shipments. Such a refusal is proposed only to favor the Nation that sank the Lusitania and the Arabic and committed the crime against Belgium, the greatest international crime committed since the close of the Napoleonic contests a century ago. It is not a lofty thing, on the contrary it is an evil thing, to practice a timid and selfish neutrality between right and wrong. It is wrong for an individual. It is still more wrong for a Nation. But it is worse in the name of neutrality, to favor the Nation that has done evil. * * * Exactly the same morality should obtain internationally that obtains nationally. It is right for a private firm to furnish arms to the policeman who puts down the thug, the burglar, the white-slaver and the blackhand. It is wrong to furnish the blackhand, the burglar and the white-slaver with weapons to be used against the policeman. The analogy holds true in international life. Germany has herself been the greatest manufacturer of munitions

of war to be applied to belligerents. * * * Let us furnish munitions to the men who, showing courage we have not shown, wish to rescue Belgium from subjection and spoliation and degradation. And let us encourage



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Most assuredly it will come to us if we succeed in persuading great military Nations that we are too proud to fight, that we are not prepared to undertake defensive war for our own vital interest and National honor."

POOR