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IT'S GERMANY'S LAST CHANCE

THE WAR WILL END IN 1918

The war will end in 1918. So comes the word from the war capitals, as we go to the printers with this issue.

Germany has moved 1,500,000 seasoned soldiers from the Russian to the western front where her forces now outnumber the allied armies by 750,000 men. England and France are girding up their loins and tightening up their belts for the supreme, final struggle, now—in 1918. They call to America for men. They will do without food, they say, and give us two million tons of ship space for a million men. They will supply artillery and ammunition. The critical necessity is men—by June or July at the very latest—a million men or more. The war will be won or lost in 1918, and time is now the very quintessence of safety. Time is the stuff that life and destiny are made of now. Who now wastes time, wins the war for Germany.

This is the fateful word that is quietly passed along by the American commission just back from the war conference in Paris.

And Washington responds. The railroads pass under government control. Passenger trains go off and the tracks are cleared for freight. War service is now the only excuse for travel, and war supplies the only business of manufacture. Nothing is to be made, sold, or used that we can do without in our homes. The finger of fate points to food production, ships, air-planes, war supplies—to supreme effort on our farms and in our factories, to supreme sacrifice in our homes—and to a million men, now!

The Year of Destiny

Why? Because the war will end in 1918—not in 1919. The date we had set to begin the fighting line is a full year too late, as we now know.

Germany plans to repeat her triumph in Italy. She counts on overwhelming our western battle line before America gets into the fight.

Can she win this year? That query is the question mark of God?

And the answer is, No—if America gets there in time! No—if the wavering balance of war feels her weight in time. The fate of the world now lies—our allies themselves have said it—in the swift and heavy hand of America.

But won or lost, the war will end in 1918. So comes the word from the men that best know.

It will end this year because of exhaustion in men and metal, food supplies and fighting strength, in the power of nations to do and dare, sacrifice and suffer. It will end this year because the bodies and brains of men and the hearts of women in the countries at war can endure the strain no longer—unless America intervenes in time.

The collapse of national wills and national resources in a weary world is at hand—unless America gets her shoulder under the crushing burden of war.

It will end in 1918 because it is humanly impossible to carry the struggle over into 1919—impossible for all the countries at war except America.

We Can Win If We Will

Our stores of treasure are inexhaustible. What we waste in American homes, rich and poor, is several times more than this war will cost us, says President Wilson. Our farms alone produced 21 billions of wealth in 1917—this in a single year; and it overtops our total war expense to date, in bonds and taxes, by nearly a billion dollars. We are now creating new wealth, in all productive enterprises, at the rate of five and a half billion dollars a month or sixty-eight and a half billion dollars a year, says Dr. Anderson of Harvard. The surplus income of the nation—the net profits ready for patriotic use—is more than one and a half billions a month or eighteen billions a year, says Mr. McAdoo.

Yes! our stores of treasure are inexhaustible—and impotent, if they cannot be raised against Germany in time!

As for the national will to fight: The soul of America is like a placid summer lake; the soul of Europe is like a storm riven sea in winter. You have not yet visualized and realized what this war means, said Dr. George Adams, representing the British Home Office, at the

Blue Ridge Conference last August.

And it's true. But America must rise to the supremest issue in the tide of all the times since the world began to be. She must screw her courage to the sticking place in swift haste, for her hour of destiny draws nigh.

But whether she gets into the fight this year or not, the war will end in 1918—as far as the human eye can now see.

The Prize at Stake

But how will it end? Who will win? And what is the prize at stake? When this war is over, will it be a world worth living in? Will Christendom go into eclipse as it did for a thousand years in the Dark Ages? Will life as we know it come to an end—in France, in England, in America? Will German crag-barons rule the heights and prey upon the plains of earth without let or hindrance? Will German submarines lie in wait in every sea lane? Will the freedom of the seas fade into a dim tradition? Will government of the people, by the people, for the people cease to be on earth?

Throughout all the years of her history, this old world has traveled until now, even as a woman travails, to give birth to freedom of opportunity—to give men and nations the full free right to rule themselves in righteousness if they will—the chance to stand erect as heaven-facing creatures and not as slaves bowed down to another's will.

For this she has endured the age-long, agonizing sweat of labor. For democracy! the sign and symbol of shabby actualities here and there on earth today but the rainbow promise of divine possibilities in the world tomorrow—for America and Germany alike.

Self-activity, self-rule, and self-respect Athens' triple gift—this is what humanity struggles for! And what, pray, would any man or nation be worth without it? The world now struggles for this prize, as for life itself, with self-effacement, self-surrender, and self-sacrifice—the Master's triple gift, which will alone avail to win it.

And America can win it for humanity, America alone can win it. And America will fail—if she cannot get into the struggle in full force in 1918!

ILLINOIS AWAKE

Mr. B. F. Harris, President of the First National Bank of Champaign, Illinois—next door to the State University—writes: "The Green-Cheese Special issue of the University News Letter is a crack-jack. Send me a dozen copies for wide publicity in Council of Defense work."

He encloses a copy of his resolutions, adopted by the Rotary Club, calling on the schools of Champaign county to inform and arouse pupils and people about the war—as a part of their regular daily work.

Teachers alone can reach all the homes either in Illinois or in North Carolina. The resolutions follow:

A Bugle Call to Teachers

1. Whereas, President Wilson tells us that "It is not an army we must shape and train for war; it is a nation," and

2. Whereas, it is certain that, in order to shape and train the nation, we should give the widest publicity to the truth concerning the dangers that confront us; the vicious, monstrous and inhuman policies and methods of our enemy; and the readjustment of our business and daily life in order to conserve money, labor, food and materials, to more quickly win the war;

3. Therefore be it resolved that, as one of the methods to accomplish this desired purpose,—as a national necessity and as a war measure,—we call upon the board of education, the school commissioner, the school committees and every teacher in the county to put into the curriculum of the schools, without delay, as a part of each day's tuition, What America stands and fights for, Why America and her Allies must fight Germany to the Death, The Danger of Defeat to this country, and the Duty of every American to Support the conduct of the war loyally.

IS AMERICA ABLE?

In a normal year savings from all sources in the United States, from cor-

THE QUESTION MARK OF GOD

George D. Herron

We are in the midst of a great crisis that carries in its issue the world's fundamental reconstruction or its possible dissolution.

Humanity halts at the cross-roads of history, and the question mark of God there stands.

We are deciding, whether we will or no, either by conscious choice or evasion, the destinies of the race for long centuries to come.

It is not possible to exaggerate, it is impossible that we yet comprehend or encompass, the height and the depth and the reach of the question now before us.

If there ever was a war between good and evil, it is now.

If ever hath Ormuzd striven against Abrimam, it is in the conflict between the Allies and the Germanic Powers. And shall it be with the light or the darkness that the Nations gather together?

According as the answer shall be, so shall the years hence turn to man's true beginning, or to his dread and necessitated end.

porations, business men, farmers and investors generally, amount to from 5 billion to 6 billion dollars.

In 1916 the supply of capital in the United States was about two and a half times the normal amount. In that year savings in this country, including those re-invested by corporations in their own enterprises, amounted to 15 billion dollars.

Conservative estimates for the current year indicate that the aggregate for 1917 available for the government in prosecuting the war and for the general purposes of financing industry may reach 18 billion.—Col. M. W. Thompson, Chief of the Signal Corps of the Army.

Secretary McAdoo says: "Whatever differences of view there may be about the annual savings of the American people, it is undoubtedly true that they are now so large that with the other resources of the country upon which we may draw there can be no doubt whatever of the ability of the people of the United States to finance every demand which the Government may make upon them for the purposes of this war.

If the ordinary savings which have been made heretofore voluntarily are augmented by the savings which can be effected under the pressure of patriotism and necessity, by prevention of waste, the practice of genuine economy, the cutting off of luxuries during the period of this war, what may not the American people be able to do?—Saturday Evening Post.

BUSINESS PROSPERITY

The billions to be raised by taxation and bonds will not be sent out of the country, but will be spent at home on top of the billions expended here by our Allies. We have seen already how war orders have maintained an industrial boom in this country and led to an unprecedented increase in our financial resources.

Since the war began, we have sold to Europe \$10,000,000,000 worth of American products at prices which have netted us fully \$2,000,000,000 more than we would have received for the same goods on the pre-war price basis.

For example, a dollar's worth of wheat on the level of June, 1914, now costs \$2, a dollar's worth of copper a little more than \$2 today, a dollar's worth of steel billets nearly \$4, a dollar's worth of shoe leather about \$2 and a dollar's worth of packed meats almost \$1.50.

Little wonder that the Comptroller of the Currency is able to report on May 1 the total deposits in our national banks exceeded \$13,000,000,000 for the first time in our history. The gain in one year was \$2,000,000,000.

The profits of forty-four leading industrial corporations last year exceeded the profits of 1914 by \$627,000,000 according to a recent compilation by Treasury experts. Whereas the profits of the forty-four concerns in 1914 were just under \$170,000,000, they exceeded \$800,000,000 last year.

Now, all this means that more money is being paid out to stockholders and to workers, some parts of which can be ap-

plied in many cases to the purchase of investments even after allowing for the serious increase in the cost of living.—B. C. Forbes in Hearst's Magazine.

THE MEANING OF THIS WAR

Germany's war is a definite war of atheism against Christianity, of barbarism against civilization. If we would save this country from even greater horrors than Belgium and France have suffered, because Germany hates us more than it hated either Belgium or France, it is absolutely incumbent upon us to uphold the nation to the utmost extent of our moral, physical and financial power in this life and death grapple. There is no middle ground. Victory or defeat are the two issues at stake.

To win, every effort of the nation to the last ounce of its strength—in the building of ships, in food production and food conservation, in increased output of coal and iron and steel, in bettering our transportation facilities by rail and highway and water—must be put forth in enthusiastic, unending work by the men and women of this country.

It is incumbent upon everyone who realizes this situation to do his very utmost to awaken the latent patriotism of others and quicken the knowledge of all that they may understand the magnitude of the task and the stupendous issues involved—and these issues are the life and death of our nation and of all civilization.

We must carry into every home, preach from every pulpit, teach in every school the meaning of the war and the individual responsibility of every man, woman and child in the country. Not until, as a nation, we do this will we escape the danger of the awful destruction wrought in Belgium and France and wherever the armies of Germany have marched.—The Manufacturers Record.

WAR DEMAND ON COTTON

It takes a half bale of cotton to make the powder for one discharge of a twelve-inch gun.

A machine-gun uses up a bale of cotton every three minutes.

In the naval battle off Jutland more than ten bales a minute were consumed by each active warship engaged.

It takes 20,000 bales a year to provide absorbent cotton for the wounds of the injured in the hospital camps of the Allies.

One change of clothing for all the troops now engaged in the war represents more than a million bales.—Exchange.

THE TARHEEL DOG

Dogs in Alleghany county average \$10 in value, on the 1917 tax list, and sheep \$3.92.

In Iredell the average tax value of dogs this year is nearly \$15 while the average for sheep is \$1.42. A dog in Iredell is worth ten times as much as a sheep—on the tax list.

Twenty sheep will clothe one of our boys a whole year on the battle front, but two dogs at home will eat enough to starve one soldier abroad. Our choice used to be between dogs and sheep; now it is a choice between dogs and human lives.

Between sentiment about dogs and sentiment about soldiers—their comfort and their lives in battle lines—there is very little room for choice—in areas of sense.

When our worthless, wandering cur dogs disappear, fewer children will cry for bread in North Carolina in the days that are at hand, and wool underwear will be more abundant here at home and in the front lines in France.

Manifestly civic authority can do nothing with dogs in this state. It's a job for Federal officers in all the states. Success to Congressman Doughton in the Federal Dog Law he proposes!

OUR WAR-TIME BULLETINS

A Program of Extension Service for a time of War is the title of a new bulletin which for the first time gives in detail the plans for the new extension centers and lists specific lectures for the coming year. The University of North Carolina has recognized the need of adapting its extension work to the needs of the time. "The duty of the University to investigate and to teach can never be abrogated, least of all in a democracy in time of war. This duty is to be discharged through the or-

inary channels within the University itself; it is also to be discharged through the extension of its influence throughout the territory which it serves. The machinery for this extension is already in existence. In the present crisis it is to be brought to bear upon the new and difficult problems that confront our democracy," says President Graham.

To this end several changes have been made in the extra-campus service of the University. The most important of these is the establishment of extension centers. At these centers, organized under the direction of University men, courses will be given by the regular University teaching staff, with provisions for study groups. The courses will be confined to the general topic, America and the World War. The purpose is to study history, literature, political science and the physical sciences from this standpoint; to study the issues of the war, and the methods by which our democracy may be rendered more effective in war and in peace, the international relations of the United States, and the progress of democracy in other nations.

PRIME BAIT FOR GUDGEONS

The war-lies that swarm about now-a-days are like the flies of Beelzebub for multitude. They do little more than annoy intelligent people, but they are prime bait for gudgeons—and gudgeons swim in large schools in all waters.

This primary fact gives the German agent his chance in Russia—and even in England, France, Italy, and the United States. False reports and insidious rumors are slyly set afloat for foolish ears and gossipy tongues. The purpose is to breed distrust of the government, and to hamper the activity of the allies, and it succeeds in amazing and alarming ways.

Here are some of these lies set going in our particular baliwick—

"You're foolish to buy Liberty Bonds. Your daddy bought Confederate bonds, and he went bankrupt, didn't he?"

"When they get you women registered for war service, they'll drag you away to fight, like the women in Russia."

"The food census is just a trick to find out what canned goods you women have got in your pantries. The government is getting ready to confiscate all the food you've got."

"No use to knit socks and sweaters for the soldiers. They don't get to France. They are selling them in New York, a friend in New York told me so the other day."

"Get your money out of the bank; the income tax officer is coming around."

And so on and on. No end of lies of the most preposterous sort, but they alarm the multitudes and they weaken public opinion in its support of the war.

It's a Lie

The Philadelphia North American in a recent issue displays the war-lies set afloat of late by pro-German treachery in the North and East. Here is the editorial listing the lies and treating each of them with a drop of prussic acid:

"Herbert Hoover, Federal Food-Administrator, gets a salary of \$18,000 and lives in luxury. It is a lie. He gives his services to the people without salary and lives simply."

"At Camp Dix or Camp Meade quarters of beef are thrown away or burned. It is a lie."

"Tons of vegetables, principally potatoes, are rotting through carelessness of soldiers. It is a lie."

"Whole car-loads of food are decaying on the railroad tracks in this city because the commission men want to get high prices. It is a lie."

"The Government intends to seize all of the canned goods that the patriotic women put up during the summer. It is a lie."

"French army officers have been shot for selling American wheat to Germany. It is a lie."

"Canada is holding its wheat, so that it can demand a high price when the American crop is exhausted. It is a lie."

A Teacher Gets Busy

Some time ago the Red Cross work of the splendid country women in this county came near being stopped by a mischief-making agent on his round of the country homes. "What's the use," he said; "these things don't get to France; no room in the ships going out of New York; besides the submarines are sinking all the ships anyway." And much more to the same effect.

Fortunately the lie got to town promptly. Whereupon one of our teachers got into a motor car and tracked down the fool (or knave—we never knew which), got his name and the address of the house he represented, and had him shipped—all in less than a week.

The zeal of this teacher suggests a kind of war service that teachers can render in every community in the land.