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# LEAGUE CONDEMNS ALL EFFORTS FOR PREMATURE PEACE

## Armies of the Allies Must Nullify Power of Imperial German Government

## MUST CONQUER ENEMIES' ARMIES

## League Issues Ringing Statement on "American War and American Victory"

New York, Dec. 29.—The League for National Unity has issued a declaration, signed by its officers and executive committee, in which all efforts toward a premature peace are condemned and the determination of continuing the war until a military victory is achieved and the autocratic power of the imperial German government is broken, is pledged.

"We are in this war to conquer the enemy's armies," declares the statement, "though not his territory or population. We intend to nullify the power of the imperial German government. We do not intend that it shall gain at the expense of other nations, either an enlargement of territory or an expansion of industrial and commercial opportunities or an increase of prestige."

"When German military reverses obliterate past victories and the war map becomes unfavorable, no doubt some of the German parties will begin to consider the peace principles of world democracy," the statement concludes. "But no influential German party yet sees coming defeat. There is, therefore, as yet no common ground for discussion between the partisans of might and the partisans of right."

The League for National Unity was organized in Washington September 12, 1917, and is composed of representatives of the various elements that make up American national life—labor, agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, banking, the church, the bar, women's and teachers' organizations, and the respective heads of the democratic and republican national committees. The formation of the new organization was welcomed by President Wilson in an address delivered October 8 to the executive committee, in which he emphasized the need of team play by the forces of American thought and opinion and endorsed the specific work which the league proposed.

The purpose of the league, as stated

in its by-laws, is "to create a medium through which loyal Americans of all classes, sections, creeds and parties can give expression to the fundamental purpose of the United States to carry on to a successful conclusion this war for the independence of America, the preservation of democratic institutions and the vindication of the basic principles of humanity."

The officers are: Honorary chairman, James Gibbons, cardinal, and Frank Mason North, D. D., president Federal Council Church of Christ in America; chairman, Theodore N. Vall, president American Telephone and Telegraph company; vice-chairmen, Samuel Gompers, president American Federation of Labor, and Charles D. Harbo, president "Union" Educational and Co-operative Union of America, and George Pope, president National Association of Manufacturers; chairman executive committee, James M. Beck, American Bar association; treasurer, Otto H. Kahn; director, Ralph M. Easley, chairman executive Council The National Civic Federation; and secretary, D. L. Cease, editor "The Railroad Trainman."

**Hinging Statement Issued.**

The statement, bearing the headline, "An American War and an American Victory," follows in full: "The imperial German government, foiled and defeated in its plan to cripple the great self-governing nations of the world, first France, next England, and last the United States, is seeking to achieve through its proposals for peace what it has been unable to obtain by arms."

The imperial German government seeks a compromise in the irrepressible conflict between autocracy and democracy before it shall be too late. All who are willing to compromise on this issue are willing to aid despotism, as all who urged compromise on Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War aided slavery. The American people today are fighting for their own liberty as well as for the freedom of the world. The world cannot be safe for democracy so long as an organized autocracy—its empire still believing it victorious—is entrenched in the center of Europe, leading 10,000,000 armed men and possessing the resources of 170,000,000 people in the world's central position for all seas and all continents."

President Wilson was the true spokesman of the American people when he said in his message to congress on December 8:

"The American people are impatient with those who desire peace by a compromise—deeply and indignantly impatient. "It will be full impartial justice—justice done at every point and to every nation that the final settlement must affect our enemies as well as our friend."

**No Compromise Conceivable.**

No compromise is conceivable if the German government is "not utterly brought to an end" by military defeat or political revolution from within. For, as our president declared, "It will be impossible in such untoward circumstances, to admit Germany to the free economic intercourse which must inevitably spring out of the other partnerships of a real peace. But there would be no aggression, no military situation, no situation of distrust, would in the very nature of things sooner or later cure itself by processes which would assuredly set in."

Nor would this be our only recourse against the rulers of Germany. "It might be impossible to admit them to the partnership of nations which henceforth guarantee the world's peace," our national leader points out.

**Autocracy Dangerous.**

The flagrant violation by the imperial government of the principles and practice of accepted international law was the occasion of our declaration of war, but not its underlying cause. The cause of our entering the present war, as of every other country at war with the imperial government, is that this autocracy endangers our safety and challenges our freedom. From the day when it attacked our possession of Samoa by the insidious plot which cost the lives of our sailors in 1899, to the present, when it has fitted its land with spies, has slain our citizens on land and sea, and set them at variance by fomenting racial strife, the government of Germany has been our enemy in peace as it is now our foe in war. Its fleet threatened the fleet of Admiral Dewey in Manila harbor; it sought to set the Monroe Doctrine at naught; it proposed intervention by Europe when we freed Cuba; it laid plans to control Santo Domingo and Venezuela; and it has attempted this year to array Mexico and Japan against us while we were still at peace. The visit of Prince Henry began the campaign to divide our loyal citizens of German birth and descent so as to render this nation impotent in the defense of its own security and that of the democracies of the world. Germany even sought by the Delbueck law to establish a continuing German citizenship in German immigrants who had become citizens of the United States, and to accept a divided allegiance.

Our war aims cannot be compromised. Which of President Wilson's demands on our behalf can we surrender? Can we abandon our demand for "liberty and self-government" (Article 2) and others? Shall we give up our demand for "the freedom of the nations" (April 2)? As the president has said, "We can afford to be generous, but we cannot afford to be weak or omit any single guarantee of justice or security" (May 26). Since a lasting world peace is our chief war aim, which of Germany's crimes can we afford to accept as innocent acts and permit to be repeated and continued? Which oppressed nationalities can we safely abandon to her sovereignty? What slaughter of innocents and destruction of their property shall we leave without such reparation as can be afforded by financial indemnity? In which cases shall the nations which have made vast sacrifices in an effort to protect the victim pay the bulk of the damages? As the president has said: "The sinister intrigue of the German ruling classes to secure peace now with the immense advantages in the hands of their own opportunity to perpetuate their military power." (June 14).

**Must Conquer!**

We are in this war to conquer (May 26) the enemy's armies, though not his territory or population. We intend to nullify the power of the imperial German government. (April 2). We do not intend that it shall gain at the expense of other nations either "an enlargement of territory" or "an expansion of industrial and commercial opportunities" or "an increase of prestige" (June 14).

We entered the war, further, with the demand that "wrongs done should be righted" (May 26). Our president has pointed out that a return to the status quo ante could not be sufficient and that territorial readjustments and indemnities "for manifest wrongs

done" (May 26) will be necessary. He has made it clear that we shall demand no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall make in the war, that is, for war expenditures (April 2). But our president has made a specific exception from his condemnation of indemnities, in payments for "manifest wrongs done." It is hardly necessary to add that such payments (in some form) shall be made in each important instance—Belgium, Serbia, Poland, Rumania and Northern France. After stating our determination to win the war, our president correctly and concisely states (in his recent message to congress) what we mean by this determination to win: "We shall regard the war as won only when the German people say to us, through properly accredited representatives, that they are ready to agree to a settlement based upon justice and the reparation of the wrongs their rulers have done."

"They have established a power over other lands and peoples than their own—over the great empire of Austria-Hungary, over hitherto free Balkan states, over Turkey and within Asia, from the impudent and alien domination of the Prussian military and commercial autocracy."

Every nation must be guaranteed that opportunity for free economic development which arises from free access to the seas; but that access must not be made wholly nugatory by the immediate proximity of a hostile military power. In his latest message to congress, our president has made our position in this matter unmistakable:

"When I said, in January, that the nations of the world were entitled not only to free pathways upon the sea, but also to assured and un molested access to those pathways, I was thinking, and am thinking now, of Austria herself, among the rest, as well as of Serbia and of Poland. Justice and equality of rights can be had only at a great price."

This is the democratic solution of the questions of annexations and indemnities. It is not only founded upon justice and humanity; it is the only thinkable basis of lasting peace. "To omit any of the guarantees" of future security that are the just solution of these great problems, "would mean only that all the world would arm for the next, the final struggle" (June 14).

The only peace that can assure peace is one that establishes the "equality of power" among the nations which, the president has shown, must replace the old "balance of power." But all nations entering into such a world agreement must enter it as equals, without hope of any special privilege or advantage. When German military reverses obliterate past victories and the war map becomes unfavorable to Germany, no doubt some of the German parties will begin to consider the peace principles of world democracy. But no influential German party yet sees coming defeat. There is, therefore, as yet no common ground for discussion between the partisans of might and the partisans of right.

"Any body of free men that compounds with the present German government is compounding for its own destruction." (Nov. 13).

## AMERICA ENTERED WAR BACKWARDS, INQUIRIES SHOW

(Continued from Page 1)

these systems now in force, it is believed. Military, transportation, shipping, coal and sugar probes will go forward next week in the senate while resumption of the navy inquiry will mark re-convening of the house.

Secretary of War Baker and Chief of Ordnance Crozier will be called upon Monday to answer charges of inefficiency and lack of foresight in preparing the army for war. Later General Lutz, cantonment builder, will be asked about the contracts around which ugly rumors have been spread.

Members of the national defense council will be called on contract questions. Herbert Hoover's deferred appearance before the sugar investigators is set for Wednesday, but he already has stated his case in a statement made public by the president, and little new information is expected.

Clothing of America's fighting men was investigated by the senate military committee at Saturday's session of the inquiry with Quartermaster-General Sharpe under the microscope. Senator Weeks brought out that on April 3, Boston wool dealers offered all their wool to the government at prevailing prices but the offer never reached General Sharpe, being referred to the general munitions board.

When orders were given to prepare to clothe 1,000,000 more men, General Sharpe said soaring prices rather than a shortage was the worst factor in the situation.

"I was told by a responsible man that the failure of the government to accept the Boston wool men's offer of April 3 has cost the government \$10,000,000," said Senator Weeks, "and I want to find who is responsible for delay in its acceptance, and also who is responsible for delay in beginning purchases. I, for one, am somewhat dismayed by the length of time it takes the war department to do things. Apparently injection of the council of national defense makes for further delay."

General Sharpe said that if the Boston wool dealers' offer of April 3 had been accepted promptly it would have been very advantageous as wool advanced after that. He reiterated that the offer never reached him, being referred by Secretary Baker to the munitions board.

# Now Is the Right, Oppor-tune Time to Buy That Trivers Overcoat

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Kalamazoo, Mich.         Asheville, N. C.  
Lansing, Mich.             Charlotte, N. C.  
Flint, Mich.                Winston-Salem, N. C.  
Lancaster, Pa.             Columbia, S. C.

eral Sharpe said, stood to make \$400,000 a year on the sorting contracts recently annulled because it was regarded excessive, was related to the council committee member.

## GOVERNMENT TO STAY IN BUSINESS

(Continued from Page 1)

careful thought to compensation for their lines was indicated by this official discussing the probable basis for taking over the lines by the government. The \$10,000,000,000 worth of bonds issued by American railways is the least the railroads would accept, and, he pointed out, not all of the equal amount of stocks could rightly be called "water."

settlement of their wage problems soon.

According to the railroad executives, McAdoo's financing plan is to form a government corporation, modelled along the lines of the shipping board, to deal in railroad securities. Such a corporation, it was pointed out, would be furnished with government capital. It would buy railroad bonds when, for government reasons, they could not be marketed to the public, and would later sell them like Liberty bonds when such financing would not interfere with war finances.

Leaders in both houses are claiming certainty of government ownership after the war—and have already started framing legislation toward that end.

Railroad facilities, experts agree, are now from 25 to 35 percent deficient compared with the necessary demand and with the value of the roads cut off at \$15,000,000,000, some idea of the amount of money needed to bring the systems up to requirements may be obtained.

Public money and lots of it must be used, congressmen say—and just as important is its return to the public treasury.

"It would seem almost impossible to get a fair return of this money after it was once sunk in the railroads if the systems were returned to private hands after the war," said Representative Keating, spokesman for the government control advocates in the house.

**The Offender.**  
He who commits injustice is ever more wretched than he who suffers it.—Plato.

# B-r-r-r! Overcoat Weather

Here's the latest thing in overcoats for winter. It's a thoroughly American style; roomy, comfortable, and good to look at.

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