

# Then *and* Now

1918 1919

When our men were fighting in Europe, and the Fourth Liberty Loan was being floated, President Wilson, speaking in New York, asked:—

"Shall the military power of any nation or group of nations be suffered to determine the fortunes of peoples over whom they have no right to rule except the right of Force?"

"Shall strong nations be free to wrong weak nations and make them subject to their purpose and interest?"

And said:

"No man, no group of men, chose these to be the issues of the struggle. They are the issues of it; and they must be settled—by no arrangement or compromise or adjustment of interests, but definitely and once for all and with a full unequivocal acceptance of the principle that the interest of the weakest is as sacred as the interest of the strongest."

President Wilson,  
New York, September 28, 1918.

When the War was over, and the Peace Treaty with its intertwined "League of Nations" was presented to the United States Senate for acceptance or rejection, President Wilson said:—

"Engagements which contemplated any disposition of territory, any extensions of sovereignty that might seem to be to the interest of those who had the power to insist upon them, had been entered into without thought of what the peoples concerned might wish or profit by. And these could not always be honorably brushed aside. It was not easy to graft the new order of ideas on the old, and some of the fruits of the grating may, I fear, for a time be bitter."

President Wilson,  
Washington, July 10, 1919.

## *Have the Fundamental Principles of Right Changed Since 1918?*

OR— **Has the Continuance of the United States as a Republic Become Contingent Upon the Proposed League of Nations, so that Compromise with Principle is Essential for Self-Preservation Sake?**

Or is it that to protect the far-flung possessions of one of our associates in the late War, we are to accept a British-drawn League of Nations, throw Washington's advice against entangling alliances in the discard; endanger or abandon the Monroe Doctrine, and pledge our children and their children's children to the maintenance of that seething mess of European intrigue which drove our fathers to this Continent?

Lulled with the belief that President Wilson's promise of "self-determination for all peoples" meant justice for the land of their fathers, meant the recognition of American ideals of Liberty and Equality for all in that Land, the citizens of Irish blood among you have had a rude awakening.

Alive now to the danger which threatens this Republic they would have the country aroused to the cry of

### ***America First!***

For with perceptions quickened by seven hundred years of contact with England they see: England gorged with the spoils of conquest, but affrighted at domestic unrest, seeking a partnership with the United States which would bind us to maintain the territorial integrity of the despoiler.

Such a partnership,—if partnership it be with one vote for the United States and six votes for the British Empire,—could avail naught to the United States of America, for we seek no territorial aggrandizement, and it must certainly mean sacrifice of principles which President Wilson restated less than a year ago—principles upon which this Republic has grown great and powerful.

**FOR INSTANCE: Are we to accept partnership with that Empire which holds Ireland in military subjection against the expressed will of the people**

**BY**

"Troops equipped with lorries, armored cars, tanks, machine guns, bombing planes, light and heavy artillery, and, in fact, all the engines of War lately employed against the Central Powers?"

Atrocity Charges,  
American Commission on Irish Independence.

**To which the best answer the British Government could make was:**

"The equipment mentioned is normal in these days. As regards equipment, the troops in England are similarly equipped, as also the troops of our Allies, including our American Allies."

Answer of Sir Ian Macpherson, Chief Secretary for Ireland,  
speaking officially for the British Government.

## **For America's Sake Let Your Senator Know Your Views**

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