

WITH POWER OVER SEAS GERMANY WOULD HAVE CRUSHED HER ENEMIES AND SUBDUED AMERICA.

We Must not Permit Autocracy by the Short Cut of U-boats to Curtail Our Undisputed Control of the Sea.

(By Richmond Pearson Hobson.)

Great Bend, Kansas, April 26.—Sea power is as fundamental for democracies for transporting military strength as for transporting commodities of commerce.

The British empire could not have sent a soldier to France, England would have been starved out or invaded and disposed of within six months after the war begun.

France, then Russia, then Italy would have been subdued without great difficulty.

America could never have entered on the European side, but itself would have been involved, the Atlantic seaboard occupied and a levy made upon half the wealth of the nation.

Teutonic autocracy in control of the sea in six months would have been undisputed masters of the world, before democracy could have organized its latent strength.

In short, the 40 super-dreadnoughts giving Germany the control of the sea would have been easily the equivalent of 10,000,000 soldiers. A single dreadnought would have been the equivalent of, say, a quarter of a million men. Yet 1,000 men are able to man the superdreadnought.

So very fundamental and vital is this sea power to democracy, that we must not permit autocracy by the short cut of U-boats to curtail our undisputed control of the sea. It is not sufficient simply to build vessels as fast as the U-boats can destroy them or to trap U-boats as fast as they are built. Democracy must dominate the sea under water as well as above the surface. Hydroplanes and surface craft of special type can hunt the German U-boat from under the sea as we have done with the German battle fleets above the sea. It is to be hoped that America will be a deciding factor in this war on the U-boat, and will realize this question touches the heart of sea power with all that sea power means to democracy.

I cannot too strongly emphasize the importance of the time factor in the outcome of the great war, especially since America has joined the entente allies. Control of the sea is steadily, inexorably operating to the advantage of industrialism. If adequate time is gained, sea power must give the decision to democracy.

If U-boat warfare does not shatter the allies' control of the sea, the commerce of the world will relieve the privations of the Teutonic allies gradually will become intolerable, and then the whole resources and latent military power of America can be brought to bear.

America's financial strength in a test of endurance would be found about equal to that of the rest of the world combined and fully five times that of Germany. In a test of endurance, America, enjoying control of the sea, could place 10,000,000 men on the battle lines of Europe and could maintain that many indefinitely, making up losses as fast as they occur, maintaining an overflowing supply of arms and munitions.

Germany knows this perfectly well. German experts have critically examined the performances of American troops in a long war, as shown in 1861-4, the war between the states. U-boats have not been able to prevent or materially impede the dispatch of Canadian troops. It can be assured they could not prevent the dispatch of American troops. The power of America in money and materials will be felt this year. Our power in men will not begin to be felt until

next year.

Germany and the United States.

Von Hindenburg and the German general staff realize full well that if the central powers are to get the decision at all they must get it out of this season's operations. If they are to have a negotiated peace, it must come this year or next year at the latest.

If I understand the temper of the allied peoples, the Teuton armies would have to take Paris before the decision could possibly go to the central powers. If I know the metal of Americans and Englishmen, a final decision would not be accepted even then as long as the sea remained open.

In other words, since America's entry into the war, Germany will have to wrest from the allies their control of the sea before she can get the decision, even with a full continental sweep of victorious armies.

I have no doubt that Germany's official policy toward America, at least for this year, will be one of persistent conciliation, that German intrigues in Mexico and within our borders will not take the form of any overt acts, that German propaganda will, as far as possible, be hidden. The sole motive will be to keep American public sentiment apathetic, in fancied security.

The policy of our government to dissipate this delusion would be to proceed without delay upon the definite policy of preparing the nation for a great war of endurance, a policy of organizing the full war strength of the nation. The policy of our government to avert a dangerous apathy and false sense of security should be to start our forces fighting in France as soon as possible, even on a small scale.

An attack upon Constantinople, initiated by naval operations in the Dardanelles, would be sound grand strategy. It is in harmony with the dictates of humanity as well as a matter of sound policy.

What America Must Do.

Friendliness for the German people as well as humanity and sound policy call for a clear proof by our government, backed by our people, that no matter how long the war, no matter what the cost, no matter what the sacrifice, America will not now permit the decision to go to the Teutons. We should at once pass the bill for selective conscription and proceed to organize the whole industrial, agricultural, military and naval power of the nation.

We must act as if a revolution of the German people or other revolt against continued war is about as likely to happen as the voluntary abdication of the kaiser.

On the whole, it looks to me as though Teuton grand strategy is moving on schedule, namely, that a secret peace or understanding has been sought with Russia and with Italy. If successful then within 60 days we may expect the combined Teuton power, including Austrians, Bulgarians and Turks, to be hurled against the British and French on the western front.

Present Battle Inclusive.

Under ordinary conditions the present advance of the French and English would be considered masterful, but it may be too late to help Russia and Italy, and it seems now too deliberate to break any part of the German line. The allies cannot win until all the allied armies advance simultaneously and continue to advance night and day till at the proper time, by concentration, they break clear through and rout the German armies.

If secret German overtures to Russia for a separate peace or an understanding prove futile, then we may soon expect a great Teuton drive upon Petrograd. In such case we should be prepared, in case of Teuton success, to see the fall of Russian capital, possibly within 90 days, followed by a separate peace, or such

chaos and anarchy in Russia that the bulk of the Teuton armies can be transferred to the western front to make their supreme effort there to eliminate France.

This is no doubt the essence of Teuton grand strategy. The determining element is the time element.

The allied grand strategy has three cardinal factors. First, to break through—clear through—the German defenses on the west while the Teuton armies are engaged in Russia. Second to cause Russia to stand steadfast and exert her utmost resistance. Third, for America to place her full power in the balance at the earliest possible moment.

Late dispatches indicate that the personnel of an American commission to Russia is being considered. *It seems to me that in view of the vital importance of American-Russian cooperation, we should place at the head of such commission the American with the very highest prestige available, namely, an ex-President, Roosevelt first choice, Taft second choice.

Roosevelt to The Front.

If Roosevelt insists on going to the front in France, I would suggest that Major-General Leonard Wood be sent in command of two divisions of regulars without delay, and that Roosevelt, with the rank of brigadier, by act of Congress, go as his chief of staff, serving in that capacity until qualified to command a division. Later, as major-general, he might command an army corps, and finally with higher rank, created for the purpose, be our first field marshal, to command all American forces in Europe.

If I had my way, however, I would send to France one of our younger officers, say General Bell, or General Pershing, with a picked division of regulars to the western front for the moral effect. I would send General Wood and Roosevelt with two divisions of regulars to Russia, and would throw American forces upon the eastern front as well as the western as fast as we can organize and train them and can develop Russian transportation.

Humanity is entitled to America's offering, the very best industrial talent she can command, as well as money and munitions, and there must be no respect for politics or personalities. I think with so many difficult constructive problems of organization in Russia, military and semi-military, that Roosevelt and Leonard Wood should go there, and go quickly. They could lay the foundation for a future Russo-American offensive that would really reach Vienna and Berlin unless the Teutons came to terms before this overwhelming combination of manpower, money-power, power of industry and material could be mobilized.

Send an Army Abroad Soon.

Roosevelt and Wood have had so many kinds of experience in public service and have been so uniformly successful in grappling with problems of organization, construction, and administration that it appears in the spirit of true conscription that the democracies of the world have a right to draft them for service where the problems and obstacles are the greatest in the death grapple with autocracy, namely, in now democratic Russia.

Press reports state that Field Marshal Joffre, on behalf of France, has requested the sending of an American military expedition to France without delay, if even only of small size, for the moral effect upon the allied armies as a symbol of America arming her great strength and putting herself into the fray.

Such an expedition should not only go quickly, but should go prepared to fight at the earliest possible date, not only for the moral effect on Europe, but for the awakening effect on America. It is naturally hard for our people to realize that America is real-

ly in the great war and must develop its full war strength for its own safety in the shortest possible time. This small force to go to France should, of course, be the pick of the regulars back from the training of the Mexican expedition.

War and Strong Drink.

The week has witnessed a discussion in America, following the general line of similar discussions abroad, of the question of intoxicating liquors and preparedness for war. There is not an important belligerent government abroad that has not struck a deadly blow at all distilled liquors as a war measure. The reason is so plain that it does not admit of discussion. Congress would execute the will of probably 95 per cent of the American people if at once in the war revenue bill it absolutely denied interstate commerce to whisky and gin for beverage purposes.

There is another measure that should be incorporated in the war revenue bill, about which there can be no question, except from those involved financially namely, a heavy increase in the retail liquor tax or license, as it is called.

Practically all the bootleggers and outlaw retailers who are defying the prohibitory laws of states, counties and cities, selling to boys in pool rooms and other places, exhibit their United States license secured for a song, making Uncle Sam a silent partner in breaking state laws. I would suggest that the retail tax be increased from \$25 a year to \$2,500 a year. This would take probably 60,000 outlaws from under Uncle Sam's protection. It would probably add \$150,000,000 to \$200,000,000 of revenue.

The Press should encourage an educational discussion, free from bitterness of the whole question, including the effect upon the public health and producing efficiency of the nation, upon the public morals, upon mortality, upon heredity, upon the general welfare, the progress and survival of the nation and the race, thus aiding in the solution of the difficult problem of how to keep the nation sober as a fundamental war measure vital in preparedness for this war and all subsequent wars.

Money Taken by Robbers in Pittsburgh Recovered.

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 14.—Police today had recovered practically all of the \$10,000,000 taken from the First National bank of Castle Shannon, a suburb, today by four bandits who entered the bank, shot to death the cashier and assistant cashier of the bank, bound and gagged a patron of the bank, and in attempting to escape wounded two persons.

One of the bandits, John Cheteh, was killed and another, Sam Berts, was probably fatally wounded by shots from a posse of townspeople. A third bandit, Nick Yacle, was captured and badly beaten by a mob that attempted to take him from the posse. Efforts to capture the fourth bandit were unsuccessful. All of the robbers live in Pittsburgh and are young men.

Eatable Trading Stamps.

New York, May 14.—Some of the merchants of Ridgewood, L. I., have supplemented trading stamps by giving their customers onions and potatoes. One small potato or onion is given with each 10-cent purchase. A bigger potato goes with a bigger purchase. The housewife who makes a \$4 purchase gets enough potatoes for a dinner. The merchants report that the scheme is popular.

Incidentally, it is reported that it has become so popular that the proprietors of moving picture theaters are thinking of giving a small potato and a young onion with each 10 cent ticket.

RUSSIA LOOMS UP AS A PORTENTOUS OBSTACLE

Far From Satisfactory State of Affairs Exists in the New Republic.

Russia still looms in the eyes of the world as a portentous obstacle to an early successful issue of the war for the entente nations and the United States over Germany and her allies.

With a far from satisfactory state of affairs existing between the council of workmen's and soldiers' deputies and high Russian government officials which in the last few days has resulted in the resignations of the commander of the forces in Petrograd and the minister of war and marine, comes a renewal of the rumor that Turkey is following in the footsteps of Germany and Austria-Hungary and endeavoring to affect a separate peace with Russia.

Compensation said to have been offered by Turkey embraced a thing that has been the life dream of Russia—the complete opening of Dardanelles to Russian ships, both merchantmen and men of war. Turkey also would consent to lay down arms, to consider a satisfactory settlement of the Armenian question, long a thorn in the side of mankind, and likewise deal with her various subjects on the principle of nationality.

While there have been rumors that the council of workmen's and soldiers' deputies has called for an armistice, official denial of this is made by the council. On the contrary, it is stated by the council that an appeal to the soldiers is being drawn up declaring against a separate peace.

The Russians and the Teutons

continue almost inactive in their trenches. On both the Caucasian and Mesopotamian fronts the Turks have inflicted reverses on the Russians, according to Petrograd.

South of Erzincan the Kurds have repulsed Russian forces after a stubborn fight, while in Mesopotamia the Russians have been forced to retreat across the Diala river in the face of superior forces.

A significant statement as to the desirability of Great Britain accepting a separate peace with Austria-Hungary has been made by the chancellor of the exchequer in the house of commons. There never had been a question of making a separate peace, said the chancellor, but as Germany was always trying to detach some of the allies, it might be "that no blow would seem so fatal to Germany as if one of her own allies were detached from the fight."

On the front in France the British after days of fierce fighting, have taken in its entirety from the Germans the village of Roex, to the east of Arras and north of Gavrelle have pushed their line forward. French and German artilleries are still roaring in the great duels which always are the forerunners of attacks.

The sixth Zeppelin to meet with destruction by the British and French since the war began has been accounted for by British naval forces in the North Sea. The airship, the L-22 was completely destroyed and it is believed that most of its crew perished.

High Point Veterans Have Been Completely Outfitted.

High Point, May 12.—When the meeting of the local camp, United Confederate Veterans, was held this afternoon it was learned that a complete outfit, from head to foot, would be ready for each member of the camp that goes to Washington to attend the annual reunion in June. Uniforms have been ordered as a result of a canvass for funds by the sponsor, Miss I. Ivan Paylor, and a recent gift of \$75 from the local chapter, enabled the members of the camp to purchase new hats.

BRITISH PRISONERS ARE GIVEN BAD TREATMENT.

Three Who Escaped Tell Pitiful Story of Experience in Hands of Germans.

With the British Armies in France, May 1.—Three British soldiers who have just succeeded in escaping from a German prison camp a few miles back of the fighting lines, tell a pitiable story of their treatment by the enemy. They declared there was a great deal of sickness in the camp due to fatigue and starvation.

"If we showed the slightest disposition to go sick," said one of the men to the correspondent of the Associated Press today, "we were either thrashed with whips or struck with the butt end of a rifle."

Although this soldier had been in enemy hands only three months he had dropped in weight from 182 pounds to 108. He was a living skeleton. His feet had been frozen and were gangrenous for lack of treatment. The men had neither overcoats nor blankets during the coldest of the winter. When captured during a raid they wore leather jackets. These the Germans took away from them immediately. They also stripped the rubber lining from their shrapnel helmets and took away their regimental badges for the brass that was in them.

One of the men during the perilous trip across No Man's Land at the end of the escape was badly wounded. For food the prisoners received daily a quarter loaf of bread, one plate of thin soup and about every second day a cup of weak coffee substitute. On a few occasions they had a bit of meat about the size of a lump of sugar. Recently the men were compelled to work so near the front that they came within reach of the British fire. This was an exceptional instance, however, they said.

The French prisoners, on the other hand, are constantly employed just back of the firing line and suffer many casualties. In the camp, however the French prisoners were better treated than the English. It was strange to hear this story in view of the sleek appearance of the German prisoners in English hands, all well fed, well nourished, paid for their bits of labor and permitted to buy comforts at the canteens under the same conditions as the tommies.

Veterans Appreciative.

Be it resolved by Surry County Camp of Confederate Veterans that the County Board of Commissioners at their meeting on Monday May 7, 1917, in passing a resolution authorizing the Register of Deeds to issue a check in the sum of five dollars to each and every Confederate Veteran of Surry County, (said list to be furnished the Register of Deeds by the Surry County Camp of Veterans on or before June 1st, 1917), have won the appreciation and the genuine thanks of the Veterans of the County. This public vote of appreciation of the patriotic struggles and hardships endured by ourselves and our comrades in the Sixties is a circumstance that shall not be forgotten, and we are assured that your generous resolution will bring it about that a number of our comrades will be enabled to attend the great Confederate Reunion to be held in the Nation's Capital on June 4th and 5th.

Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners of Surry County and that a copy be spread upon the permanent minutes of the Camp.

Unanimously adopted at a regular meeting of Surry Camp held at Mt. Airy, N. C., on May 10, 1917.

S. C. Franklin, Commander, Z. T. Smith, Adjt.