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PRESIDENT WILSON RECOMMENDS IMMEDIATE WAR DECLARATION ON AUSTRIA-HUNGARY IN HISTORIC ADDRESS TO CONGRESS TUESDAY

IS NECESSARY TO MEET SITUATIONS FACED BY AMERICA

A Declaration of Hostilities Against Other Allies Not Now Necessary.

STATEMENT OF WAR AIMS

Possibility of a Premature Peace is Sharply Dismissed by the President Who Says to Win the War is Our First Task.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Immediate declaration of war against Austria-Hungary was recommended to congress Tuesday by President Wilson.

The President did not, however, recommend a declaration of war against Turkey and Bulgaria at this time.

Immediate war against Austria, the President told congress, was necessary to meet the anomalous situation the United States faces in its war with Germany even though, he declared, Austria was not her own mistress and merely a vassal of Germany.

America's War Aims.

Washington, Dec. 6.—A definite statement to the world of America's war aims and of the basis upon which peace will be considered, was made Tuesday by President Wilson in an address to congress in which he urged immediate declaration of a state of war between the United States and Austria-Hungary—Germany's vassal and tool. As to Turkey and Bulgaria, also tools of the enemy, he counseled delay because "they do not yet stand in the direct path of our necessary action."

To win the war, the President declared in emphatic and ringing tones, is the immediate and unalterable task ahead. He urged congress, just before beginning its second war session, to concentrate itself upon it.

The President sharply dismissed the possibility of premature peace, sought by German intrigue and debated here by men who understood neither its nature nor the way it may be attained. With victory an accomplished fact, he said, peace will be evolved based upon "mercy and justice"—to enemy and friend—with hope of a partnership of nations to guarantee future world peace.

The war will be deemed won, he declared, "when the German people say to us, through properly accredited representatives, that they are ready to agree to a settlement based upon justice and reparation of the wrongs their rulers have done." Terms of peace, he added, would not include dismemberment, robbery or punishment of the enemy, but would be based on justice, defined briefly as follows:

Freedom and Reparation.
Freedom of nations and their peoples from autocratic domination, reparation to Belgium, relinquishment of German power over the peoples of Austria, Turkey, the free Balkan states, as well as evacuation of Prussian territorial conquests in Belgium and northern France.

Emphasizing the purpose of the United States not to interfere in the internal affairs of any nation, the President asserted that no wrong against the German empire was intended and that there was no desire to rearrange the Austro-Hungarian empire. He said when he spoke eight months ago of the right of nations to free access of the seas he

OUR IMMEDIATE TASK IS TO WIN THE WAR, WILSON TELLS THE CONGRESS

"And Nothing Shall Turn Us Aside From It Until It Is Accomplished—Autocracy Must Be Shown the Utter Futility of Its Claims to Power or Leadership."

Washington, Dec. 6.—President Wilson's historic address to congress, in which he urged a declaration of war on Austria-Hungary, was as follows:

The President spoke as follows: Gentlemen of the Congress: Eight months have elapsed since I last had the honor of addressing you. They have been months crowded with events of immense and grave significance for us. I shall not undertake to detail or even to summarize those events. The practical particulars of the part we have played in them will be laid before you in the reports of the executive departments. I shall discuss only our present outlook upon these vast affairs, our present duties, and the immediate means of accomplishing the objects we shall hold always in view.

I shall not go back to debate the cause of the war. Intolerable wrongs done and planned against us by the sinister master of Germany have long since become too grossly obvious and odious to every true American to need to be rehearsed.

But I shall ask you to consider again and with a very grave scrutiny our objective and the measures by which we mean to attain them; for the purpose of discussion here in this place is action, and our action must move straight towards definite ends. Our object, is of course, to win the war; and we shall not slacken or suffer ourselves to be diverted until it is won. But it is worth while asking and answering the question, when shall we consider the war won?

From one point of view, it is not necessary to broach this fundamental matter. I do not doubt that the American people know what the war is about and what sort of an outcome they will regard as a realization of their purpose in it. As a nation we are united in spirit and intention. I pay little heed to those who tell me otherwise. I hear the voices of dissent—who does not? I hear the criticism and the clamor of the noisy, thoughtless and troublesome. I also see men here and there fling themselves in impotent disloyalty against the calm, indomitable power of the nation. I hear men debate peace who understand neither its nature nor the way in which we may attain it with uplifted eyes and unbroken spirits.

But I know that none of these speaks for the nation. They do not touch the heart of anything. They may safely be left to strut their uneasy hour and be forgotten.

But from another point of view I believe that it is necessary to say plainly what we here at the seat of

action consider the war to be for, and what part we mean to play in the settlement of its searching issues. We are the spokesmen of the American people and they have a right to know whether their purpose is ours. They desire peace by the overcoming of evil, by the defeat once for all the sinister forces that interrupt peace and render it impossible, and they wish to know how closely our thought runs with theirs and with the action we propose. They are impatient with those who desire peace by any sort of compromise—deeply and indignantly impatient—but they will be equally impatient with us if we do not make it plain to them what our objectives are and what we are planning for in seeking to make conquest of peace by arms.

I believe that I speak for them when I say two things: First, that this intolerable thing of which the masters of Germany have shown us the ugly face, this menace of combined intrigue and force which we now see so clearly as the German power, a thing without conscience or honor or capacity for covenanted peace, must be crushed and, if it be not utterly brought to an end, at least shut out from the friendly intercourse of the nations; and, second, that when this thing and its power are indeed defeated and the time comes that we can discuss peace—when the German people have spokesmen whose word we can believe and when those spokesmen are ready in the name of their people to accept the common judgment of the nations as to what shall henceforth be the bases of law and of covenant for the life of the world—we shall be willing and glad to pay the full price for peace, and pay it ungrudgingly. We know what that price will be. 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 friends.

Voice of Humanity.

You catch, with me, the voices of humanity that are in the air. They grow daily more audible, more articulate, more persuasive, and they come from the hearts of men everywhere. They insist that the war shall not end in vindictive action of any kind; that no nation of people shall be robbed or punished because the irresponsible rulers of a single country have themselves done deep and abominable wrong. It is this thought that has been expressed in the formula, "No annexations, no contributions, no punitive indemnities."

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VIRGINIA MAN BADLY WOUNDED IN FRANCE

General Pershing Reports Two Soldiers Killed in Action and Several Others Wounded.

Washington, Dec. 6.—General Pershing has reported, through the war department, the names of two men killed in action, in France, seven men severely wounded and four slightly wounded. The casualties occurred between November 12 and 17. General Pershing's message gave no details, but the men are believed to have been with units occupying front line trenches in France.

Those killed are: Corporal Virgil G. Winebrenner, infantry, November 12; Marion, Ind. Private Peter Wojtalewicz, infantry, on November 16; Chicago. Those severely wounded include: Sergt. Harvey L. Haburne, infantry, on November 17; father, S. B. F. Haburne, Jameville, Va.

NATIONAL UNIFICATION OF RAILROADS URGED

Recommended by Interstate Commerce Commission in Special Report.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Immediate action to effect national unification of the railroads, either by government operation or by suspension for the war of anti-trust and anti-pooling laws, a federal loan and regulation of security issues to permit more effective voluntary co-operation, was recommended by the Interstate Commerce commission in a special report to congress.

Neither plan was specifically endorsed, but an implication that the majority believed the railroads might successfully work out their own unification, prompted Commissioner McChord to submit a separate report emphatically urging government control and saying: "The strong arm of government authority is essential if the transportation situation is to be radically improved."

DEATHS INCREASE IN TRAINING CAMPS OVER THE COUNTRY

Report on Health Conditions Shows Improvement Week of November 30.

DEATH LIST TOTALS 261

Decided Improvement is Noted in Camps at Macon, Ga., and Greenville, S. C., Where There Were Extensive Outbreaks.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Although health conditions generally in the national army and National Guard camps showed improvement during the week ending November 30, the number of deaths materially increased.

The report of the division of field sanitation shows that there were 164 deaths among the guardsmen as compared with ninety-seven the previous week and ninety-seven among the draft men as against sixty the preceding week.

One hundred and thirty-four of the guardsmen and thirty-nine of the draft men died from pneumonia and nine of the former and fifteen and of the latter died from meningitis.

Decrease in Pneumonia.

Reports from all divisions in which pneumonia has been prevalent showed a decrease in the number of new cases except the Thirty-sixth (guard) at Camp Bowie, Texas. Decided improvement is noted, the report says, in the Thirty-first (guard) division at Macon, Ga., where Alabama, Georgia and Florida men are encamped, and also in the Thirtieth (guard) division at Greenville, S. C., where there are men from Tennessee and the Carolinas. In both of those camps there have been extensive outbreaks of the disease.

Conditions have also improved in the Thirty-ninth (guard) division at Alexandria, La., containing men from Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas and in the Eighty-ninth division (national army), at Fort Riley, Kan.

Increase in Measles.

Only two divisions, the Thirty-fourth (guard), at Camp Cody, N. M., and the Eighty-seventh (national army), at Little Rock, reported an increase in cases of measles and the number was small.

BUD BIGGS SAYS—

"Mr. Editor, things is pickin' up" said Bud Biggs as he came into our diamond-studded sanctum and began cleaning his jimmy pipe with our solid gold letter-opener. "and there's goin' to be some terrible runnin' in this election to be pulled off next week. I like to see the campaign warmin' up, Mr. Editor, it makes things lively. Roach Stewart is runnin', I see by your Album of Song of Tuesday, and I suppose Charlie Jones is not goin' to let a man walk up and take it away from him—that's the whyfore of my prediction, Mr. Editor, that there's goin' to be some terrible runnin'. I don't know who wants the job of alderman—nobody has come out in public print asking for it and the offices may be forced on somebody, but it's a cinch, Mr. Editor, that somebody's goin' to be mayor o' this here town, and I'm bettin' real money that the best man wins. Nobody accuses Charlie Jones of making a bad mayor these past years; a lot o' folks out my way think he's made a good one; Roach Stewart is a big old clever, whole-hearted fellow and nobody knows but what he'd make a good mayor—you never can tell, Mr. Editor, you never can tell."

—and Bud beat it up the street to see if anybody is handing out campaign cigars.

GERMANS SEEKING DECISIVE BATTLE ON WEST FRONT

Italian Armies Have Bravely Thwarted Central Powers' Plans, Says Baker.

STRAIN AFFECTING ENEMY

Cannot Endure for Much Longer Period the Strain of French Warfare Imposed By the Allies in the West.

Washington, Dec. 6.—An effort by the Germans to bring on a decisive engagement on the western front is suggested in the war department's review of military operations for the week ending December 1, issued by Secretary Baker.

"The outstanding feature of the general military situation today," says the review, "is to be found in the ever-increasing mobility of action of the forces engaged."

"It seems that a decision is being sought by the enemy, who realize that he cannot endure for a much longer period the strain of trench warfare imposed by the allies in the west."

"This explains the effort of the central powers in massing considerable forces in order to invade Italy—a concentration of troops made possible by the international situation in Russia. This offensive was undertaken to crush the Italians and compel them to sue for peace."

"Five weeks of desperate fighting has brought them no nearer their real objective."

"The Italian armies suffered serious reverses in the early stages of the battle. They were compelled to give way and for a time the military situation along the Italian front was serious. But the enemy had underestimated the resisting power of the Italians."

"The hoped-for revolution in Italy, which had been sedulously fomented by German propagandists and which was an important part of the German plan of invasion, failed to materialize."

"The Italians, by a magnificent effort, reorganized their broken

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DEATH TOLL RUNS UP IN THOUSANDS

Explosion Results From Collision of Munition-Laden Vessels in Halifax Harbor.

MOST FEARFUL DISASTER

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—With the toll of dead steadily mounting, it was believed early this morning that more than 2,000 persons perished in the explosion and fire which followed the collision yesterday morning in Halifax harbor between a munitions-laden French ship and another vessel, the Iona, loaded with supplies for the Belgian commission.

The disaster, which has plunged the Dominion into mourning, probably will rank as the most fearful that ever occurred on the American continent. Residents of Halifax and thousands of volunteer relief workers who have come into the city have been almost dazed at the extent of the horror.

Temporary morgues have been established in many buildings to which a steady procession of vehicles of all kinds have been carrying for hours the bodies of men, women and children. Most of them were so charred that they were unrecognizable. Thousands of persons seeking trace of relatives and friends have passed by the long, silent rows, attempting, by the flickering light of lamps and lanterns, to identify the ones they sought.

Virtually every building in the city which could be converted into a hospital is filled with wounded.

TOWN ELECTION TO BE HELD TUESDAY DRAWING INTEREST

Mayor C. D. Jones Will Be a Candidate for Re-Election For Next Term.

BE THREE NEW ALDERMEN

Messrs. Croxton, Gregory and Witherspoon Will Be Only Members of Present Board to Be Voted For By the People.

In the latter days before the town election, which is to be held next Tuesday, there is considerable interest being manifest, and while there will be no real political fights to take place, the friends of the candidates are going to be "moving around" in the interest of their favorites for the next few days.

The present administration, which has given the town a good, moral and business government, according to well posted business men with whom a representative of The News talked yesterday, will stand for reelection. This ticket, with additions for those who will not again be candidates, is as follows:

For Mayor—C. D. Jones.

For Aldermen—E. M. Croxton, J. H. Witherspoon, A. J. Gregory, Hazel Ferguson, John M. Madra, Walter S. Stewman.

For Commissioner of Public Works—J. C. Elliott.

Of those named for aldermen, Mr. Croxton and Mr. Witherspoon and Mr. Gregory are members of the present board of aldermen.

Mayor Jones will be opposed by R. S. Stewart, a prominent local attorney.

It is a fact, well known to all people who have taken an interest in the affairs of the town, that an economical, strong and conservative administration is not only desirable at this time, but is an absolute necessity. No matter who is elected, there will be the problem of financing the town, already heavily in debt and in need of many things. Taxes for general purposes are now as high as the law permits and wise and consistent management of the municipal affairs will be one of the ever-present necessities for the next two years. The business men give the present administration credit for having done many things for the town for which it deserves commendation; there has been little, if any complaint, and the mayor, and the men who compose the board of aldermen, are men of affairs, who are capable and safe, and in whom trust can be placed of careful administration and good, clean government.

It is a serious question as to whether it is advisable at this time, everything considered, to make any change in the present administration, further than to fill the vacancies on the old board with good, conservative business men.

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN ARE NOW IN FRANCE

Every State in the Union Represented—They Have Already Started Training.

With the American Army in France, Dec. 6.—National guardsmen from every state in the union have arrived in France, it is today permitted to be announced. They are among the troops now training, or lately arrived.

They are showing a spirit in keeping with the purpose to make the American expeditionary force a homogeneous American army in which each division, whether regular, national guard or national army, cannot be distinguished in efficiency from the others. The former state troops are billeted over a wide area and are pronounced excellent soldiers.

For the information of the relatives and families of the men, every one who sailed from the United States has arrived safely in France.