

FOUR YEARS OF WAR

(From Saturday's Charlotte Observer)
It was four years ago tomorrow—July 28, 1914—when, prompted by Prussian militarism, the first act occurred which plunged Europe into the most terrible war in the world's history. It was four years ago tomorrow that Austria, at the behest of Germany and with perfect accord existing between the Central Powers, declared war on Serbia, as a sequence of the assassination, just a month before, of Archduke Ferdinand, heir of the Hapsburg dynasty.

Today finds men of all races and creeds covering all the world except a few isolated spots, banded together for one purpose—to crush Prussian militarism and make the world safe for democracy—Nation after Nation having plunged into the catastrophe, after their sense of right and justice had been outraged in some direct or indirect manner by the Beast of Berlin. Seven Nations have been added to the list fighting against Germany within the past year, two of them, China and Brazil, lands of resources and potentialities unlimited. The other five, Costa Rica, Liberia, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Haiti, are small Nations which but recently asserted their own independence. In the category of neutrals are left the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland and Holland, Persia and some of the South American Republics.

By far the outstanding feature of the fourth year of war has been the surprise given the world by the speed with which the United States made her participation manifest and effective. Last July America had just thrown down the gauntlet to Germany, to be spurred by the Prussian War Lords; a few American troops had been landed in France; the first Liberty loan had been oversubscribed by more than a billion dollars;

America's Army of ten billion youths had been drafted, and Congress was wrestling with tremendous plans for the expansion of the Nation's fighting forces. Everything that had been done was only a preparatory nature, the Nation was only arming for the fray.

Today the Nation is still preparing, but with a speed that amazed the World. America may be said to have half completed the job of preparation. America has performed a feat unprecedented in world history and one which probably nobody two years ago would have believed possible—a performance which probably nobody a year ago hoped to see achieved within a year. More than a million men have been transported across submarine-infested seas, despite the determination of the German War Lords that it should never be done and their haughty boast that it could never be accomplished. They are of the flower of the country's manhood. Already they have convinced the sneering Prussian Junkers that Uncle Sam could step across the Atlantic and strike a blow that the German solar plexus will feel for a hundred years. The fighting qualities of these men have surprised and amazed not only the French, British, and Italians, but the Germans themselves. Germany was 40 years building up her war machine; America has built up one within a year which Germany fears and which has turned the tide of battle in the direction of Berlin instead of Paris, snatched the initiative from the German strategists and placed it in the hands of General Foch, changed the whole trend of the war and shifted the offensive from the Teutonic to the Entente side. The comparative qualities of the German and the American and Allied war machines have been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the world

during the last ten days along the Marne.

But that first million men is not all. The two million mark will be reached before the end of the year if not before the close of the present fighting season. Before the fifth year of the war has ended, three million more will be ready to join them if the two million cannot crush the Hun machine. The part played by the American Navy during this past year has been no less creditable than that of the army and hardly less remarkable. Despite the unrestricted warfare waged by the German sea wolves—despite the determined and desperate efforts of the Kaiser's naval forces to prevent even a shipload of American soldiers being landed on European soil or a shipload of munitions and war supplies—the American Navy has put a million and a quarter of fighting men on the other side without the loss of but one man out of every six thousand, and the few who were lost were on transports not convoyed by the American Navy.

Manned by 40,000 sailors, 150 American warships have joined the British fleet in blockading the coasts of Germany. Millions of dollars have been appropriated for building more ships, both for the Navy and for the Merchant Marine. The American Navy is ready for a test of strength with the German sea power any time the Kaiser's admiralty wants to try it out.

America has again amazed and outstripped the world in the matter of shipbuilding. She is building ships twice as fast as the German submarine can sink them. America and her Allies now can confidently declare: "We have abolished the submarine menace." In aircraft production, while America was slow in getting started, she is striking the pace now that has been set in building ships and organizing armies.

Behind the Allies for winning the war have been thrown the limitless financial resources of this Nation. America's war bill has mounted month by month since April, 1917, when we entered the war and spend \$280,893,000 in preparing. For the present month the expenditures are estimated to exceed \$1,070,000,000 which brings the cost of the war to date to \$15,633,766,758. Three great Liberty loans have been oversubscribed.

This vast scheme of warfare was the most important development of the year, not only to the Allies, but to Germany. The Hun has learned to respect America as his chief enemy. Recognizing the menace to their plans for conquest that lay in American preparations, Germany hastily forced a shameful peace on chaotic Russia, withdrew her armies from the eastern front, and launched them with unprecedented violence and barbarous disregard for human lives at the French and British armies on the western front.

The Kaiser and his general recognized the fact that they were defeated unless they could force a decision before America's manpower reached its fullest expression on the battlefield. Therefore the word was given to seize Paris and the Channel Ports at all costs and bring France to her knees.

Five terrific offensives such as the four years of war had never witnessed were the result. The first three were successful to the extent that the Germans were permitted to exchange countless lives for a few miles of shellholes and ruined villages. The last two brought utter defeat to the Hun hordes.

The American troops came out of their first clashes with the Hun hordes covered with glory. In larger battles they have maintained the standard first established. They have been the chief factor in enabling the Allied forces to make the mighty counter offensive of the last ten days, the like of which had not been witnessed on the western front for a year. Every American at home has already been inspired with the ut-

most confidence that, with the Yankees standing like a stone wall before, no matter how many attempts the Germans make to reach Paris, "They Shall Not Pass." By the aid of the Americans the tide has been turned, and there is every reason to believe that henceforth the great movements of the contesting armies are to be in the general direction of Berlin and not toward Paris.

It may now be said that the turning point of the war has been reached. It is likely that it will be recorded by the future historian as the great event of the fourth year of the conflict. Maybe the Germans have not yet become tired of throwing themselves, recklessly but with ever declining force at the Allied line, but it appears that General Foch has about reached the end of his period of waiting until he was assured that America's manpower had overcome the Teuton numerical superiority that resulted from the defection of Russia. When that hour arrives—or has it arrived?—he will launch his armies for the great offensive that is to drive the hordes of Huns out of France and Belgium. We may well expect that such an event will crown the fifth year of the war. Hunger, disease and strikes are playing their part in the weakening of the Teutonic power, as well as the enormous price in men and material they are and have been paying for their recklessness during the last few months and weeks. Even worse will grow the weakening conditions in Germany and Austria in this fifth year of the war while the American forces go overseas in a constantly and rapidly increasing stream and ships are being launched by the hundreds.

As the fifth year of the world's most terrible war opens, everything looks good for America and her Allies, the situation on the battle front and the progress that is being made at home to put the full force of the American nation in the balance against the War Lords of Germany and their hordes of slave-soldiers. Today all seems to be conspiring to hasten the day of ultimate victory for Civilization—the victory which must free the world from the reign of brute force.

That victory may now be said to be in sight, and it is not too much to hope that it will arrive during the fifth year of the horror. Nevertheless, there is much to be done, much to be suffered yet. America has yet to perform the greatest portion of her task!

BLEASE'S DIRTY TALK

Truth About Governor Manning's Sons Whom Blease Would Belie.

Columbia, July 25.—As taken from The Charleston American, which was twice excluded from the mails because of disloyal utterances, Cole L. Blease said in his Branwood speech:

"The Governor brags that he has five sons in the army. It is so. Yet all of them are strutting about in pretty uniforms and holding commissions and are in no more danger of meeting bullets than this electric light which I stand".

That the public may know the truth of the matter the following information as to the standing and whereabouts of Governor Manning's sons is published:

W. S. Manning is 33 years old. He enlisted as a private when the call was made for soldiers to go to the border. He went to the border, served as private until the troops were ordered home.

Upon the declaration of war with Germany he again enlisted as a private. Subsequently he went to a training camp and won a captain's commission. He is now in active service on the front in France.

Vivian Manning is 32 years old. He was a successful business man in Greenville. He closed up his business and volunteered as a private. It is still a private and is at Camp Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky.

Bernard Manning is 29 years old. He enlisted as a private, and subsequently went through the training school at Oglethorpe where he won a captain's commission. If he is not now on the seas or in France it will not be long before he will be on the western front in active service.

Wyndham M. Manning is 28 years old. He graduated from West Point in 1913. He served in Alaska, and went to the border as Captain of a company of cavalry raised in Charleston. When he returned from the border he was assigned as an instructor at Oglethorpe and has been promoted to be major. He too, if not on his way to the western front will not be long in going.

Burwell Deas Manning is 19 years old. He was at the University of Virginia when war was declared. He enlisted as a private. He is now a corporal and is in France.

John Adger Manning is 18 years old. He too, was at school but volunteered as a private and is now a sergeant at Camp Jackson. So soon as command is ordered to France he will go and whether or not he has already gone is only for the authorities to know or say.

George H. Jenkins, a farmer of Pageland, died near Charlotte in an automobile Saturday morning while en route to a hospital for treatment. He was 65 years old and was declared a man of prominence in his county.

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