

OUR COUNTY'S PATRIOTISM.

(Continued from page 1, column 2.)
announced on February 1, 1917 its policy of ruthless submarine warfare, and proceeded immediately to carry it into effect, sinking American ships and killing American citizens, that our relations were first severed and a state of war then recognized. And because this is true I shall discuss the submarine controversy from the beginning of the war to the date of our entrance into it.

International Law Violated.

The principles of International law are presumed to govern the conduct of nations just as the laws of the United States and the laws of South Carolina are presumed to govern your conduct. Under international law the merchant ship of an enemy is subject to capture, and it may be destroyed provided ample provision is made to place the passengers and crew in safety. While this is true of enemy merchant ships, the merchant ships of a neutral nation must not be destroyed even when they are subject to capture, but must, if possible, be taken into a friendly port to have prize court pass upon them. Under no circumstances is it lawful to kill the passengers and crew of a neutral or enemy ship except in case of combat when a merchant vessel resists the attempt of an enemy warship to exercise the right of visit and search or the right of capture. Even after such resistance the crew may not be killed, but must be treated as prisoners of war.

In violation of these provisions of international law Germany announced in January, 1915, the establishment of a war zone and its purpose to sink without warning American ships. Our then Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryan, immediately filed a most emphatic protest against this policy, warning Germany that we would hold them to strict accountability and leave nothing undone to protect our rights.

On February 6, 1915 the German Foreign office said:

"It is very far indeed from the intention of the German government * * * even to destroy neutral lives and neutral property. * * * The commanders of submarines have been instructed, as was already stated in the note of the 4th instant, to abstain from violence to American ships when they are recognizable as such."

Germany's Broken Pledges.

Soon after making this pledge to us Germany proceeded to violate it and in defiance of the law sank not only enemy merchant ships, but American ships. They continued this policy until the Lusitania was sunk, causing the death of 114 American citizens—men, women and children.

We can recall how the sinking of this ship justly aroused the passions of the American people. There was a clamor for a declaration of war by the people of the United States, and many conservative thinking men insisted that after having warned Germany that we would hold them to strict accountability, there was nothing left for us to do but declare war. But the President of the United States, inspired by the desire to avoid for his people the horrors of war, displayed the same infinite patience which has characterized his conduct in all of his negotiations with Germany and called upon Germany for explanation of the violation of its pledge. As a result of this negotiation on February 16, 1916, the German Ambassador expressed to us the regret of his government for the loss of American lives on the Lusitania. In the note promising reparation he stated:

"Germany has * * * limited her submarine warfare because of her long-standing friendship with the United States, and because of the sinking of the Lusitania, which caused the death of citizens of the United States, the German retaliation affected neutrals, which was not the intention, as retaliation should be confined to enemy subjects."

Accepting this statement of the German government in good faith, we continued our diplomatic relations. But it was only a year later, to-wit: February 1st, 1917, that the German government put into effect their policy of ruthless submarine warfare described in its note as follows: "Under these circumstances Germany will meet the illegal measures of her enemies by forcibly preventing after Feb. 1, 1917, in a zone around Great Britain, France and Italy, and in the eastern Mediterranean, all navigation—that of neutrals included—from and to England, and from and to France, etc. All ships met within that zone will be sunk."

This meant that if an American ship carrying a cargo of cotton was found within four hundred miles of the coast of Great Britain, France, or anywhere in the Mediterranean sea, except a very restricted area, it would be sunk without warning. For what Germany called the illegal measures of her enemies she would punish us and other neutrals. They

suddenly carried this policy into effect sinking American ships with all on board. Each separate act constituted an act of war against the United States, and we were forced to decide between a craven and cowardly submission to this oppression, or a recognition by Congress of a war being waged against us by the Germany government.

Hoping against hope that same would return to those directing the affairs of the German government, the president of the United States reported to congress that he had severed diplomatic relations with the German government, and advised that Congress adopt certain legislation carrying into effect the policy of "armed neutrality." In the House of Representatives we passed such legislation, hoping that by this course of arming our merchant vessels the German government might realize our determination to protect our rights and discontinue its attacks upon the lives and property of neutrals. Though this Resolution was filibustered to death in the Senate, the policy was carried into effect, but it proved of no avail—as the German government continued its attacks upon our ships and upon our citizens.

Would You Fight?

This, in brief, is the history of the submarine controversy. It amounted to this: Suppose I should say to a farmer residing on one of public roads in South Carolina that I knew he had a right to travel on the public road, but because of a controversy with an enemy I found it necessary to inform him that if he, his wife or his children, hereafter attempted to travel the public road for any purpose whatever, from ambush and without warning, I would shoot him and his family. And suppose further that pursuant to that notice I should assassinate several members of his family who attempted to exercise their right to travel the highway. What would that farmer do? What would you do. Would you submit like a coward or would you fight? If I know you, you would fight, and fight until you had made it impossible for any man to terrorize a community and assassinate innocent men, women and children.

That is exactly the proposition the Kaiser forced upon this nation, and the Congress decided that the honor, liberty and safety of the American people were at stake and demanded that we fight, and fight until we made certain that the Kaiser and his agents will no longer slaughter our citizens who have a right to look to the government for protection and are acting within their legal rights. I should say that in the submarine announcement the Kaiser added insult to injury by telling us that if we would paint our ships in red and white stripes like a barber's pole, that once a week we could go to one port in England. In reply we told the Kaiser that seven days in the week he could go to hell.

German sympathizers declare that while submarine warfare is in violation of international law, that the principles of international law were formulated prior to the invention of the submarine, and therefore, the law does not apply to them. But in this they overlook the fact that the principles of international law in question were framed, not to control weapons, but to protect the rights of neutrals, and cannot be changed no matter what weapons of destruction are invented. It would be clearly ridiculous to say that the law making murder a crime should be changed because of the introduction of some new automatic gun. The unlawful killing of a man, whether it be done by club, knife or gun, is by law made punishable. The law was framed not for the control of weapons, but for the protection of human beings, and the man who offers this excuse in defense of Germany would be in an unfortunate plight if he offered it in defense of himself when charged with murder.

Not England's War.

When a man tells you that this is England's war ask him whether England sunk the Lusitania with its 114 American citizens? Was it England that issued the ruthless submarine announcement and proceeded to sink American ships and kill American citizens? We have had disputes with England but they affected property rights, and not human rights. We must not forget that we have a treaty with Great Britain under which such disputes as to property rights can be settled by arbitration. We have no such treaty with Germany, because she refused to make such treaty with us when we offered to do so. Another argument freely used by the opponents of the war is that even though it was right for us to go into the war, we should not send an army abroad. How absurd this is.

In the House one day I said it reminded me of the nursery rhyme:

"Mother, mother, may I go out to swim,
Yes, my darling daughter,

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Hang your clothes on a hickory limb
But don't go near the water."

If we are going to fight we must go where the fighting is. The battle-line is in Europe, not in America. The Power that destroyed our ships and killed our citizens is in Europe, and there we must go with Pershing to make certain for our people and for the people of the world that the present rulers of Germany shall no longer be permitted to terrorize humanity. What folly it would be for us to wait until the armies of Germany break through the lines of the allies and come to the shores of America. The devastation worked upon the South during the civil war is fresh enough in the minds of our people to cause them to realize the wisdom of joining the allied nations on the soil of Europe, rather than to wait for a victorious Germany to invade our land.

We Must Unite.

The best service we can render our country to-day is by letting the world know we unitedly stand for the prosecution of this war. If I engage in a lawsuit with you and while the suit is pending my wife goes forth into the community declaring that I am wrong in bringing the suit and that my cause is an unholy and unrighteous one, the only effect is to cause you to believe your cause a righteous one and inspire you to greater efforts for success. You would likely hire another lawyer and pursue the litigation to the highest courts. To-day when newspapers declare that at public meetings in South Carolina the majority of the people express their opposition to the war, these declarations are carried to the enemy and must give them aid and comfort. Such action can only result in prolonging the war and causing the death of thousands of our young men. If on the other hand the German government is convinced that the people are united, it will cause them more quickly to come to terms of peace and will save the lives of many of our sons. No man can serve two masters. He must be loyal either to this government or to the government of Germany. The man who is for Germany and against the country that protects him should go to Germany.

We must not allow local or State politics to control or influence our views or actions in this national crisis. It makes no difference whether a man be a "Tillmanite," a "Bleasite," or an anti-Bleasite, factional politics should be obliterated

when it comes to consideration of matters affecting the nation's welfare. Men of all political views: "Bleasites," "Manningites" and all other kind of "ites" are to-day in our army, and you can rest assured that when the Germans begin shooting at them they will make no distinction between Bleasites and anti-Bleasites. Should the German army by any misfortune ever land its forces in this country, at the port of Charleston, they will not make any distinction in their destruction of life and property. You may not like the individual who has been selected by those in power to discharge some duty in connection with this war, but that is no reason why you should fail to give whole hearted support to the war. The man who would refuse to do so on this account would refuse to help put out a fire in his own house because he did not like the chief of the fire department. This is one time when factional politics must be forgotten and our people unite against the common enemy.

Our Patriotic Duty.

Now it costs money, and lots of it, to conduct this war. As a member of the Appropriation committee I have voted to give to the army and navy every dollar they have asked for. We have appropriated millions in order to increase the pay of the soldiers who are going to the front. We have appropriated millions to make sure that if misfortune comes to any of these boys, their dependents will not suffer. We have spent a billion for aeroplanes to hover over and protect them. We have spent a billion for the best artillery in order to protect them as they charge. In all we have appropriated eighteen billion dollars and authorized the expenditure of two billions more. I would not take back one dollar of it and I do not believe you would. We cannot do it by taxation. A part of it we must borrow, and we can borrow it only from you. You can buy a fifty dollar Liberty Bond and it will pay you four per cent. interest. You cannot lose your money unless the government goes broke, and the government cannot go broke as long as there are people and property in this country. If the time ever comes when the people are gone and all property destroyed, your bond will be no good but it will then make no difference to you. It is the best investment you can make, and in addition it is the best evidence of your loyalty. If you

cannot enlist you should invest. If you cannot go to the front, you should help those who do go there. If you cannot fight with lead bullets, you should fight with silver bullets. You are prosperous, but you should not prosper while others bleed. Every home in the State ought to have a Liberty Bond, so that we can send to Germany the message that every man in America is behind this government in this war, and in this way we can convince them that the stripes of red in the American flag have not yet become cowardly streaks of yellow.

Mr. A. V. Snell.

The presiding officer introduced Mr. A. V. Snell, South Carolina field representative of the United States food administration, whose speech was received with approbation and thoroughly convinced the audience of the vast importance which the issues under discussion bear towards the determination of the war. Mr. Snell made a very favorable impression on this, his first visit to Bamberg. He opened with the statement that with their small pay the 1,000 South Carolina boys stationed in the navy service at Fort Moultrie had subscribed to \$55,000 worth of Liberty Bonds, and cited their spirit as an example of patriotism. He said that men, money and food will help win the war, but the loyalty of the people at home to the boys in the trenches is the prime factor, as shown by Russia's example. He said that he could understand how people might argue about the war before America entered into it, but he could not now understand how they could admit of argument by themselves which savored of disloyalty. Mr. Snell described a patriotic woman who in offering her services to the country said she did not admire the expression so often used in reference to Americans, "Do your bit," for she had come to "Do her damndest." He stated that we might not all be in a position to help from an actual fighting or financial viewpoint, but explained how easy it is for the poorest, humblest black or white citizen to help in the food saving movement. He gave as actual figures the fact that if each individual would save a slice of bread a day it would mean a salvage of one hundred and fifty million loaves per week, and said that we have been shipping eighty million bushels of wheat a week to our allies, who are paying for it, not begging. But he said further that they need one hundred and twenty million bushels per week, and that we can supply

this difference if each individual would only cut down his amount of flour consumed weekly from the normal supply of five pounds to four. He assured his hearers that the government is not asking the people to starve, but merely to conserve, eliminate waste and to substitute other foods for those which must be sent abroad, whenever possible. He said that Europe could not use corn meal for they did not have the roller mills to prepare it, and therefore we should make good use of these corn products here at home, so that the wheat could be sent abroad. He referred to our food supply as America's greatest gold mine. He said the government was not demanding anything from anybody, was simply asking a pledge of loyalty to save food, and that every food pledge is an endorsement of America's position.

The French Helped Us.

The revolutionary times were recalled, when before the French government entered officially into that war, her people came to our assistance with their money procured from them through the solicitation of a South Carolinian, John Laurens. Mr. Snell said that when famine afflicts any nation in war times the soldiers at the front are not the first to suffer, for the reason, that they have the government to take care of them, but that the real suffering comes to the women and children at home first. He said that the one greatest moral to be grasped from the war was that of self-sacrifice and self-denial, and that when the American people will have drawn that from the conflict they will have accomplished the greatest thing possible, for the betterment as a national people. He closed with a dramatic appeal to the people for their loyal cooperation.

The Rev. D. H. Owings, of Ehrhardt, made the closing prayer and pronounced the benediction, after which the audience adjourned. Much good was accomplished by the meeting, and the men in charge of the local situation were greatly aided in getting their work under headway for the diligent drive which is to come in these matters.

Much credit is due to Mr. J. A. Wyman for the success of the meeting, being instrumental in getting Mr. Byrnes here. Mr. Wyman had also made arrangements with Congressman Asbury F. Lever, of Lexington, to be one of the speakers of the day, but, to the regret of many, Mr. Lever was at the last minute unavoidably detained in Batesburg and Columbia.