

World Reconstruction to Fall on United States

A New York dispatch, dated Aug. 28, says: President Wilson has contributed to the following article on "America's Opportunity" to the General Federation magazine:

"No one can doubt that the immediate future of the world will be crowded with quick changes. Every true lover of America must wish the United States to play a part in those changes which will be worthy of her ideal and her character. Almost alone among the great nations of the world she will be unhampered in meeting a great opportunity.

"In the first place her resources are unimpaired. Not only has the war and all its attendant circumstances made no hurtful drain upon her men or her materials; it has even enhanced her skill and added to her resources.

"She has developed industries that she had before neglected, has found new use for her materials and new material for use. No other nation will stand quite so ready as she to serve the world in every work of peace and development.

"Second, she will probably of necessity be the chief reliance of the rest of the world in the field of finance. Probably the chief part in supplying the means necessary for the great reconstruction following the war will fall to her.

Burden Falls Upon Financiers

"When the war began America was a debtor nation. When it closes she will be a creditor of all the world. Her financiers will have it within their choice to play a part they have never played before in the economic development of other nations.

"Third, it is evident that the United States will understand herself better than ever before. The war and all its attendant circumstances have pried her wide-awake to both the dangers of her life and its enormous possibilities and advantages.

"We had not realized before that there were certain elements in our citizenship which had not in their heart of hearts devoted themselves in full loyalty and allegiance to the country of their adoption.

Problem of Disunion Overcome

"A new problem of disunion, more subtle, more difficult to meet with direct checkmate and conviction than the old problem which culminated in the Civil war has engaged and disturbed our thought and we have realized that we must devote a new energy and ardor to binding together the forces which will produce a new union, a union of spirits triumphant over every alien force and sympathy.

"This very anxiety has quickened the pulse of every loyal and devoted American, whether his birthplace was on this side of the water or on the other.

"A new and wholesome force has arisen of thoughtful, watchful, energetic patriotism and I venture to think that the nation is better prepared on that account to face the problem of a new day.

Unselfish and Impartial

"Fortunately, America can play her part unselfishly and impartially because she covets nothing other nations have, unless it be their skill and knowledge in some of the undertakings of science and industry, and these she can obtain by the mere careful use of the extraordinary capacity of her people.

"She has nothing she wishes to take away from other nations and is better prepared than ever before to

make rich contributions to the development of other nations.

Her Opportunity at Hand

"The opportunity is at hand. Her principles are suited to the freedom of mankind and the peace of the world.

"She can now afford an example of energy in justice as well as in enthusiasm, in honorable competition, in thoughtful adaptation of her resources to the needs of the world which may help to inaugurate a new era in the intercourse and friendly independence of the peoples of the world.

"That she will rise to this great opportunity no man who knows her can doubt."

THE ADAMSON 8-HOUR BILL

The Adamson bill, introduced in congress to avert a threatened railroad strike, passed the house of representatives September 1 by a vote of 239 to 56, and passed the senate September 2 by a vote of 43 to 28. President Wilson signed the bill September 4. The text of the measure follows:

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled:

Section 1. That beginning December 1, 1916, eight hours shall in contracts for labor and service be deemed a day's work and the measure or standard of a day's work for the purpose of reckoning the compensation for service of all employees who are now or may hereafter be employed by any railroad which is subject to the provisions of the act of February 1, 1887, "An act to regulate commerce," as amended, and who are now or may hereafter be actually engaged in any capacity in the operation of trains used for the transportation of persons or property on railroads, except railroads independently owned and operated not exceeding 100 miles in length, electric street railroads and electric interurban railroads, from any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, to any other state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia or from one place in a territory to another place in the same territory, or from any place in the United States to an adjacent foreign country, or from any place in the United States through a foreign country to any other place in the United States; provided that the above exceptions shall not apply to railroads less than 100 miles in length whose principal business is leasing or furnishing terminal or transfer facilities to other railroads, or are themselves engaged in transfers of freight between railroads or between railroads and industrial plants.

Section 2. That the President shall appoint a commission of three, which shall observe the operation and effects of the institution of the 8-hour standard work day as above defined and the conditions affecting the relations between such common carriers and employees during a period of not less than six months nor more than nine months, in the discretion of the commission, and within thirty days thereafter such commission shall report its findings to the President and congress; that each member of the commission created under the provisions of this act shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the President. The sum of \$25,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and hereby is, appropriated out



HE'S TWO YEARS OLD

—Satterfield in the New York Call.

of any money in the United States treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the necessary and proper expenses incurred in connection with the work of such commission, including salaries, per diem, traveling expenses of members and employees and rent, furniture, office fixtures and supplies, books, salaries and other necessary expenses, the same to be approved by the chairman of said commission and audited by the proper accounting officers of the treasury.

Section 3. That pending the report of the commission, herein provided for, and for a period of thirty days thereafter, the compensation of railway employees subject to this act for a standard 8-hour work day shall not be reduced below the present standard day's wage and for all necessary time in excess of eight hours such employees shall be paid at a rate not less than the pro rata rate for such standard 8-hour work-day.

Section 4. That any person violating any provision of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not to exceed one year, or both.

ROUMANIA ENTERS WORLD WAR

The most important developments of the European war situation during the month are the declaration of war by Roumania against Austria on August 28, and by Italy against Germany on August 27. Roumania is the fourteenth nation to enter the war:

A Paris cablegram, dated August 30, says: "La Liberte has received from Geneva a summary of the Roumanian declaration of war, as telegraphed from Vienna. It is a long document, setting forth Roumania's grievances. The persecution of Roumanians by Austro-Hungarian officials is alleged, and it is charged that agreements which existed between Roumania and the former members of the Triple Alliance have been broken in letter and spirit from the time Germany and Austria entered the war.

"Italy, the declaration says, was

obliged to detach herself from Austria and Germany. In conclusion, the communication sets forth as follows the motives in compelling Roumania to enter the war:

"1. The Roumanian population in Austrian territories is exposed to the hazards of war and of invasion.

"2. Roumania believes that, by interfering, she can shorten the war.

"3. Roumania places herself on the side of those powers which she believes can assist her most efficaciously in realizing her national ideal."

A Berlin cablegram, dated August 27, says: The following official announcement was made here today:

"The Italian government has declared, through the Swiss government, that it considers itself, from August 28, at war with Germany."

FOREGONE CONCLUSION

Teacher—"If a farmer sold 1,470 bushels of wheat at \$1.17 a bushel, what would he get?"

Boy—"An automobile." — Cincinnati Enquirer.



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