

If the people approve of the policies of the Wilson administration they should vote for the senatorial and congressional candidates in the coming election who will uphold the President's hands.

President Wilson's Appeal for Neutrality

My fellow-countrymen:

I suppose that every thoughtful man in America has asked himself during these last troubled weeks what influence the European war may exert upon the United States, and I take the liberty of addressing a few words to you in order to point out that it is entirely within our own choice what its effects upon us will be and to urge very earnestly upon you the sort of speech and conduct which best safeguard the nation against distress and disaster.

The effect of the war upon the United States will depend upon what American citizens say and do. Every man who really loves America will act and speak in the true spirit of neutrality which is the spirit of impartiality and fairness and friendliness to all concerned. The spirit of the nation in this critical matter will be determined largely by what individuals and society and those gathered in public meetings do and say, upon what newspapers and magazines contain, upon what ministers utter in their pulpits, and men proclaim as their opinions on the street.

The people of the United States are drawn from many nations and chiefly from the nations now at war. It is natural and inevitable that there should be the utmost variety of sympathy and desire among them with regard to the issues and circumstances of the conflict. Some will wish one nation, others another, to succeed in the momentous struggle. It will be easy to excite passion, and difficult to allay it. Those responsible for exciting it will assume a heavy responsibility, responsibility for no less a thing than that the people of the United States,—whose love of their country and whose loyalty to its government should unite them as Americans all, bound in honor and affection to think first of her and her interests,—may be divided in camps of hostile opinion, hot against each other, involved in the war itself in impulse and opinion if not in action. Such divisions amongst us would be fatal to our peace of mind and might seriously stand in the way of the proper performance of our duty as the one great nation at peace, the one people holding itself ready to play a part of impartial mediation and speak the counsels of peace and accommodation, not as a partisan, but as a friend.

I venture, therefore, my fellow-countrymen, to speak a solemn word of warning to you against that deepest, most subtle, most essential breach of neutrality which may spring out of partisanship, out of passionately taking sides. The United States must be neutral in fact as well as in name during these days that are to try men's souls. We must be impartial in thought as well as in action, must put a curb upon our sentiments as well as upon every transaction that might be construed as a preference of one party to the struggle before another.

My thought is of America. I am speaking, I feel sure, the earnest wish and purpose of every thoughtful American that this great country of ours, which is, of course, the first in our thoughts and in our hearts, should show herself in this time of peculiar trial a nation fit beyond others to exhibit the fine poise of undisturbed judgment, the dignity of self-control, the efficiency of dispassionate action; a nation that neither sits in judgment upon others nor is disturbed in her counsels and which keeps herself fit and free to do what is honest and disinterested and truly serviceable for the peace of the world.

Shall we not resolve to put upon ourselves the restraints which will bring to our people the happiness and the great and lasting influence for peace we covet for them?

SENATOR FLETCHER

Florida will elect by direct vote of the people a senator of the United States in November. The democratic nominee is her present senior senator, Duncan U. Fletcher. It is not thought any candidate by any other party will be nominated. There will be no opposition to his election. His majority of 10,309 in the June primary indicates that his constituents value his splendid service and appreciate his attainments and accomplishments.

While Senator Fletcher has not yet completed his first term, he is recognized as one of the most intelligent, patriotic and efficient members of the senate. Demonstrating his capacity to meet the highest demands of the country, his colleagues have placed him on a number of the most important committees, and he has been assigned to work of greatest responsibility.

While carefully guarding the interests of Florida, and absolutely devoted to her people, his vision and understanding embrace the problems of the nation.

As the leading democrats on the special committee to investigate the interior department and forestry service (known as the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy) his work on the committee in preparing the report, and his speech in support of it, establish his position at the front. As a member of the committee selected to investigate the Titanic disaster, he rendered important service in connection with legislation which followed, improving our navigation laws and tending to promote the safety of life at sea.

As chairman of the American commission and the United States commission, appointed by the president, on rural credits, he is at the leadership of a movement which means vast benefits to the agricultural interests of the country. Senate document 214 is said to be the most complete, authentic and reliable publication on the subject of rural credits in print anywhere. It is a volume of 915 pages, the work of these commissions. The report of the United States commission to congress and the bill attached show the high character of the efforts being put forth by Senator Fletcher and its great importance to the whole country.

Florida has very wisely decided to continue him in the senate.

Outside of congress, Senator Fletcher conducts public undertakings requiring a stupendous amount of labor and vastly helpful to the south.

As president of the southern commercial congress, and of the Mississippi to Atlantic Inland Waterway Association, he has pushed forward the forces which make for the upbuilding of the south and in the spirit of the slogan, "A greater nation through a greater south."

W. J. BRYAN.

With the full horrors of war brought within the vision of the American people by the devastating conflict in Europe, one no longer hears any more sneers directed towards the watchful waiting policy of the national administration in its dealings with the Mexican situation. When history calmly and impartially writes down the record of this country's dealings with this problem, and pronounces its judgment upon the attitude of the United States, Woodrow Wilson will receive the full meed of praise for his patience and wisdom that is now denied him in part.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo has announced that warehouse receipts for cotton, tobacco, turpentine and rosin will be accepted as a basis for currency issues. This was done so that producers need not be compelled to market their stuff at whatever price the speculators cared to pay them, with the latter reaping all of the benefit. This action was taken without consulting Wall street, which indicates where the difference lies between a democratic administration's way of doing things and the way a republican administration does things.

FIATISM REBUKED

The New York World administers the following rebuke to one of the leading eastern financiers:

"When the president of the National City bank coolly proposes that bank notes shall be substituted for gold in maintaining the 25 per cent. reserve required by law, Wall street owes an apology to Kansas. Nothing that populism ever demanded in the name of fiat money surpassed this, and all that Mr. Bryan ever wanted to do was to cut the standard of value in two. He never insisted that currency be substituted for specie.

"The bank notes are a liability against the banks that issue, and if a liability can be turned into a reserve against other liabilities, wild-cat banking was a scientific currency system which ought never to have been destroyed.

"The Vanderlip excursion into populism is additional evidence that the new banking and currency law cannot too soon be put into operation."

It is not necessary to discuss the World's misrepresentation of Mr. Bryan's position; it is enough to know that it regards the Wall street proposition as worse. It is some praise to be referred to as advocating a system more safe and sane than that which now receives endorsement in our great money centers.

As neat a piece of back-tracking as was ever accomplished in a short time was that of the Nebraska republican state platform convention. The resolutions committee included a plank amending the direct primary law so as to reinstate the state nominating convention. It was received with applause by the politicians who composed the greater portion of the delegates, and was just on the point of being adopted when speakers pointed out that maybe the voters wouldn't stand for it. Then it was defeated by an overwhelming vote. The republican papers that reported the convention said that the majority favored the plank but were afraid to adopt it. This is given as illustrating how really progressive Nebraska republicans are.

Joseph L. Bristow, senator from Kansas, was defeated in the republican primaries as a candidate for re-election by Former Senator Curtis, who was retired two years ago because of his stalwart standpatism. Thus we see how thoroughly progressive the republican party, even in radical Kansas, has become. The result carries its lesson for the democratic party, and that lesson is that with the republican party headed for its old resting place in the bosom of plutocracy, the democratic party must remain as it is, the real progressive party of the nation.

Husband, what reason have you to believe that you are more interested in your children's welfare than their mother is? And what ground is there for the belief that she would be less wise than you in the use of the ballot for the safeguarding of the children's welfare?

ROOSEVELT SILENCED BY EVENTS

When ex-President Roosevelt opened the campaign in behalf of the progressives whom he is supporting, he attacked the foreign policy of the president and declared it to be "a disgrace to the nation."

He had scarcely committed himself when Huerta fled from Mexico and Carranza entered the city in peaceful triumph. The success of the president's policy "watchful waiting" silenced criticism.

Then came the great European war that emphasizes the contrast between the war spirit of Europe and the spirit of mediation and conciliation in the western hemisphere. The ex-president has announced his readiness to "uphold the hands" of the president during the war, which is entirely patriotic and praiseworthy, but he cannot throw as much energy into his words of approval as he did into the denunciatory phrase with which he started out.