

be the supplies for their maintenance, gasoline, oil, tools, and accessories of all kinds. To provision the army, wheat, corn, oats, beef, pork, and clothing in vast quantities must be provided, every item equally important in the successful movement of an army; every item a link in the chain. The gun is really no more important than any other link in the chain. In fact, not so much so, because men can not fight unless they are fed and clothed.

The ammunition maker, the automobile, saddle, harness, blanket and clothing manufacturers would not object very much, perhaps, to an embargo on foodstuffs. Nor would the farmer seriously object to an embargo on factory products. We are all much in the attitude of the man who wanted all property divided up equally among all of the people, land, horses, money, everything except hogs, for he owned quite a drove of them. But as a representative of a great agricultural state, I propose to be an exception to the rule. We own quite a drove of hogs and uncounted millions of bushels of wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye and potatoes, and hundreds of thousands of head of horses, cattle, sheep, and so forth, that we desire to sell to those who need them and have the money to pay for them, and I deny the moral right of the national government, in times of peace, to say to a citizen that he can not sell his products to any one who desires to buy them.

We are furnishing five times as much wheat, six times as much corn, twice as much flour, and twelve times as much beef and on an average five times as much bread stuffs generally to Europe as we did last year, nearly all of it going to the armies of the warring nations. Not only are we feeding the armies but we are sending them tens of thousands of auto trucks, hundreds of thousands of saddles, hundreds of thousands of blankets, hundreds of thousands of sets of harness, thousands of wagons, and countless tools of every kind and character. Millions of our people are engaged in this profitable business, and these millions also buy other hundreds of millions of dollars worth of our farm products for their own sustenance. We are all tied together in a mighty mass, and when any portion of our body politic suffers, the shock is felt throughout the whole.

WILL FORCE DOWN FARM PRICES

Should we conclude to place an embargo on all war supplies so as to really hamper the belligerents the results would be as disastrous to us as to the belligerents. The day the law would go into effect, the surplus on our markets would drive prices down probably on an average of from thirty to fifty per cent. Wheat would drop possibly to 60 or 70 cents a bushel, corn to 35 or 40 cents a bushel, and all other products accordingly. The value of the season's farm products in the state of Nebraska alone would shrink at least one hundred million dollars from present prices. Thousands of factories would discharge half their employees or close down entirely, and our home market would suffer proportionately.

These are not vague fears; they are facts borne out by the experience of every business man. Nearly every port in the United States on the Atlantic seaboard is congested with cars loaded with our products destined for European markets, unable to get ships fast enough to supply the demand. Place an embargo on this trade and throw this surplus back on the home market, and this country would face financial disaster of the greatest possible magnitude. Are we ready to create such a condition with a very worthy, though misguided, belief that we will thereby check the war movement in Europe? Are we willing to make the useless sacrifice? That is the question for every citizen to consider before he commences to clamor for a resolution that contemplates the national government interfering with the trade of its citizens. My own honest judgment is that our efforts would produce no results that would be anywhere in proportion to the cost. The misery in Europe would go on, and maybe would be prolonged, and we would add to it our own misery. There are many beautiful sentiments expressed by the advocates of this resolution, with which no one disagrees and with which all are in hearty accord. They simply have no value in this argument, but greatly befog the question, by bringing into it a force that blindly interferes with a sane and sensible solution of the problem.

GERMANY'S ATTITUDE

Germany does not contend that we are unneutral in selling war supplies to the belligerents, though she is unable at present to buy from us. Germany

knows our actions in selling to all who can reach our markets are in perfect accord with international law and customs. She has never asked us to alter our laws in her behalf. Her interest now that she is blockaded by the Allies would be enhanced by this proposed legislation because the allies would suffer by such a law in having one source of supplies shut off. Germany has an enormous capacity for producing war materials, greatly out of proportion to all other nations. In fact it is an open question whether Germany would buy guns and ammunition from us if she could. She needs vastly more than guns, automobiles, horses, saddles, harness and our wheat, corn and meat. These are the war supplies Germany needs. They are also the war supplies the allies most need.

The United States has been selling these supplies to all nations without discrimination. Now it has transpired since the war broke out that two of these nations can not reach our markets because of a war blockade. As a result of this condition we have lost an immense trade with these two nations, Germany and Austria, through no fault of ours. They can not reach us. Now the proponents of this measure want us to make a clean sweep and quit trading with the remaining nations that can reach our markets because Germany and Austria can not, and thereby wipe out the rest of our commerce. It is certainly an absurd suggestion from an economic point of view, and since the question is not a moral question at all, because the proponents of this measure are not willing to have this nation stop making arms and ammunition for its own defense, or to disband our army and throw our fleets of warships into the scrap heap, it remains purely a question of economics and observance of neutrality. If the advocates of an embargo on arms are not ready for the United States to go out of the business of preparing to kill future enemies of her own, they are certainly hypocritical in their claim that we are criminal because we make arms for other nations with which to kill their enemies. The whole scheme of arms and armaments is a hellish business, and clearly a device of the devil that is in us, so why talk about morals when we know just what we are, the passions that move us, and the wars that are sure to afflict mankind for ages to come. Peace at any price is only possible with Christ-like men and there are too few of them to count for much in these mighty passion waves that sweep the earth.

German diplomats are careful not to take the position that we are unneutral in selling arms and war supplies to her enemies who are able to reach our markets, because they know that Germany has always followed that practice herself. No protest has ever been made officially by this country or any other so far as I have heard against the practice. It no doubt would be a precedent, if established at the request of Germany that would greatly embarrass her when this war is over, for Germany has the greatest manufacturers of arms and ammunition in the world. She not only has the greatest gun makers in the world, but the greatest in all history. She has supplied the markets of the world, impartially, selling to all who wished to buy.

During the titanic struggle between Russia and Japan, Germany furnished vast quantities of guns and ammunition to both belligerents. No one in this country complained that Germany was wading in the blood of those two nations for the profit she could make. German-American citizens were not outraged by the conduct of their cousins, brothers and countrymen in Germany at that time. Nor did we cry out when German arms factories supplied the Boers in South Africa with their arms and ammunition during the Boer war with England. No one protested against Germany furnishing the great bulk of war supplies for the horrible war in the Balkan states so recently closed. Nor was there a voice raised in this country that I now recall, against the acts of Germany in supplying arms and ammunition to Spain during the Spanish-American war, to be used by that country against our own country when we were waging one of the most unselfish wars for human liberty in history. German-American soldiers by the tens of thousands were serving in that army of liberation, under the stars and stripes, and they were shot by Spanish oppressors with guns made by their German cousins, in Germany. Our soldiers were not particular about the make of the gun with which they were shot. There were no neutrality meetings held at that time anywhere in this country, declaring that Germany was unneutral, and should stop selling supplies to our enemies. Such an action would have appeared

foolish to us then, and it would so appear to us now were it not for the fact that we have been misled by a propaganda that has had for its motive the securing of support for Germany in this conflict.

I do not blame Germany for doing all in her power to secure the sympathy and support of her blood relations everywhere in the world, but I think every naturalized American citizen should know that this propaganda is not being waged at all in the interest of neutrality, but solely against neutrality. I have read the proceedings of these so-called neutrality meetings, and invariably they develop into the most rabid and partisan defenses of Germany's attitude in this war. The advocates of so-called neutrality soon throw off their pretense of neutrality, by lauding Germany to the skies, abusing Great Britain, and slandering their own country. The gross misrepresentations of the administration, the charges that it is an ally of England, the charges that it permits England to do as she pleases with our commerce, are so common at these meetings that one sometimes wonders whether some of the most rabid have not forgotten their allegiance to our own beloved country that guarantees to them liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One of these so-called neutrals in a speech delivered January 24, at a so-called neutrality meeting held in Washington city, after slandering his own government, shamefully, charged that a British warship had fired a shot across the bow of the United States battleship New York, ordering her to stop. The captain of the New York cleared his ship for action, and a fight was barely averted by the English captain apologizing. As a reward for this brave defense of our rights and dignity, the speaker charged that the captain of the New York was reprimanded by the administration. The whole story was a malicious falsehood, fabricated and circulated for no other purpose than to injure the administration in the eyes of our naturalized citizens, and force, if possible, the congress to pass this embargo resolution in favor of Germany and Austria under the fraudulent pretense of neutrality. The man who made the charge appears to be wholly unable to appreciate the blessings of peace that this country now enjoys, because it has as president and secretary of state, two of the greatest advocates of peace in the world. They refuse to be turned from an observance of absolute neutrality by the misrepresentations of men of this character. Such hot-heads as these constantly harassing and hounding the administration, at such a critical period in our history when every loyal American ought to be holding himself in restraint, merits the condemnation of honest men.

The naturalized citizens of the United States appreciate the blessings of this new and wonderful land where they have made their homes, and to which they owe their allegiance. They are all bitterly opposed to war and they want to be neutral. It is true they have a deep and profound sympathy for their respective fatherlands, and it is commendable that they have, but in spite of it all they are for their own adopted country first, and the hot headed partisans who have tried to mislead them into believing that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan are not observing absolute neutrality, will find that their efforts have been wasted. If there is one virtue greater than any other in our German-American citizen it is his sense of loyalty to his government. He feels that he must depend upon this government for life and liberty and opportunity. He knows that his government must be loyally supported in times of stress like these, and he hates most cordially an agitator. It is true he feels keenly the dire stress of his fatherland, and he may follow his very natural and worthy sentiments of affection for his countrymen by wishing success to the German cause. No one can criticize him for that. My own blood and kin are now serving in the Kaiser's army, fighting for Germany's cause, if they have not already died for their country, but that is no reason why I should insist upon this country becoming an ally of Germany. I wish my country to give Germany a fair deal in this deadly struggle with the allies, and that is what this country is doing, its slanderers to the contrary notwithstanding.

We are not to blame because the allied navies have blockaded German and Austrian ports. We do not own these navies, nor did we aid or abet this horrible war in any particular. We can not be expected to change our laws or morals in a crisis like the one confronting this nation simply because Germany and Austria, old time friends and customers, have got pinched in the war game. If the situation were reversed and Ger-

(Continued on Page 21)