

A Foretaste

The speech of Congressman Miller of Minnesota, published below, is a foretaste of what we may expect if the jingoes and militarists secure control of the government.

I very much appreciate the brave and generous replies made by Congressman Huddleston of Alabama and Congressman Sloan of Nebraska. The latter, though a political opponent, is too good an American to remain silent when freedom of speech is assailed. My grateful acknowledgment to both. W. J. BRYAN.

CONGRESSMAN MILLER'S ATTACK

Addressing the house of representatives, February 5, Congressman Miller of Minnesota said:

"When our fathers struggled for their independence in this land there were royalists abroad. When the dark days of the Civil war were here there were 'copperheads' in the north. Today England has her pacifists. In this hour of great peril to our land we have William J. Bryan.

"Mr. Speaker, it is my opinion that the meeting which he fathered in New York but a few days ago, the meetings which he fathered in this city more recently, are not calculated to aid our nation in this great hour, but are calculated to do the public great harm. I therefore wish to raise my voice against such conduct. This is a time when there should be neither creeds nor politics, just plain American citizens. Our President, yours and mine, has passed the hour for deliberation, has passed the hour of doubt. He has taken a position, and there can be no steps backward. It is the duty of every man in the United States to back him up to the uttermost. And I decry those who see it their duty to work against the common weal by trying to create a public sentiment opposed to the President's course.

"Mr. Speaker, there is free speech in the United States at all times, and there should be. When we are striving to arrive at a policy, free speech is welcome and should be had. But when the time for deliberation and doubt is passed, when our country is dedicated to a purpose or a plan, then the time has come to act, and the only way that a patriotic citizen can act is to follow the great leader, the President of the United States.

"Free deliberations and free discussions are born of a legal right. We can not cry out against them when they are in their place. But I for one believe at this time they begin in skimmed-milk patriotism, and, if continued, they are destined to end in the shadow land of treason. We need a united, a harmonious, a perfectly organized nation of men and women in this hour. Let there be no division of sentiment, no diversity of purpose, and no stragglers from the ranks.

"The public press of our land has always been patriotic, perhaps never more so than now. Let me urge them to one further act of exalted patriotism. I urge the press to close their columns against this Bryan back-fire, and until he joins the ranks of patriotic Americans, that he be consigned to the shades of oblivion.

"I have just received a letter from a constituent of mine in whose veins flows the blood of Puritan sires, whose forefathers fought in the colonial wars of the land, in the great Revolutionary struggle of our country, and in every war since, and I want to read to you what he says:

"Washington, D. C. February 4, 1917.—Hon. Clarence Miller, House of Representatives. My Dear Sir: Mr. William Jennings Bryan asks the people to advise their representatives in congress of their wishes in this crisis. In accordance therewith I would say to you that it is my opinion that the interests of our country would be conserved by the immediate internment of the said Bryan. Yours sincerely, Wm. E. Richardson."

"I hope that sentiment will find a responsive echo in the heart of every true citizen of this land."

SPEECHES IN REPLY

Congressman Huddleston of Alabama made the following reply to Congressman Miller:

"I rise to protest against the cowardly communication that has been read into the Record

attacking that splendid American, William Jennings Bryan. He needs no defense from me, but the dignity of the American house of representatives demands that such a pusillanimous attack upon him should be resented. He has been three times the nominee of a great party for president of the United States and has received the suffrage of American citizens to a total aggregate greater than any other man who ever lived in America.

"This is not the time for cowards; it is not the time for jingoes; it is not the time for swash-bucklers, bluffers, and braggarts. This is the time for men, and William Jennings Bryan is a man. In a time like this moment of the nation's peril it takes a lion-hearted courage for a man to stand up on his feet and dare to speak for peace; but let us not forget that peace should be spoken for and that, after all, the great American people are the real rulers of this country, and it is their will that should be done, not the will of any executive nor of any other one man.

"The American people are entitled to say whether they will go to war or whether they will stay out of war, and the most distinguished private citizen of our country has the right to say that he thinks this question ought to be submitted to the people. I want to say that if we are not to have free speech, if it is not to be tolerated that men shall give cool counsel in moments like this, all our teaching has been in vain and Americanism is not what we have thought it was, and is scarcely worth fighting for. If the time has come when a great man may not speak earnestly, truthfully, and wisely, even though it be in opposition to the views of the highest official authority, if that time has come, then what is it that our flag stands for and what are American liberties?"

"I protest against such an attack. I protest against it because it is unfair. I protest against it because it is inspired by the despicable principles, the vicious qualities, that have been so falsely ascribed to Mr. Bryan."

Congressman Sloan of Nebraska addressed the house as follows:

"An attack has been made on a distinguished citizen of my state, Mr. Bryan. As soon as the author of the attack had taken his seat I was on my feet desiring to defend a man whom I never defended before; a man whom I have opposed in all his political views for years. He has actively opposed every political ambition I ever had with all the force of his matchless eloquence. But whether his views then or now agree with ours it matters not. Affairs have not gone so far that either Mr. Bryan or any other American citizen can be charged with a lack of patriotism for advocating peace. He comes from my state, and is the idol of a large number of people of that state regardless of political affiliations. He has spoken to more people in the United States and in the world than any other living man. I protest against men on this side or that side coming in and branding as treasonable the fairly considered words or sentiments of any man, no matter how much he may differ from me.

"I think it is time that we all should be calm and dispassionate. The test of patriotism is not whether we are opposed to the President of the United States or whether we support him. If there is a crisis, we know that it will come without action of the President of the United States. He has exercised his right and prerogative of severing diplomatic relations between us and one of our old-time friends. It can only be precipitated when the congress of the United States, after deliberation at both ends of the capitol, shall declare that we are in a state of war. It is not for gentlemen to talk of patriotism or nonpatriotism now; but when the congress has had the issue before it and made its deliverance that we may draw strictures in speech. Until then I think that men on either side of this chamber would do well to withhold their epithets and their compliments."

THE BORAH RESOLUTION

A Washington dispatch, dated Jan. 25, says: Senator Borah of Idaho, introduced a resolution this afternoon calling upon the senate to "re-affirm its faith" in the Monroe doctrine and a strict adherence to Washington's warning against entangling foreign alliances.

The resolution was read, and, at Senator

Borah's request, went over under the rules until the next day. There was no debate on the measure. The resolution will bring the President's international peace league plan, as laid down in his address to the senate, January 22, into direct issue and will have the effect of confining peace debates to the particular subject.

The resolution is designed to eliminate haphazard peace discussion and divide senators for or against the extension of the Monroe doctrine to the entire world.

The text of the resolution follows:

"Whereas in September, seventeen hundred and ninety-six, George Washington, then President of the United States, declared, 'The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible * * *.' And that 'Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence, she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities' and

"Whereas in response to a letter addressed to him by James Monroe, then President of the United States, concerning the policy afterwards declared by President Monroe, and since then known as the Monroe doctrine, Thomas Jefferson said in reply: 'The question presented by the letters you have sent me is the most momentous which has ever been offered to my contemplation since that of independence. That made us a nation. This sets our compass and points the course which we are to steer through the ocean of time opening on us. And never could we embark upon it under circumstances more auspicious. Our first and fundamental maxim should be never to entangle ourselves in the broils of Europe. Our second, never to suffer Europe to intermeddle with cis-Atlantic affairs. America, North and South, has a set of interests distinct from those of Europe, and particularly her own. She should therefore have a system of her own separate and apart from that of Europe'; and

"Whereas James Monroe, President of the United States, afterwards amplified this policy, incorporating it in a message to the congress of the United States, declaring in effect that any attempt on the part of foreign governments to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety, and setting forth in full the policy which was afterwards and ever since has been known as the Monroe doctrine; and

"Whereas the policies thus early announced by Washington, Jefferson, and Monroe, and ever since adhered to by this country, regardless of political parties, have contributed greatly to the peace and happiness of the people of the United States; and

"Whereas we believe any material departure from these policies would be fraught with danger to the peace and happiness of the people of the United States, involving us in all probability in the controversies of other nations: Therefore be it

"Resolved, That the senate of the United States reaffirm its faith and confidence in the permanent worth and wisdom of these policies and shall seek in all matters coming before it touching the interests or affairs of foreign countries to conform its acts to these time-honored principles so long and so happily a part of our own policy."

Notice: Any subscriber sending to a senator, congressman or state legislator, the editorial on "Constitutional Lawyers," appearing on another page, can, upon application, secure a duplicate copy of this issue for his files.

Nearly every wife was elected on an economy platform, and she is finding it about as difficult a task in these H. C. L. days to make good as the party candidates who got in on the same plank.

The "bone dry" law is spreading—thanks to the decision upholding the Webb-Kenyon law. The states can go as far as they please—alcohol has no constitutional rights.