

Washington Peace Demonstration

[Reprinted from the New York Evening-Post, February 13, 1917.]

Washington, D. C., February 12.—It takes a great deal of courage to invade the national capital these days and demonstrate about peace or anything else in the face of sneers. The very word "pacifist" is hardly euphemism in the midst of outcries about "patriotism" and "undivided America." But the Lincoln's Birthday demonstration of the group of two hundred or more pacifists who vehemently declared themselves on the question of keeping out of the European war was something which penetrated beneath the surface.

To say that it converted those who would impetuously plunge the country into war would be far from the truth. But it did serve as a vivid reminder to legislators and officials that there is in America today a militant spirit against war, against militarism, and all that the war-systems of Europe connote. It gave notice of the certain concentration in this country in the event of war of all the liberal groups and elements akin to those which are slowly but surely making themselves felt as a factor for peace in all belligerent countries. It breathed into the tense atmosphere of Washington a spirit of energetic opposition to American participation in the war.

From Morning Until Late at Night

Speeches from early morning until late at night, at the capitol, at several conferences in the committee rooms, at the hotels, at the White house and at the church auditorium in the evening, were received with enthusiasm and sympathetic response. Throughout the day the hastily organized meetings attracted crowds of people who applauded and cheered the arguments against war with a fervor almost religious.

The delegation which came to Washington under the auspices of the Emergency Peace Federation of New York was made up of social workers, pacifists, anti-militarists, representatives of religious organizations, peace societies, and labor

unions. Notwithstanding the heterogeneous elements, the whole day passed without friction or dissension in a splendid unanimity of expression. Beginning with a breakfast at the Hotel Continental, where the delegation heard stimulating speeches at the start, the members went to the capitol to visit individual senators and representatives. Senator Wadsworth, of New York, received one part of the delegation, listened attentively, but had nothing to say. Senator Stone, of Missouri, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, received the entire delegation in the Marble room, just off the senate chamber. He showed deep interest in the speeches and seemed to be visibly moved by the sentiment of the addresses. Senators La Follette and Works, Representatives Warren Worth Bailey, Callaway, and others encouraged the delegation by applauding their efforts. The pacifists, on the whole, found many a friendly ear under the dome of the capitol.

Resolutions for the President

At the afternoon meeting, resolutions were adopted for presentation to President Wilson. The whole delegation marched to the White house in the biting cold, but the President was "out." In his stead, Secretary Tumulty courteously received the several hundred delegates in the President's private office. The Rev. Norman M. Thomas, of New York, read the following resolution:

We speak for vast numbers of the American people. We speak for hosts who voted at the last election believing that they were voting for the policy of peace.

We recognize that as devoted Americans, we are bound to uphold the true honor, dignity, and welfare of our country by rendering every service in our power, not only to the land of our birth, but to the cause of humanity the world over.

We desire, therefore, to do everything in our power to maintain the leadership of our country in the work of bringing about world peace and abolishing forever the abominable war system.

Acknowledging our deep debt to President Wilson for his splendid efforts to secure a settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, we desire to pledge to him our loyal support in every such endeavor.

In the critical situation in which the country now finds itself, an overt act may at any moment inflame the public press and start hysterical demonstrations misrepresenting the sober judgment and purposes of the mass of the public.

We therefore adjure our representatives in congress to take no irrevocable steps towards war, but in case of such a crisis seek, through an advisory referendum, a direct expression of the will of the American people.

(1.) As American citizens, we consider that the honor of our country is best maintained by remaining the greatest of all neutral nations, and thereby keeping the opportunity to initiate, as the friend of all nations, a constructive international programme that shall redound to the advantages of humanity and the glory of the United States.

(2.) We believe that the desperation displayed by the warring powers is evidence that the war is nearing its close and that all belligerents may be expected under the circumstances to have less regard for the

rights of neutrals. To participate now in the war, after having for sufficient reasons endured injuries inflicted by both belligerents, would serve no useful purpose, and would involve us in the intolerable evils that now afflict the warring nations.

(3.) Although it is hoped by many that our entrance into the war might hasten its close, we desire to call attention to the uncertainty of such an outcome, and to the danger that our participation might lead to new combinations and complications, and indefinitely prolong the world-struggle now in progress.

Supported by Addresses

After the reading of the above, Mrs. Henry Villard, of New York, was asked to speak. She spoke extemporaneously, but the White house sentographers took down all the speeches for transmission to the President.

Edward F. Cassidy, of the Central Labor Union, of New York, spoke briefly on the viewpoint of the workman toward war, and C. A. Sorenson, of Nebraska, expressed the attitude of the western granges and peace societies. Mr. Tumulty promised to advise the President of all that had been said.

In connection with the day's programme, an interesting student conference was held composed for the most part of alumni who aim to prove in the immediate future that that the colleges of the United States will not permit themselves to be stampeded for military service. Incidentally, most of the student representatives were from Columbia, whose executive head is wont to interpret the viewpoint of that university in concepts of belligerency.

A memorial had been drawn up by the student conference which is to be addressed to college men and women throughout the United States, which advocated a referendum to the people before war, giving five main reasons why no steps to involve the country in war should be taken by the President or congress. His contention was expressed that war with Germany would bring serious evils on this country, to say nothing of the physical and mental sufferings of our people; such a war would strengthen militarism in America, weaken democratic movements, cripple many social reforms, burden future generations with entangling debt, and tend to involve this country in obnoxious entangling alliance with European countries. A number of alternatives to war are suggested. The President should make an immediate attempt to organize the neutrals into a league of neutrals, to defend by force, if necessary, neutral rights, as in case of the armed neutralities of 1780 and 1800. In the meantime, it would be possible, until the procedure of such a league had been settled, to keep American passengers from the danger zone; to permit change of registration of our vessels, and to use every pressure that we possibly could exert toward the modification of the illegal methods of the belligerents.

The pacifists were well satisfied with the results of their day's effort. They intend to carry forward their work throughout the country by arranging public meetings in the principal cities and awakening a public opinion everywhere against war.

The platform of the Emergency Peace Federation says in part:

The Emergency Peace Federation is supporting the peace policy of President Wilson, and offers to him and to the country any help that it

can give to keep it out of war. Its programme is:

(1.) To urge our government to defer settlement of any international conflicts affecting America until the present war is over.

(2.) To keep Americans out of the danger zone.

(3.) To consult the people by referendum before declaring war.

The losses of this country are incidental to the waging of war in Europe. Neither of these groups of belligerent nations is wilfully attacking the interests of this country, but both are anxiously seeking our friendship. Neither honor nor glory could be gained by warring against a nation that is driven to desperation after thirty months of war. We urge that at the present crisis it is for Americans an unpat-

Subscribers' Advertising Dept.

This department is for the benefit of Commoner subscribers, and a special rate of six cents a word per insertion—the lowest rate—has been made for them. Address all communications to The Commoner, Lincoln, Nebraska.

RESLR SHORTHAND lesson free. Rettig, Sacramento, Cal., 1303 I.

MONTANA 640-acre Homesteads—New towns, business opportunities. Send 25c for maps and information. Address U. S. Commissioner, Outlook, Mont.

GENTLEMEN—Mason sold 18 Spray Pumps and Auto Washers one Saturday. Profits \$2.00 each. Write Rusler Co., Johnstown, Ohio.

AM a College Junior, twenty years old, and desire employment during the summer months. Have had several years experience as a chauffeur, and can give references. Bryan Gilkinson, Northfield, Minnesota.

WANTED—Salesmen to sell our Coffees, Teas, Spices, Extracts and Baking Powder to the grocery trade. Give age and experience in first letter. Edw. Weston Tea & Spice Co., 10th & Clark, St. Louis, Mo.

"TEN-KEE" Kills Trees, Sprouts, Grass, Roots and all, 5 to 30 days. Don't injure soil. Guaranteed. Formula \$1. Particulars free. Bennett Mfg. Co., Lamar, Ark.

EDISON four-minute Cylinder Records, dollar dozen. Finch & Hahn, Schenectady, N. Y.

EARN \$25 weekly, spare time, writing for newspapers, magazines. Experience unnecessary; details free. Press Syndicate, 1050, St. Louis, Mo.

ECZEMA SPECIFIC—Will absolutely cure eczema, salt rheum, barbers' itch and other skin diseases. Sent by mail, \$1.50. Send for recommendations. Almklov's Pharmacy, Cooperstown, North Dakota.

WOODWORTH SHORTHAND COLLEGE 1720 Colorado Boulevard Denver, Colo.

PALMER MARINE MOTORS Two to fifty horse power, two and four cycle. CATALOG FREE. PALMER BROS., Cos Cob, Conn.

Wanted Ideas Write for List of Inventions Wanted. \$1,000,000 in prizes offered for inventions. Send sketch for free opinion of patentability. Our four books sent free. Victor J. Evans & Co., 722 9th, Washington, D.C.

PATENTS Watson E. Coleman, Patent Lawyer, Washington, D.C. Advice and books free. Rates reasonable. Highest references. Best services.

WISCONSIN ESTATE LOOKING FOR HEIRS

The estate of Oscar Riley, deceased, late of Monroe, Green County, Wisconsin, is seeking lost heir or heirs of Margaret Ellen Riley, nee Riley, who is deceased, late of Paris, Illinois, who is supposed to have died several years ago leaving a husband, Ellick Gordon, and children. The last heard of the Gordons was while residing in a mining camp near Paris, Illinois. Mrs. Margaret Ellen Gordon, nee Riley, resided near Monroe, Wisconsin, up to 1870.

C. W. BENNETT, Administrator, P. O., Monroe, Wisconsin.
J. D. Dunwiddie, Attorney for Estate, P. O., Monroe, Wisconsin.

Cured His RUPTURE

I was badly ruptured while lifting a trunk several years ago. Doctors said my only hope of cure was an operation. Trusses did me no good. Finally I got hold of something that quickly and completely cured me. Years have passed and the rupture has never returned, although I am doing hard work as a carpenter. There was no operation, no lost time, no trouble. I have nothing to sell, but will give full information about how you may find a complete cure without operation, if you write to me, Eugene M. Pullen, Carpenter, 823C Marcellus Avenue, Manassas, N. J. Better cut out this notice and show it to any others who are ruptured—you may save a life or at least stop the misery of rupture and the worry and danger of an operation.

RHEUMATISM Cured

I will gladly send any Rheumatism sufferer a Simple Herb Recipe Absolutely Free that Completely Cured me of a terrible attack of muscular and inflammatory Rheumatism of long standing after everything else I tried had failed me. I have given it to many sufferers who believed their cases hopeless, yet they found relief from their suffering by taking these simple herbs. It also relieves Sciatica promptly, as well as Neuralgia, and is a wonderful blood purifier. You are most welcome to this Herb Recipe if you will send for it at once. I believe you will consider it a God-Send after you have put it to the test. There is nothing injurious contained in it, and you can see for yourself exactly what you are taking. I will gladly send this Recipe—absolutely free—to any sufferer who will send name and address. If convenient, enclose two-cent stamp. W. A. SUTTON, 2650 Magnolia Ave., Los Angeles, California.