

economic blockade and the stirring up of enmity among the peoples after the war. The freedom of the seas must be assured. Only an economic peace can prepare the ground for the friendly association of the peoples.

"The Reichstag will energetically promote the creation of international juridical organizations. So long, however, as the enemy governments do not accept such a peace, so long as they threaten Germany and her allies with conquest and violation, the German people will stand together as one man, hold out unshaken, and fight until the rights of itself and its allies to life and development are secured. The German nation united is unconquerable.

"The Reichstag knows that in this announcement it is at one with the men who are defending the fatherland. In their heroic struggles they are sure of the undying thanks of the whole people."

TWO OPPOSING FORCES IN GERMANY

This very sane and moderate expression, if adopted in good faith by the German government, ought to bring about peace negotiations within a few weeks. But the German government is not as yet under the control of a majority of the members of the Reichstag. And the retirement of Bethmann-Hollweg, together with other political changes, must be regarded as moves made in the interest of the perpetuation of the present autocratic rule in Germany. Gradually, two political forces begin to stand out as facing one another. One force is that of army and navy leaders, Junker aristocrats, panthe Hohenzollern dynasty with the clique of German industrial magnates, and propagandists of the imperial cult. The other force is that of democracy, representing the ideas of political

reform at home and of international peace and good will. The crisis of last month came about not merely through the determination of the leading Reichstag groups to force their peace resolution to a successful vote. There had been an even more insistent demand on the part of the liberal elements, that the Reichstag be given some part in the administration. Most of our readers know, of course, that the emperor appoints the German chancellor and fills all the cabinet posts without the slightest reference to the wishes of the Reichstag. The British and French cabinets are merely committees of the parliamentary chambers, representing the majority parties or coalitions. But the German cabinet, like the American, is wholly apart from the law-making bodies. American cabinet officers, indeed, must be confirmed by the senate after they have been chosen by the President. But German administrative chiefs are not subject to such confirmation.

ALLIES EAGER TO TELL AIMS

A Washington, D. C., dispatch, dated July 23, says: Favorable responses have been given by Great Britain and France to the Russian proposal for a conference of the allied nations in August to define war aims and the foreign policies.

It was said in Russian circles today that while the United States and Italy had not been asked to participate it was probable they would be invited. The conference has not been formally called but will be, as Russia is determined that the restatement of the war aims of the allies shall take place so that every Russian soldier "may know what he is fighting for."

Such a declaration of aims, it was asserted,

is a political necessity in Russia, the internal situation requiring renunciation of imperialistic designs.

It is problematical whether the entente's program will be endorsed by Russia, but it is not doubted here that Russia sympathizes with the French aspiration to recover her two lost provinces and to collect from Germany damages for destruction in occupied portion of French territory.

Great Britain, on the other hand, is not expected to disclaim an intention of keeping captured German colonies in Africa, but it is not known as to how Russia will view this form of annexation.

Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska said that he would vote for the food control bill, because the people seemed to want it, but that he knew very well it would be of no material benefit to them. Thus demonstrating to the observant masses that if they desire the straight of it about any legislation, they should turn to the senator from Nebraska and not to the President and his cabinet, who are mere amateurs about diagnosing the real needs of the people.

Predatory business regards as legitimate profits all that it can make on any transaction, regardless of the morals of the matter. It is difficult to understand the mental makeup of a man who can pocket money made in that way. Beside the man who boosts the price of food merely because he has temporary power to do so the chap who was formerly the ideal of meanness, who would steal the pennies from a dead man's eyes, looms up as a fairly reputable citizen.

A Declaration of Principles

[By George A. Briggs, a candidate or election as an Elkhart County (Indiana) delegate to the Constitutional Convention.]

It is not necessary at this time to discuss the need for a constitutional convention. It is as obvious as that of an eighteen-year-old boy for long trousers.

There is need, however, to discuss what shall be written into that constitution. Especially is there need for those who wish to be delegates to declare their position and their principles.

I am such a candidate. I want you to vote for me. For this reason I want you to know who I am and what may be expected of me if elected.

If you vote for me, as I sincerely hope you will; and if I am elected, here is what you may expect of me as your representative.

Popular Government—The Declaration of Independence states specifically that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Modern government is so complex, however, that if this principle is to be maintained, then some mechanism is needed whereby, in favoring or opposing specific measures, as well as in favoring or opposing candidates, a majority of the voters may express their will legally and effectively.

Such a mechanism, already adopted by twenty-two states, is the initiative and referendum.

If elected by you, as I hope to be, I shall work early and late for the initiative and referendum as the basic principle of our new constitution. It will give us, as it has given twenty-two other states, true government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Suffrage — Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Every adult human being therefore should have a voice in the affairs of government. Woman is a human being. Therefore woman

should have the legal right, as well as the moral right and the logical right to vote. For this reason I believe thoroughly in woman suffrage. I shall use my best endeavors if elected to help incorporate it in our new constitution.

Prohibition—I believe that alcoholic liquors are poisons. I believe that prohibition is as moral, as beneficial and as justifiable as are the laws against the open and indiscriminate sale of opium and cocaine. I believe that prohibition should be part of the basic law of the state of Indiana. I shall work earnestly, therefore, to have it written into the new constitution.

Taxation—We all know that present methods of taxation are unscientific and unjust. They should be changed. There is, however, no accepted science of taxation. Students are divided roughly into two groups. One would levy taxes according to ability to pay; the other according to benefits received. Neither school has sufficient data based upon experience to prove its position. I believe that a science of taxation will evolve with experience just as the science of agriculture is evolving. But that evolution has as yet scarcely begun. For this reason I believe that taxation should be treated negatively. No restrictions should be written into the constitution which will handicap the action of the people in the brighter light of maturer experience.

Labor — No restrictions against workmen's compensation laws should be written into the new constitution. The present generation and future generations should be free to protect workmen by law from injury, and to compensate them for injuries in any way the best wisdom of the time may suggest.

The courts should be prohibited from using the power of injunction and of contempt of court to imprison men without jury trials, especially in labor cases.

General—I believe in general that the new constitution should make us in fact as well as in name a free people. It should evidence its dependence on popular judgment. It should place no restrictions on future generations, should be easily

amendable under the initiative and referendum, and should establish beyond question that this is a government by majorities. Majorities may err, of course. They may be tyrannical. But government by powerful minorities is bound to err, and always has been selfish.

So, the object of the delegates should be to safeguard majority rule,

with hope and confidence that in freedom, majorities will be self-restrained and respectful of minority rights.

These then are the principles upon which I seek your support. I hope they will meet with your approval. I hope and confidently expect to be elected. But whether elected or not, upon these principles will I stand.

MODERNIZED VERSION OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND THE SACRIFICIAL RAM



—From Des Moines Register.