

ernment to set limits to prices. The law of supply and demand, I am sorry to say, has been replaced by the law of unrestrained selfishness. While we have eliminated profiteering in several branches of industry it still runs impudently rampant in others. The farmers, for example, complain with a great deal of justice that, while the regulation of food prices restricts their incomes, no restraints are placed upon the prices of most of the things they must themselves purchase; and similar inequities obtain on all sides.

It is imperatively necessary that the consideration of the full use of the water power of the country and also the consideration of the systematic and yet economical development of such of the natural resources of the country as are still under the control of the federal government should be immediately resumed and affirmatively and constructively dealt with at the earliest possible moment. The pressing need of such legislation is daily becoming more and more obvious.

The legislation proposed at the last session with regard to regulated combinations among our exporters, in order to provide for our foreign trade a more effective organization and method of co-operation, ought by all means to be completed at this session.

And I beg that the members of the house of representatives will permit me to express the opinion that it will be impossible to deal in any way but a very wasteful and extravagant fashion with the enormous appropriations of the public moneys which must continue to be made, if the war is to be properly sustained, unless the house will consent to return to its former practice of initiating and preparing all appropriation bills through a single committee, in order that responsibility may be centered, expenditures standardized and made uniform and waste and duplication as much as possible avoided.

Additional legislation may also become necessary before the present congress adjourns in order to effect the most efficient co-ordination and operation of the railway and other transportation systems of the country; but that I shall, if circumstances should demand, call the attention of congress upon another occasion.

**WIN THE WAR**

If I have overlooked anything that ought to be done for the more effective conduct of the war, your own counsels will supply the omission. What I am perfectly clear about is that in the present session of the congress our whole attention and energy should be concentrated on the vigorous and rapid and successful prosecution of the great task of winning the war.

We can do this with all the greater zeal and enthusiasm because we know that for us this is a war of high principle, debased by no selfish ambition of conquest or spoliation; because we know and all the world knows, that we have been forced into it to save the very institutions we live under from corruption and destruction. The purpose of the central powers strikes straight at the very heart of everything we believe in; their methods of warfare outrage every principle of humanity and of knightly honor; their intrigue has corrupted the very thought and spirit of many of our people; their sinister and secret diplomacy has sought to take our very territory away from us and disrupt the union of the states. Our safety would be at an end, our honor forever sullied and brought into contempt were we to permit their triumph. They are striking at the very existence of democracy and liberty.

**CAUSE JUST AND HOLY**

It is because it is for us a war of high, disinterested purpose, in which all the free peoples of the world are banded together for the vindication of right, a war for the preservation of our nation and of all that it has held dear of principle and of purpose, that we feel ourselves doubly constrained to propose for its outcome only that which is righteous and of irreproachable intention, for our foes as well as for our friends. The cause being just and holy, the settlement must be of like motive and quality. For this we can fight, but for nothing less noble or less worthy of our traditions. For this cause we entered the war and for this cause will we battle until the last gun is fired.

I have spoken plainly because this seems to me the time when it is most necessary to speak plainly, in order that all the world may know that even in the heat and ardor of the struggle and when our whole thought is of carrying the war through to its end we have not forgotten any ideal or principle for which the name of

**UNITED STATES DECLARES STATE OF WAR WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY**

A Washington dispatch dated Dec. 7, says: War between the United States and Austria-Hungary was formally declared December 7, when congress, with one dissenting vote in the house, adopted and President Wilson approved the resolution declaring existence of a state of war between the "imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and people of the United States."

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

Declaring that a state of war exists between the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and people of the United States, and making provision to prosecute the same.

"Whereas, The imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government has committed repeated acts of war against the government and people of the United States of America, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that a state of war is hereby declared to exist between the United States of America and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government, and that the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on war against the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government, and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States.

**CHAMP CLARK,**  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
**THOMAS R. MARSHALL,**  
Vice-president of the United States and president of the senate.  
Approved, 7th of December, 1917.  
**WOODROW WILSON.**

America has been held in honor among the nations and for which it has been our glory to contend in the great generations that went before us. A supreme moment of history has come. The eyes of the people have been opened and they see. The hand of God is laid upon the nations. He will show them favor, I devoutly believe, only if they rise to the clear heights of His own justice and mercy.

**CATHOLIC CLERGY AGAINST SALOONS**

On another page will be found a strong indictment of saloons signed by twelve Catholic clergymen of Cambridge, Mass. An election is soon to be held in that historic city, at which the voters will decide for or against the saloon. It is fortunate for the morals of the community that the representatives of this great branch of the Christian church should put forth such an eloquent appeal for righteousness. It is encouraging, too, to have the leaders of all the churches united in the fight against the saloon—the nation's greatest evil.

**THE MAN HIGHER UP**

One American soldier in France has been courtmarshalled and hung for a horrible crime against a French girl—a crime committed while he was drunk. A patriot ends his life in disgrace, but the man who, for the money he made by it, furnished the liquor that fired his blood—what of him? Is he to remain free to ply his trade of manufacturing criminals. It is time to stop crime by restraining the man higher up.

Wisconsin has suffered a great loss in the death of Senator Husting. He was a sturdy democrat, an able statesman and a loyal citizen. The state could not do better than send Commissioner Davies to take his place.

A high speed typewriter is necessary just now in editorial offices in order to keep pace with the changes in the Russian situation.

**Three Per Cent Beer**

The President has reduced the alcoholic content in beer to three per cent and has also reduced, by 30 per cent, the amount of grain which can be used in making beer. (See President's order on another page.)

This is a step in the right direction. There is less harm in three per cent beer than in beer containing a larger percentage of alcohol, and 30 per cent saving in the grain used for beer helps conservation to that extent.

But let no one think this is an endorsement of beer. The reason given by the President for not suspending ENTIRELY the manufacture of beer will give no comfort to the brewers. On the contrary, the President, by implication, rejects and repudiates all the reasons advanced in behalf of the liquor traffic. The only reason he gives for allowing any beer to be manufactured is the FEAR that the drinkers would be driven to USE MORE WHISKY—there being a two or three years' supply of whisky on hand. But this reason, while the President considered it sufficient to support his action, need not affect congress, because congress can by law prevent a resort to whiskey. The President's reason has no weight at all as against the submission of a national amendment, because the supply of whisky on hand will be consumed before an amendment can be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

Prohibition moves forward, and the President's order will give momentum to the cause. He has lessened the harmfulness of beer, increased the quantity of food grains available for the table and has, by implication, repudiated all the arguments used by the friends of the saloon.

W. J. BRYAN.

The continued existence of high prices is substantial evidence that it will take more than an appeal to the patriotism of dealers in foodstuffs and fuel to force the reduction that fairness demands and which will rob the situation of the appearance of utilizing the war to make money. A few arrests and convictions will be necessary, and the sooner they are secured the quicker the situation will be relieved.

**SUBSIDIZING THE PRESS**

On another page will be found James Schemerhorn's reply to the brewers who have entered upon a systematic effort to subsidize the press of the nation by large advertising contracts. Mr. Schemerhorn is owner and editor of the Detroit Times. He is a newspaper man with convictions and the courage to express them. He has a conscience and his columns are not for sale. It is refreshing to find a journalist like Schemerhorn. His letter is given space that the readers of The Commoner may become acquainted with him and with the impudent scheme which he exposes.

Watch the papers and see how many newspaper owners are willing to sell their souls to the liquor interests, and then mark the insidious spread of their propaganda.

Congress ought to so change the law against liquor advertisements as to prohibit this palpable violation of its spirit. But while such a change should be made at once the permanent remedy is national prohibition. THE AMENDMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED AT ONCE.

W. J. BRYAN.

