

Why the War Must be Fought Through

Before the war was decided upon, whether the country should enter the war was a matter of personal opinion but when the nation acted, it acted for all. It became our war, and the support of the government became the duty of every citizen. The shortest road to peace is the road straight ahead of us, with no division among our people. Division now would simply tend to prolong the war and make it more costly in money and in men, and no one can afford to take upon himself the responsibility of adding one unnecessary day to the war's length or one unnecessary drop of blood or dollar from the nation's treasury.

The more earnestly one desires peace, the more loyally he should support his government as the only means of hastening peace.

Patriotism is love of country expressed in terms of national service. It is a permanent quality but manifests itself in various ways according to the needs of the time. It requires that the citizen shall put his country above himself and the interests that are personal to him, no matter what the cost of the sacrifice. This he does without attempting to figure out what he is to receive in return or when the return is to be expected. If he were to enter upon a systematic calculation he would find himself very largely indebted to his country for advantages so great that he can hardly estimate them and so long enjoyed that he seldom thinks of them. The good that one derives from citizenship in a country like ours enters his life somewhat as the breath enters his body. He receives as a matter of course and he enjoys without stopping to think of his condition if he were deprived of the blessings that are his inheritance because he lives under the flag. It is only when his enjoyment of them is interrupted or when a right is denied, that he really recognizes the importance of that which is daily his but which he unconsciously accepts and uses.

The American citizen lives under the best government in the world: It is a people's government, administered by those whom the people choose, and according to a written constitution which the people made and which the people alone can change. Our government reflects the increasing virtue, intelligence and patriotism of the people and can be made as good as the people desire it to be.

Because American citizenship carries with it more blessings than citizenship in any other land the American citizen should be willing to sacrifice more than any other citizen to make sure that the blessing of his government shall descend unimpaired to his children and his children's children.

The return which the citizen makes to his government is usually made in the payment of taxes. The work done by his town or city is collected for through assessments made against his property and is counted in his fixed charges. The work done by his state is likewise charged up to him in some proportion fixed by law. And so with his contribution to the federal government. He makes these payments sometimes willingly, sometimes grudgingly, but in ordinary times they constitute practically the whole cost of citizenship to him.

He is liable, of course, to jury duty, but he receives compensation for this. It is his duty also to attend caucuses, primaries, and elections, but as this is not compulsory, the performance is a matter of convenience where it is not a matter of pleasure or political interest.

In time of war, however, the cost of citizenship increases, and he is called upon to respond to numerous demands which are unknown in times of peace. The most extreme demand that can be made upon his patriotism is the call to put his life at the command of his government and die, if necessary, in its behalf. He should be more willing to do this in this country than in any other because the right to take this country into war is not lodged in an hereditary monarch as it used to be everywhere in the past and still is in some of the countries of Europe. No power can involve this country in war except a congress and that congress is now chosen entirely by the people. The senate was formerly made up of members selected by state legislatures, but since 1913 the senate has been as

representative a body as the house and is as completely under the control of the people. The citizens of the United States, therefore, have all the protection against war that modern methods of government have provided—they are carried into war only by the deliberate act of those whom they have chosen to speak for them.

In former days the soldiers needed to meet a new emergency were secured by the volunteer system—the call being general and the responses being dependent upon the volition of the citizens. In this war, however, congress by a large majority substituted for the volunteer system a system described as selective conscription. Under this system, the age limits are fixed and all within those limits are required to register. Then those who have registered are classified according to certain rules that are intended to recognize relative equities. The conscriptive system does not prevent volunteer service but it has naturally lessened the compelling force of a call for volunteers.

While comparatively few are called to military service, the number depending upon the resistance to be overcome and the length of the war, every citizen has his part in the winning of the war. He is expected to observe such rules as may be prescribed for the production and conservation of food. Those who are in authority in Washington make their calculations as to the amount of food needed for the army and navy and as to the kind that is most needed. And in this way we have to consider not only the needs of our own citizens and soldiers but also the needs of those who are in the fight with us and in whose welfare, therefore, we have an interest scarcely less than our interest in our own people. It is the duty of the food producers to give special attention to the forms of food which are most imperatively needed and to call to their aid new recruits to take the place of food producers selected for service in the army. The child group is the largest single group from which additions can be expected and they can be summoned the more enthusiastically because participation gives the children the proud consciousness of being factors in the nation's life and helpers in the nation's time of need.

In the matter of conservation, all can have a part for while less than half of our people may be counted as producers to any extent, every citizen must be counted in calculating the demand for food.

The furnishing of money to carry on the war is as necessary as the furnishing of men, and a failure to respond to the country's call in the matter of money would be as disastrous to our cause as a failure to supply the soldiers needed. The government obtains this money usually from two sources, taxes and loans. If anyone is tempted to complain of additional burdens laid upon him through the new revenue law, he should remember that taxes, however high, are paid out of income and that the capital is usually left untouched; whereas, those summoned to military service are called upon to surrender principal as well as income.

Taxes, therefore, are less burdensome upon the individual than military service and loans are still less burdensome to the present generation than taxation. When the government collects money through taxes it does not promise to return it, but when it borrows money it not only pays back every dollar that it borrows but pays interest on the money while it keeps it. Interest at 4 per cent, the rate on Liberty bonds, is more than the average rate paid by the saving banks of the country. When one responds to a call for money in the form of a government loan, therefore, he not only answers a call upon his patriotism but makes a good business investment; he exhibits the most profitable form of patriotism which he will have a chance to manifest. Whenever a government bond ceases to be good security, there will be nothing else in this country worth investing in; since a government bond is not only a first mortgage on every dollar's worth of property under the flag, but has the nation's honor thrown in to make the security doubly good.

The citizen has not, however, done his full duty when he pays his taxes and buys Liberty bonds; there are certain unofficial organizations that have a claim upon the purse of the citizen—organizations which, though they have no power to compel response, have an undeniable claim upon the nation's resources.

The Red Cross society is an established institution with the world for its field of service. It has no rival in ministering to the comfort of the

sick and wounded. When it asked for one hundred million dollars for its work the country gave one hundred twenty million—proof of the organization's hold upon the confidence of the people and proof also of a nation's liberality. The Red Cross society must be supported in its work no matter how often it calls or how much money it needs.

But the soldier needs to have nourishment for his spiritual nature as well as food for his body and the Young Men's Christian Association takes the lead in looking after the morals of the men. The strength of its position has also been proven by the generous response which the public has made to its calls for funds. When last spring it asked for three millions it received four millions and when it made its recent call for thirty-five millions the country responded with more than fifty millions.

The Knights of Columbus, a younger organization, has recently entered the field and is sharing with the Y. M. C. A. the task of trying to maintain in the army the moral standards of home. It, too, found a willing public when it called for funds. The Lutheran Brotherhood and the Jewish organizations have also heard the call from the camps and are preparing to do their part, as is also the Young Woman's Christian Association, which has long been engaged in rendering to young women a service similar to that which the Y. M. C. A. has been rendering to young men. All of these organizations are worthy and their united efforts, taken in connection with the efforts of the government, are surrounding the soldiers with an environment more wholesome and more helpful than has ever been furnished by any other government or ever before by our own government.

But I have merely suggested some of the ways in which the citizen can serve his country. I have not attempted to exhaust the list. Every day records some new evidence of thoughtful interest in the soldier at the front and in those who stand behind the soldiers helping him in his work—the women bearing their full share in this as in every other altruistic undertaking.

And back of all this is the spirit of loyalty which furnishes a guarantee that the nation's support of the government will be complete and constant—a support which will be both united and enduring.

W. J. BRYAN.

NEITHER DEAD NOR SLEEPING

The New York World is outdoing Jeremiah in the matter of lamentations. He is a sample of this sorrowing:

"The historic democratic party is dead.

"We do not mean that the democratic organization has ceased to exist. We do not mean that there are no more democrats. Nor do we mean that the democratic party is dead in the sense that the federalist party is dead, or the whig party is dead, or the greenback party is dead, or the populist party is dead. What has died is the democratic party of Jefferson and Jackson and Tilden. The principles of government which they enunciated and advocated have been obliterated. What slavery and secession and silver were unable to accomplish has been brought about by prohibition and woman suffrage.

"The death-blow to Jeffersonian democracy was delivered by the democratic senators and representatives from the south and west under the leadership of William J. Bryan, who carried through the prohibition amendment. The coup de grace was administered by Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, in endorsing the federal suffrage amendment to the constitution."

No, dear World, the party of Jefferson is neither dead nor sleeping. It is so much awake that it can not be fooled by the liquor interests any longer. It has taken the moral side of two great moral issues. It is alive and growing.

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

On the 1st day of June, 1917, Kentucky had within her borders sixty-one per cent of the whiskey of the United States, and yet a democratic legislature ratified the national prohibition amendment by a vote of more than five to one and then, by practically the same vote, submitted a prohibition amendment to the state constitution.

Can any republican legislature show a better record? This is the greatest moral issue of the generation and the democratic party is on the moral side.