

the French people rose with a sense of gratitude and hopefulness that had never been in them before.

HEARTEN THE FRENCH

"Of course they welcomed the British, but their need was not so great when the British went. Of course, they welcomed the British, but there were ties between them and us which had not been between them and the British, and so when our troops went there was an instant and spontaneous rise in the morale of the French, but an equally instant and spontaneous insistence that these soldiers who came from America should continue to come in an unbroken stream.

"And so we made the election. We decided not to send the regular army as a whole, but to send regular divisions and national guard divisions, selected according to the state of their preparation, and keep back here some part of the trained force in order that it might inoculate with its spirit and its training these raw levies which we were training, and one after another these divisions have gone over until in France there is a fighting army, an army trained in the essentials and in the beginnings of military discipline and practice, and trained, seasoned fighters in this kind of a war on the actual battlefields where it is taking place.

"Early in this war when Joffre was here and when Balfour was here, they said to us: 'It may take you some time to get over to us a fighting army, but you are a great industrial country, our man-power is fully engaged in our industries and in our military enterprises; send over artisans, special engineering regiments and troops of a technical character, and although it was not known here at the outset, and only a phrase in the emergency military legislation shows the thing was thought as a possibility, yet in a very short time we had organized engineering regiments of railroad men and sent them over there and were rebuilding behind the lines of the British and French the railroads which were being carried forward with their advance, reconstructing their broken engines and cars, building new railroads, both back of the French and British lines, and those regiments were of such quality that at the Cambria assault, carried on by Gen. Byng, when the Germans made their counter attack, our engineer regiments threw down their picks and spades and carried their rifles into the battle and distinguished themselves by gallant action in the war itself.

WORK OF THE RED CROSS

"Very early in this war Great Britain, through Balfour and his assistants, and France through Joffre, said to us, 'Send us nurses and doctors.' Why, before we were scarcely in the war American units organized in advance and anticipation by the Red Cross, which was taken over into the service of the United States through the Surgeon General's office, were on the battlefield, and there are tens of thousands of men in England and in France now who bless the mission of mercy upon which the first American appeared in France.

"Our surgeons have set up hospitals immediately behind the lines. They have been made military in every sense of the word. They have not been especially fortunate in escaping attack from the air, and our early losses in this war were the losses of Red Cross nurses and doctors and orderlies and attendants in hospitals and ambulance drivers who were sent over to assist our allies in these necessary services, thus not only rendering assistance, but acquiring skill and knowledge of the circumstances and surroundings, so that when our own troops came in large numbers they could render like services to our own forces.

"But that was not enough. It was suggested that further groups of mechanics might be needed. Nay, we began to see that we were going to be over there in large force, and the question that then had to be answered was, How will we maintain an army in France? Special studies had to be made of that problem, and this is what they showed: They showed that the railroads and the facilities in France had during this war been kept in an excellent condition; far better than all others supposed possible under war conditions. And yet those railroads were used to the maximum to take care of the needs of the French and British themselves, and that when our army became a great army, it would be necessary for us to build back of our own line an independent line of communication.

"In other words, France was a white sheet of paper so far as we were concerned, and on that we had not only to write an army, but we had

to write the means of maintaining that army, and from the first time when a careful and scientific study of the opportunities of France to help us were made, from that hour until this, we have been building in France facilities, instruments, agencies, just as many as are here in the United States and more, many of them of the same character.

"For instance, the French had naturally reserved the best ports in France for their own supply. The channel ports have been reserved for the British. When we came in, it was necessary for us to have independent ports of entry, in order that there might not be confusion and admixture of our supplies, going through these ports of disembarkation with those of other nations. We were given several ports. As you perhaps recall, the ports of France are tidal ports, ports with deep water and tidal basins at high tides, with insufficient water for landing at the docks when the tide is out.

"As a consequence, the construction of docks and wharves in ports of that kind is very much more difficult than where you have a deep sea harbor, and all you need to do is to erect a pile wharf. We have had to build docks, we have had to fabricate in this country and send over dockhandling machinery; we have had to send from this country even the piles to build the docks. We have had to have Gantry cranes, manufactured in this country, sent over to be erected on those docks; we have had to erect over there warehouses at the ports of disembarkation in order that those vast accumulations of stores and supplies which go over can be properly housed and cared for, until they can be distributed into the interior.

RAILROAD TAKEN OVER.

"We have had to take over, and are in process of rebuilding and amplying, a railroad 600 miles long, in order to carry our products from our ports of disembarkation to our general bases of operation. And all of that, gentlemen, has to be done, not only studied out as a necessary thing to do, but when so studied out and reported here the manufactories for those things have to be carried on in this country and the things shipped over there—nails, crossties, spikes, fishplates, engines, cars, buildings. We have had to build ordnance depots and repair shops and great magazines of supply in the interior. All of that problem has been carrying forward step by step. The plans for a single ordnance repair shop, which I saw some time ago, covered acres and acres of ground, designed over here, the ironwork fabricated over here, built here, disassembled, put in ships and carried abroad to be reassembled over there.

"We have had to build barracks over there for our soldiers, and in the mean time to billet them around in the French villages. Building barracks over there and building them here is a very different thing, gentlemen.

"When we summoned the lumber industry of this country to produce the lumber to build our own cantonments it came in great and steady streams from all over the country, but when we talk about building barracks in France, it means this: It means to organize, as we have organized, regiments of foresters and sending them over into the forests of France, which they have assigned to us for our use, cutting down the trees, setting up sawmills, making the lumber of various sizes, transporting it to places where it is to be used and then finally using it.

PLANT CORN IN FRANCE

"We have had to go back to the planting of the corn in France in order that we might some time make a harvest. Our operations began in the forests of France, not in the lumber yards, as they did in this country.

"That great staff under Gen. Pershing's direction, containing so many men from the American army enriched by captains of industry and masters of technical performance in this country, all of these large industrial operations under general direction, such as the railroad and dock buildings, under former Vice-president of the Pennsylvania railroad Atterbury and men of that quality and experience summoned in to aid him, those are the men who are carrying forward these operations, which are quite as expensive as those which are carried on over here and of far greater difficulty, because it means getting material by cable as to sizes and specifications, having it fabricated here and sent across through those infested 3,000 miles of ocean and then set up on that side.

"In addition to that, on the other side it has been necessary for us to build hospitals, and

that is where the major need for hospitals may be. It has been necessary for the surgeon general's staff to be divided in this fashion and to select supplies and procure materials, and to supervise the construction of these hospitals and to man them and equip them.

THE WAR'S CHANGES

"All of that has gone on contemporaneously with the work which has been done in this country, and then in order that another element may be added to this kaleidoscopic character which this war necessarily has, I call your attention to a thing which you already know. This war had a more or less set character until the Russian situation changed, and it has changed in the last few months. When we had gotten more or less used to the situation created by the uncertainty as to Russia, there came the great Italian defeat, which called for even greater changes in our plans in many ways.

"So that what might have been a perfectly acceptable plan as to major operations prior to the change in the Russian situation, or prior to the change in the Italian situation, had to be restudied instantly and for that reason, among others, there is now organized, as you know, in France, pursuant to the suggestion of Mr. Lloyd George, the Rapallo Conference of the supreme war council, and the United States is represented on that by the chief of staff of the American army and the major international arrangements in regard to the military worked out there, while Gen. Pershing and his staff of experts are working out these other questions.

"That is a picture of what has been going on over there, gentlemen. On this side much of that has had to be done and in addition to it all the things we have done, and I ask you to remember among the achievements on this side is the building of this army, not of 10,000 or 100,000 or 500,000 but of substantially 1,500,000 men.

NO ARMY IN HISTORY SO RAISED AND CARED FOR, BAKER STATES

"And now, let me be frank with you, and let your judgment be frank with me about this. Has any army in history, ever, since the beginning of time, been so raised and cared for as this army has? Can the picture be duplicated? We have raised this army, taking the regular army and the national guard, raising it to war strength and supplementing it by the operation of a draft, and there are senators in this room who said to me with grief when we proposed that that form of raising the soldiers be had, they shook their heads and said, 'Mr. Secretary, it can't be done. It is too sudden to address to the American people that mode of selecting soldiers.'

"And yet, has any great enterprise within the knowledge of any man in this room ever been carried out with more unflinching justice, with more intelligent explanation and commendation to the good sense of patriotism of the American people, and has any great revolutionary change in our mode of practice ever been accepted so splendidly as the operation of the selective service system?

"We have got those young men in camp and they are surrounded from the day they left home until the day they come back to it, if in God's providence they can come back, with more agencies for their protection and comfort and health and happiness, physical, spiritual and mental, than any army that ever went out on a field.

CLASSIFICATION OF MEN.

"They are classified by a system under classification so that men who have mechanical instincts and training will be given mechanical opportunities in the army. The 'round' man is not sought to be put into the 'square' place. The American people have supplied liberally for the purpose. The Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Training Camp Activities committee, the Training Camp Athletic committee, have all been brought in to live with the soldiers, and by virtue of activities started in the war department the communities which surround these camps have been instantly gotten away from the notion which used to be prevalent of a certain alienation between a civilian soldier group, and these soldier boys in these camps have been adopted into the homes and hearts of the people among whom they live. No such relation has ever existed between an army and a civilian population as exists with regard to this.

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