

## President Addresses Veterans

A special Washington dispatch to the New York World, dated Sept. 28, says: Five thousand G. A. R. veterans gathered in Camp Emery tonight to hear President Wilson address the survivors of the civil war at their annual encampment. In the middle of the address of the president there was a commotion in the rear of the hall between ushers and officers on one side and old soldiers on the other, because the latter were not permitted to occupy vacant seats in front after they had complained that they were unable to hear the address.

For a time there was a shuffling of feet and moving of chairs. One man in the middle of the hall shouted that the veterans were leaving, but another, wearing the garb of the survivors, arose in his chair and called for three cheers for the president. These were given with a roar, and quite was restored.

### PRESIDENT EXTENDS WELCOME

President Wilson in his address said:

"I bid you a cordial welcome to the capital of the nation; and yet we feel that it is not necessary to bid you welcome here because you know that the welcome is always warm and always waiting for you. One could not stand in this presence without many moving thoughts. It is a singular thing that men of a single generation should have witnessed what you have witnessed in the crowded fifty years which you celebrate tonight. You took part when you were a young man in the struggle the meaning of which I dare say you thought would not be revealed during your lifetime, and yet more has happened in the making of this nation in your lifetime than has ever happened in the making of any other nation in the lifetime of a dozen generations.

"The nation in which you now live is not the nation for whose union you fought. You have seen many things which have made this nation one of the representative nations of the world with regard to the modern spirit of that world, and you have the satisfaction which I dare say few soldiers have ever had of looking back upon a war absolutely unique in this—that instead of destroying it healed; that instead of making a permanent division it made a permanent union.

"You have seen something more interesting than that, because there is a sense in which the things of the heart are more interesting than the things of the mind. This nation was from the beginning a spiritual enterprise, and you have seen the spirits of the two once divided sections of this country absolutely united. A war which seemed as if it had the seed of every kind of bitterness in it has seen a single generation put bitterness absolutely out of its heart, and you feel, as I am sure the men who fought against you feel, that you were comrades even then, though you did not know it, and that now you know that you are comrades in a common love for a country which you are equally eager to serve.

### ALL MAY TAKE PRIDE

"This is a miracle of the spirit so far as national history is concerned. This is one of the very few wars in which in one sense everybody engaged may take pride. Some wars are to be regretted; some wars mar the annals of history; but some wars contrasted with those make these annals distinguished, show that the spirit of man sometimes springs to great enterprises that are even greater than his own mind had conceived.

"So it seems to me that standing in a presence like this no man, whether he be in the public service or in the ranks of private citizens merely, can fail to feel the challenge to his own heart, can fail to feel the challenge to a new consecration to the things we all believe in. The thing that sinks deeper in my heart as I try to realize the memories that must be crowding upon you is this, you set the nation free for that great career of development, of unhampered development, which the world has witnessed since the civil war.

"But for my own part I would not be proud of the extraordinary physical development of this country, of its extraordinary development in material wealth and financial power, did I not believe that the people of the United States wished all of this power devoted to ideal ends. There have been other nations as rich as we; there have been other nations as powerful; there have

been other nations as spirited; but I hope we shall never forget that we created this nation, not to serve ourselves, but to serve mankind.

"I love this country because it is my home, but every man loves his home. It does not suffice that I should be attached to it because it contains the places and the persons whom I love, because it contains the threads of my own life. That does not suffice for patriotic duty.

"I should love it, and I hope I do love it, as a great instrument for the uplift of mankind, and what you gentlemen have to remind us of as you look back through a lifetime to the great war in which you took part in that you fought that this instrument meant for the service of mankind should not be impaired either in its material or in its spiritual power.

### SPIRIT OF PEOPLE RULES

"I hope I may say without even an implication of criticism upon any other great people in the world that it has always seemed to me that the people of the United States wished to be regarded as devoted to the promotion of particular principles of human right. The United States were founded, not to provide free homes, but to assert human rights.

"The flag meant a great enterprise of the human spirit. Nobody, no large bodies of men, in the time that flag was first set up believed with a very firm belief in the efficacy of democracy. Do you realize that only so long ago as the time of the American revolution democracy was regarded as an experiment in the world, and we were regarded as rash experimenters? But we not only believed in it; we showed that our belief was well founded and that a nation as powerful as any in the world could be erected upon the will of the people; that, indeed, there was a power in such a nation that dwelt in no other nation unless also in that nation the spirit of the people prevailed.

"Democracy is the most difficult form of government, because it is the form under which you have to persuade the largest number of persons to do anything in particular. But I think we were the more pleased to undertake it because it is difficult. Anybody can do what is easy. We have shown that we could do what was hard, and the pride that ought to dwell in your hearts tonight is that you saw to it that that experiment was brought to the day of its triumphant demonstration.

"We now know and the world knows that the thing that we then undertook, rash as it seemed, has been practicable, and that we have set up in the world a government maintained and promoted by the general conscience and the general conviction.

"So I stand here not to welcome you to the nation's capital as if I were your host, but merely welcome you to your own capital, because I am, and am proud to be, your servant. I hope I shall catch, as I hope we shall all catch, from the spirit of this occasion, a new consecration to the high duties of American citizenship."

### MR. BRYAN'S ATLANTA INTERVIEW

Following is a report of an interview published in the Atlanta Journal of October 7:

"William J. Bryan, who will speak from the platform at the auditorium Thursday night on 'The Causeless War and Its Lessons,' seated in a comfortable chair at the Piedmont hotel Thursday morning, discussed live topics relating to American politics.

"The former secretary of state looked the picture of robust health when he received a Journal reporter shortly after reaching Atlanta from Birmingham, where he spoke Wednesday night. The interview began immediately, and ran in this strain:

"Colonel Bryan, would you care to discuss President Wilson's announcement of his purpose to vote for woman suffrage in New Jersey?"

"I am very much gratified at the president's announcement," answered Colonel Bryan. "I felt sure that he would take that side when he was ready to take a stand. His announcement will greatly strengthen the cause of woman suffrage in the four states in which it is an issue this fall—New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

"Woman suffrage is growing very rapidly, more rapidly in the north than in the south, but I have no doubt the women will vote in practically all the states in a few years."

"Mr. Bryan was asked if he agreed with the president that woman suffrage is a question for the states and not for the federal government to decide.

"I agree that it is a state question at present, but it is likely to become a national ques-

tion whenever enough states adopt it to make it probable that a national amendment would be ratified.

"The situation is the same as in the case of prohibition. If you will examine the vote in congress on the prohibition amendment you will see that its support came from the districts in which the prohibition sentiment prevailed.

"I hope that neither of these amendments (prohibition or woman suffrage) will enter into the next presidential campaign, but the issues will have to be met in national politics when the time is ripe for them."

"Would you care to give an expression as to the president's statement yesterday to the board of experts on preparedness?"

"No; I do not care to discuss his position until he expresses himself more definitely as to the amount he desires appropriated for the army and the navy."

"When Colonel Bryan passed through Atlanta last week enroute to Nashville from Jacksonville he was asked by his interviewers:

"What of politics, Colonel Bryan; is there a chance that you may be a candidate for the democratic nomination?"

"I have discussed that question fully in The Commoner, and if you don't read The Commoner you are behind the times."

"Thursday morning the attention of the former secretary of state was called to the foregoing, and he was asked if he cared to elaborate upon his answer to the question as regarded his political future.

"Yes," said he, "I referred you to The Commoner because I did not have time to answer in full. To save you the trouble of looking up The Commoner, I will repeat in substance what I have said on several occasions, namely: That the plans which I have made for the remainder of my life include active participation in politics, but do not include the holding of any office.

"I enjoy the liberty of the private citizen and the opportunity to discuss not only pending issues but approaching questions also, and I am interested in many other subjects besides politics, among them educational questions, ethical questions, the temperance question, including the legislative phase of it, and religious questions.

"I expect to lecture enough to make what I need for my living expenses and I shall continue in the future as in the past to make more public speeches, traveling at my own expense and speaking without compensation, than lectures.

"This is all that I can say, and it covers all reasonable requirements.

"I have not felt it necessary to promise or give a pledge against any candidacy for office. I have simply stated my plans and expectations. No friend would ask me to go further and I do not take counsel of those unfriendly in deciding my course."

"Colonel Bryan was asked whether he thought the one-term plank in the Baltimore platform would be held up against the possible candidacy of President Wilson for renomination.

"Write out your question," he suggested, and it was written as follows:

"Do you think that the one-term plank of the Baltimore platform will be held against Mr. Wilson?"

"I do not care to discuss the president's connection with the next campaign until after he has himself announced his intentions," he said, spoiling what gave promise of a real good story.

"Colonel Bryan expressed himself as very much pleased that the dispute concerning the sinking of the Arabic 'seems to have been satisfactorily settled.'

Messrs. Borah, Cummins and Hadley are still very active in nursing along their presidential booms, serenely forgetful of the fact that the republican party has not the remotest idea of going west of the Mississippi for its presidential nominee. A party of the classes has no intention of subjecting itself to the charge that it is thinking of going out to make a choice from that section of the country where the people do their own thinking.

Collier's declares that "peace may be had only by those who are strong, those who are willing and prepared to fight for it." Germany was strong, it was willing and prepared to fight for it; so were England, Austria, France, Russia and a few other nations in Europe. Yet none of them has peace, and none is likely to have peace soon. Twaddle is a poor substitute for argument, but the militarists seem to complacently ignore this fact.