

allied with the imperial government of Germany because they have not made war upon us or challenged us to defend our right and our honor.

"The Austro-Hungarian government has, indeed, avowed its unqualified indorsement and acceptance of the reckless and lawless submarine warfare adopted now without disguise by the imperial German government, and it has, therefore, not been possible for this government to receive Count Tarnowski, the ambassador recently accredited to this government by the imperial and royal government of Austria-Hungary; but that government has not actually engaged in warfare against citizens of the United States on the seas, and I take the liberty, for the present at least, of postponing a decision of our relations with the authorities at Vienna.

"We enter this war only where we are clearly forced into it because there are no other means of defending our rights.

"It will be all the easier for us to conduct ourselves as belligerents in a high spirit of right and fairness because we act without animus, not in enmity toward a people or with the desire to bring injury or disadvantage upon them, but only in armed opposition to an irresponsible government which has thrown aside all considerations of humanity and of right and is running amuck.

BELIEVES MOST GERMAN-AMERICANS LOYAL

"We are let me say again, the sincere friends of the German people, and shall desire nothing so much as the early re-establishment of intimate relations of mutual advantage between us—however hard it may be for them, for the time being, to believe that this is spoken from our hearts.

"We have borne with their present government through all these bitter months because of that friendship—exercising a patience and forbearance which would otherwise have been impossible.

"We shall, happily, still have an opportunity to prove that friendship in our daily attitude and actions toward the millions of men and women of German birth and native sympathy who live among us and share our life, and we shall be proud to prove it toward all who are in fact loyal to their neighbors and to the government in the hour of test.

"They are, most of them, as true and loyal Americans as if they had never known any other fealty or allegiance. They will be prompt to stand with us in rebuking and restraining the few who may be of a different mind and purpose.

"If there should be disloyalty, it will be dealt with with a firm hand of stern repression; but, if it lifts its head at all, it will lift it only here and there, and without countenance except from a lawless and malignant few.

"It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great, peaceful country into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.

LIVES AND FORTUNES DEDICATED TO TASK

"But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.

"To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured.

"God helping her, she can do no other."

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown,"—a timely quotation.

MR. BRYAN'S TENDER TO PRESIDENT WILSON

(Sent immediately after reading of the action of congress.)

April 6th, 1917.

Hon Woodrow Wilson,
President,

Washington, D. C.,
Believing it to be the duty of the citizen to bear his part of the burdens of war and his share of its perils, I hereby tender my services to the government. Please enroll me as a private whenever I am needed, and assign me to any work that I can do. Until called to the colors, I shall, through the Red Cross, contribute to the comfort of soldiers in the hospital and, through the Y. M. C. A., aid in safeguarding the morals of the men in camp.

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

Washington, D. C., April 7, 1917.

Hon William Jennings Bryan,
Miami, Fla.

Thank you very warmly for your telegram. I am sure that the whole country will believe that you are ready to serve in any way that may set its interests forward.

WOODROW WILSON.

AMERICA FIRST

If any German-American so far forgets his duty to his flag as to contemplate injury to the United States by tongue or deed, it ought to be some restraint upon him to know that any unpatriotic word or act on his part will do more harm to his own kinsmen than he can possibly do to this government or to this country. America first is the watch-word of every patriot, no matter from what land he comes.

ABOLISH THE SALOON

And now for a preparedness that will be as useful in peace as in war—a preparedness absolutely necessary in war if every citizen is to measure up to the maximum of strength—namely, THE ELIMINATION OF THE SALOON FROM THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. Alcohol makes a man forget his duty to his country as well as to his wife, his parents, his children and his God.

AN UNANSWERABLE ARGUMENT

The advocates of prohibition now have an economic argument against the saloon which the liquor interests will find it difficult to answer, namely, that the country can not afford to waste the grain and other foodstuffs formerly converted into intoxicating liquor. We can not afford to starve the people in order to make them drunk.

W. J. BRYAN.

JEFFERSONIAN DOCTRINE

"Acquiescence in the will of the majority is the first principle of republics," this is the language of Jefferson and it applies to war as well as to peace. It applies even more forcibly in time of war because to the outside world the government speaks for the entire nation.

SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT

How many men should be enlisted? As many as the government asks for. And how much money should be appropriated? As much as the government thinks necessary. Individual opinions are merged in one voice, the voice of the government.

W. J. BRYAN.

The German born Americans will, by enlisting in proportion to their numbers, convince any who need to be convinced that sympathy with Germany as against other European nations does not prevent loyalty to their adopted land when the United States is at war.

At the last election in Shreveport, La., a former wet voted dry, giving as his reason that prohibition had closed the four pawn shops that had thrived with the saloons. That is one business that prohibition injures.

China and Russia have set the world an example in bloodless revolutions.

At War

The nation has entered the war. Men differed as to the wisdom of going into the war, but the government has acted, and there is no longer division. The people are one—they all stand behind the President and congress who bear the grave responsibility of leading the country through war to peace. "Our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor"—all these are pledged to support of the government through every hour until the end.

W. J. BRYAN.

WHY NOT?

Mr. H. L. Berry of Stanton, North Dakota, suggests that war costs money as well as blood, and that the government should feel as free to draft wealth as it does to draft men.

The principle is sound. Why not draft money? If the citizen must give his life to enable his country to carry on war, why should the property owner be dealt with more leniently? Is money more precious than blood? As long as the poor will do the fighting, the men of large wealth may be indifferent. They may even profit by army contracts, but the drafting of property would give to the big property owner a realizing sense of the sacrifice for which war calls. By all means let money and men be put upon the same basis, at least, let us not put money above men.

W. J. BRYAN

A GOOD BEGINNING

The minister of justice of Russia's new government has made a good beginning. He is quoted as follows:

"Our comrades of the second and fourth dumas, who were banished illegally to the tundras of Siberia, will be released forthwith. In my jurisdiction are all the premiers and ministers of the old regime. They will answer before the law for all crimes against the people."

"Show them no mercy," many voices in the crowd are reported to have exclaimed.

"Comrades," continued M. Kerenski, "I hope Russia will not have recourse to the shameful methods utilized by the old regime. Without trial none will be condemned. All prisoners will be tried in open court."

If the new government can avoid the use of the old method it will not only give convincing proof of its superiority but it will strengthen democracy elsewhere.

DECLARATION OF WAR HAS CLOSED ALL DISCUSSION

[Albany, Ga., Herald, April 7.]

Declaration of war closes all discussion, and it now becomes the duty of every citizen to stand behind the government, said Hon. William Jennings Bryan in an address delivered in the municipal auditorium last night.

Mr. Bryan said he gladly would have given his life to prevent war, but now that war has been declared, he is ready to give his life to his country.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

"In view of the gigantic deeds of the entire people there is, in my opinion, no more room in Prussia for election by classes." The above announcement from the Kaiser is the beginning of the end. When a monarch feels it necessary to promise reforms in the midst of a war it means that there is among the people a spirit of protest that can no longer be ignored. The words will accelerate reforms—can the emperor travel as rapidly as the people?

The Kaiser's reference to "direct and secret election of deputies" is additional evidence that the avalanche is moving.

The promised change in the Fatherland will be especially welcome to those Americans who trace their ancestry to Germany, for as the President says, it is the German GOVERNMENT with which we are at war—not the German PEOPLE. The more rapidly the leaven of democracy works over there the shorter the way.

W. J. BRYAN.