JUNE, 1917

The Commoner

Secretary McAdoo's Appeal

Speaking at a Liberty Loan rally at Carnegie Hall, New York city, the evening of June 4, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo made an appeal for the Liberty loan. His speech, as reported in the New York World, follows:

"Whatever differences there may have been about this war before it happened, this is no time to discuss them or think of them. I know how to sympathize with the men of German origin in this situation. I was born in the south in October, 1863. But there is but one thing to do, and that is to mobilize, to organize the might of the nation. Our country is engaged in a righteous war and we must exert our power so effectively that we may soon bring this horrible carnage in Europe to an end.

"This is one of the supreme crises in the world's history. I believe that God has called this nation into this struggle because He had a mighty purpose to serve. We shall never have a stable peace unless the autocratic nations shall become democratic. There is left only one dangerous autocracy in the world — Germany.

"The kaiser had an idea that we would not fight; he believed that we were impotent; that we would resent no attack upon our sovereignty. America has decided that she will not surrender. Do you know what would happen if Germany were victorious? She would take the entire British and Freich fleets—she would come here and put the iron heel of the conqueror on our shores. We should have to fall back to the interior, and there is no telling how long it would take to expel the enemy, if we ever did.

NO WISH TO EXAGGERATE

"If we couldn't do it promptly we would have to make the most humiliating peace any great nation ever made. We should have to pay an indemnity that would represent half our wealth.

"I am not trying to alarm you. It is not my purpose to misrepresent or to exaggerate. I only want to make you realize that you are in the midst of the greatest war of all time.

"We have offered this great Liberty Loan. It means that your government offers you a privilege; it asks you men and women not to give something to your government, but to buy the best investment on earth, the safest. It asks you to buy to equip our brave men who have to go upon the field of battle to protect your lives, your liberty, your property, to give them the best equipment that American ingenuity and skill can produce. "Are you willing to do it? Of course you are; I know you are! Are we going to be more tender with our dollars than with the lives of our sons? When the millions of our young men who have responded to the call tomorrow our duty is to equip them with everything that is necessary to make them the most effective soldiers on earth. "I hear some grumbling about taxation. Is it possible that in this rich country, when our sons are going to the front to give their lives for us, there should be any quibbling about the necessary taxation to take care of them upon the field of battle? "Wars involve sacrifices of property as welt as of life. While we must not be unfair to property, while we must be scrupulously just in the impostion of taxation and in the treatment of all the economic questions which gain added importance - during war time, property must bear its just share of the hurden. We must find the most equ'table possible basis of distributing the new taxation in order that every one shall bear his just share, but naturally those who have the most property should par the most taxes. "I do not believe in class legislation. The reason that property ought to bear a larger share is that the stake of property is greater. "he noor man has only his life and liberty to fight for, but the rich man has his property as well as his life and liberty to fight for. We have got to stand for the reasonable sacrifices of property that must be made.

months, it is probable that the total amount of financing that the government will have to do to cover its own expenditures and to extend the necessary credits to the Allied governments will amount to \$10,000,000,000. It is proposed that only 18 per cent of this colossal sum, namely, \$1,800,000,000, shall be raised by new taxation.

"The country was never so able as now to bear the necessary taxation. It can be applied without hurt to business and without hardships to the people.

"There is always a serious danger of hurtful inflation in war time when such great bond issues must be made. A reasonable amount of wholesome taxation, properly distributed, is the best corrective. It is essential that there shall be a large and healthful expansion of credit during the period of the war. That will come about inevitably from the great financial operations of the government and the enlarged business of the country. But we must not make the grave mistake of imposing too little taxation at the outset through timidity or hesitation.

"To me it is a sad spectacle to see committees of various kinds coming to Washington and urging congress that the particular interest they represent be relieved of taxation, or that taxation be transferred largely from them to somebody else less able to bear it, when at the same time our gallant boys are walking uncomplainingly to the registration offices throughout the land. You men and women who create public opinion in this country must make your voices heard and tell your congressmen you won't support any policy more considerate of property interests than of the lives of our soldiers.

MUST "VOLUNTEER THEIR MONEY"

"Every man and woman must get behind these bonds if the issue is to be successful. If on the 15th day of June—which is bond registration day — it be said that there were not enough men and women ready to volunteer their money upon the matchless security of the honor and wealth of the United States to back up the young men of America who are willing to risk their lives for their country, wouldn't it be a disgrace to America?

"We are relying upon the volunteer system to supply the money to enable the government to maintain and equip its soldiers. The volunteers of money must not-as I believe they will not-be less patriotic than the men who sacrifice their lives for liberty. I do not want the volunteer system for raising money to fail. We shall not fail is every one does his duty, but I warn you that these great things do not achieve themselves. They can only be achieved through the combined energy, determination and spirit of the American people. It is not enough of an answer to the challenge thrown down to us that we subscribe grudgingly or barely two billions. Our answer must be that American people have billions to sacrifice in the cause of liberty and self-government throughout the world.

BRYAN ENDORSES WOMAN'S VOTE; SAYS SALOON MUST GO

[From the Dallas, Texas, Times-Herald, May 25.]

William Jennings Bryan spoke to 6,000 people at the Fair park coliseum Thursday evening. The vast auditorium was filled — every seat—and many who arrived late were forced to stand both downstairs and in the balcony. Mr. Bryan was given a great ovation when he entered upon the stage. He prefaced his temperance speech with a patriotic address, complimenting the work of the Red Cross and Army Y. M. C. A., stating that both needed the support of the nation. He asked that every Dallasite and every member of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church purchase Liberty Loan bonds, "that being the most practical form of patriotism we can practice."

"I want America to furnish everything from men to money to make this war a success," he said.

Mr. Bryan said that the spread and growth of woman suffrage in the United States since he was here fourteen months ago means more than anything else for the cause of temperance. "I indorse all of the arguments made in behalf of woman suffrage," he said, "and the one that has the most weight is the right of a mother to vote in shaping the environment that surrounds her child. We must drive the saloon out and keep it out, and the woman vote of the United States is our strongest ald."

"It is not fair to give the vote to the man who lays snares for her children and tie the mother's hands. When women can use the ballot for the protection of their children, the world will win a victory never to be lost."

The three arguments Mr. Bryan said he liked to present to Christians in the cause of temperance are:

1. No normal brain needs alcohol as a stimulant.

2. No man can know when he begins to drink whether or not he can withstand the habit.

3. At no time from the cradle to the grave is it safe to begin to drink.

Another thing, Mr. Bryan said, no Christian has any money that he can afford to spend for alcohol with so many worthy causes in need.

In refuting the argument that the government needs the money accrued from the liquor tax Mr. Bryan said: "The government that can raise \$7,000,000,000 in one day can do without the saloon tax and alcohol revenue. Today, when the government is appealing to people to raise foodstuffs we can not afford to allow \$145,000,000 worth of grain to be used in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages." "The war has taught us what alcohol is in the time of war," he said. "We must drive the saloon out of our country to make our army strong. We might as well introduce smallpox into our military camps as to introduce alcohol. Democrats and republicans should stand shoulder to shoulder to drive out of the land the greatest enemy that man has ever had-the saloon."

"If this war continues for another twelve

ONLY ONE BAR TO PROSPERITY

"Some people profess apprehension as to the future of business. Prosperity in the next twelve months will be greater than ever in the h'story of the country. You can not prevent it if you try. The only thing that could stop prosperity would be the refusal of the people to support reasonable measures of taxation and to buy government bonds.

"Let us on the 15th day of June roll up a subscription which will be an unmistakable answer to the enemies of our country. And on the 14th day of June—Flag Day—let us go out and kneel reverently to that flag, the supremacy of which is today the hope of civilization; that flag the very colors of which thrill our hearts and ennoble our souls; and let us pledge ourselves anew to liberty and democracy and self-government in the world, and swear that the flame of liberty shall never be extinguished while there is a drop of blood in the veins of any American freeman."

SUBSCRIBES \$1,000 TO LIBERTY LOAN

A Washington dispatch to the Dallas News, under date of June 2, says: William J. Bryan has subscribed \$1,000 to the Liberty Loan, it was announced today.

BUYS LIBERTY BONDS

[From Kansas City Star, June 5.]

Into the Federal Reserve bank there strolled today one William Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state, candidate for president and Chautauqua speaker.

"I'm looking for Mr. Miller," he said.

"Yes, Mr. Bryan," replied the doorman, and led the visitor to the office of J. Z. Miller, jr., governor of the Tenth Reserve Bank District.

Mr. Bryan and Mr. Miller proved to be acquainted. After they had chatted for a few minutes, the democratic leader reached into his pocket, took out a checkbook and said:

"By the way, Mr. Miller, you have charge of the Liberty Loan bonds, don't you?"

Mr. Miller said he had.

"Well," said his visitor, "I'd like to subscribe for eight of them, just as presents to my grandchildren. Can you arrange that?"

Mr. Miller was certain he could.

"Thanks," said Mr. Bryan. "You can have those sent to me in Lincoln, if you will." He arose. "O yes, and please don't forget to credit them to Nebraska's share."