

Mr. Norris' Views

Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska stopped in Lincoln November 2 on his way to his home at McCook. He will remain until the opening of congress in December.

Senator Norris believes this nation should proclaim to the world definite conditions upon which it will consent to a cessation of hostilities. The aim of the war, he said, is to destroy militarism. In regard to the war he said:

"There can be no doubt as to the ultimate outcome of the present war. There has never been any doubt but that in the end Germany and Austria would be subdued. While there was honest ground for disagreement upon the question of our entering the conflict, when war was once declared it became the duty of every loyal and patriotic citizen to do everything possible to bring success to our arms. After war had been declared there was difference of opinion as to how the necessary army should be raised,

whether by enlistment or conscription. When this question was settled it was then the duty of every citizen to give his loyal support to the law that was enacted, and to do everything within his power to see that it was properly enforced. After the necessary army had been provided for there was great disagreement as to how the money necessary for the prosecution of the war should be raised and when this question was decided it became the duty of every citizen to loyally support the law agreed upon and to do his utmost to assist in raising the needed funds under the law.

"The greatest object of the war is to destroy militarism and to make it impossible for any future ruler, mad with ambition for world power, to deluge humanity with human blood.

"All liberty loving people everywhere are anxious for peace, but no proposition for peace is worthy of consideration unless it includes the destruction of militarism and gives us a peace that is permanent. To assist in bringing about such a peace but without any suspension of fighting or war preparation, the United States government should in co-operation with our allies if possible, but without them if necessary, proclaim to the world the definite conditions upon which it will consent to a cessation of hostilities. If this awful conflict results in a permanent peace, making war in the future practically impossible, it will, notwithstanding the terrible suffering in its wake, not have been fought in vain.

Room for Disagreement

"Honest people will disagree as to just what concrete propositions should be contained in such a proclamation. This should be determined

on the part of our government by the congress acting in conjunction with the President—and after it has been fought out and determined, then all loyal citizens ought to abide by the decision, the same as they abide by all other decisions that have been made by congress and the President since the beginning of the war.

"Keeping in mind that the greatest object of war in the future and the establishment of a permanent world peace, there could be but little conflict as to the main fundamental principles that should be enunciated in such a proclamation. It should provide for the destruction of every submarine; for the limitation of armaments among all the nations of the world; for the disarmament of existing navies, and the conversion of fighting ships into ships of commerce. It should pledge every nation never to recognize the national title to territory obtained by conquest, without the consent of the people transferred, and that no secret treaty should ever be recognized by any government. It should propose the destruction of every fort along every international line in the world and the conversion of all guns in such forts into iron and steel of commerce. It should recommend the establishment of a permanent international court for the settlement of all future international disputes, and that no armed or fighting ship could ever be built by any nation without the consent of this tribunal. It should declare in favor of the restoration of Belgium, France and Serbia; the return of all money forced from any captured city or municipality, and should propose to leave all other questions, including indemnities and the disposition of disputed territory, for settlement by The Hague, or some other international tribunal. If such a proclamation were made, it would enlist the sympathy and support of every liberty loving person the world over, including Germans and Austrians, and would make it impossible for any people to be deceived as to the ultimate intention of the allies. It would make it a real war for democracy. The absence of some such definite statement on the part of the allies, enables the kaiser and his military supporters to deceive the German people into the belief that this war is one of conquest, and that the German people are in reality fighting for their very existence. There is no doubt but that millions of honest German people believe this to be the case, and that in such belief they are making as desperate a fight as though the claims were true. If the German people could be given the light and made to understand that we are fighting only against the military spirit of Germany it would create a sentiment behind the German lines that would weaken the kaiser's arm more than any other one thing that could happen. It would disabuse the minds of millions of his people, who have the suspicion, untrue though it may be, that one of the objects of this war is to destroy the commercial as well as the military power of Germany. We should let the world know that we are fighting for a world wide and enduring peace and for the destruction of militarism wherever it may be, but that the domestic and commercial possibilities of the world shall be open on equal terms to the citizens of every country. It would be a demonstration that our fight is not a selfish one, and that we are striving only to make the world safe for democracy.

Three Classes Object.

"There are three classes of people who object to the course above out-

lined: First, there are those who are strongly pro-British in their sentiments backed by some influential publications both here and abroad, who desire not only to obliterate Germany as a military power, but to crush her commercially, so that she will not be able to compete in the international commerce of the world. They desire that the German colonies in the Atlantic shall be given to Great Britain, and that the German colonies in the Pacific shall be given to Great Britain's ally, Japan. They forget that this would make a combination both in a military and commercial sense, which would be the direct opposite step toward democracy. They forget also, that it is unfair to ask for the sacrifice of American life and treasure in order to build up a combination of kingdoms which in future years, may become a menace to our own government. Second, there is a large class of honest minded people both here and in Europe who, justly shocked at Germany's submarine warfare, and at her ruthless campaign of subjugation, particularly in Belgium, desire to have the war carried to the extreme limit in order to punish Germany for her despotic policies and to serve as a warning to all rulers in the future, who undertake world domination. These people do not take into consideration that the German people are already enduring greater suffering than has ever before fallen to the lot of any nation. Their man power is already crippled beyond recuperation, they are even now a nation of cripples and underfed widows and orphans, and even though it were admitted that additional punishment should be inflicted, we must remember that if we insist on killing more Germans, it will only be at the sacrifice of more American lives and the desolation of American homes. We should remember also, that every day the war continues makes it nearer an impossibility of Germany to respond in a financial way, for damages resulting from her ruthless conduct. The third class of people opposed to such a proclamation, consists of those who are opposed to the limitation of armies or the disarmament of navies. Instead of disarming, they desire to engage, as soon as the war is over, upon the campaign of maintaining a large standing army and the building up of a still larger navy. They want to expand indefinitely our military program, even in time of peace. While there are many honest minded people in this place, there are also those who will continue to make many millions if disarmament can be prevented, and the present mad race in militarism between the nations can be continued indefinitely. They are not so great in number, but they are exceedingly powerful in influence, because of the enormous amount of wealth which they control. The honest citizen who is in this class forgets that the program I have outlined above would, if carried into operation, make powerful navies and large standing armies absolutely unnecessary.

"The only logical argument ever made in favor of a large navy is that other nations have large navies. If no nation has a navy, the necessity disappears at once. The world is sick almost unto death of militarism. This great war will have been fought in vain if it is not crushed. I believe the program I have outlined would crush it. If it is wrong in any respect, let it be corrected, and when agreed to by the proper authority, carried into effect by the combined efforts not only of our patriotic citizenship but of the liberty-loving people the world over."—Nebraska State Journal.

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