

and peoples associated together against the imperialists. We can not be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.

FIGHT UNTIL THE END

"For such arrangements and covenants we are willing to fight and to continue to fight until they are achieved; but only because we wish the right to prevail and desire a just and stable peace such as can be secured only by removing the chief provocations to war which this program does remove. We have no jealousy of German greatness and there is nothing in this program that impairs it. We grudge her no achievement or distinction of learning or of pacific enterprise such as have made her record very bright and very enviable. We do not wish to injure her or to block in any way her legitimate influence or power. We do not wish to fight her either with arms or with hostile arrangements of trade, if she is willing to associate herself with us and the other peace loving nations of the world in covenants of justice and law and fair dealing. We wish her only to accept a place of equality among the peoples of the world—the new world in which we now live — instead of a place of mastery.

"Never do we presume to suggest to her any alteration or modification of her institutions. But it is necessary we must frankly say and necessary as a preliminary to any intelligent dealings with her on our part, that we should know whom her spokesmen speak for when they speak to us, whether for the reichstag majority or for the military party, and the men whose creed is imperial domination.

"We have spoken now, surely, in terms too concrete to admit of any further doubt or question. An evident principle runs through the whole program I have outlined. It is the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak. Unless this principle be made its foundation no part of the structure of international justice can stand. The people of the United States could act upon no other principle and to the vindication of this principle they are ready to devote their lives, their honor and everything that they possess. The moral climax of this, the culminating and final war for human liberty has come, and they are ready to put their own strength, their own highest purpose, their own integrity and devotion to the test."

GREAT BRITAIN'S WAR AIMS AS TOLD BY LLOYD GEORGE

A London cablegram, dated Jan. 5, says: Vital points in the definition of Great Britain's war aims by Prime Minister Lloyd George, in an address to the trades unions of the United Kingdom, are:

We are fighting for a just and lasting peace. Three conditions must be fulfilled:

Firstly—The sanctity of treaties re-established.

Secondly — Territorial settlements based on the right of self-determination or the consent of the governed.

Thirdly—Creation of an international organization to limit armaments and diminish the probability of war.

We are not fighting to destroy the German constitution.

We are not fighting a war of aggression against the German people. * * * Our wish is not to destroy German's great position in the world but to turn her aside from schemes of military domination.

We demand * * * complete restoration, political, territorial and economic, of the independence of Belgium, with such reparation as can be made.

Restoration of Serbia, Montenegro and the occupied parts of France, Italy and Roumania.

We mean to stand by the French democracy to the death in the demand they make for a reconsideration of the great wrong of '71 when Alsace-Lorraine was torn away.

Although we agree with President Wilson that the breaking up of Austria-Hungary is not a part of our war aims, we feel that unless genuine self-government on true democratic principles is granted those Austro-Hungarian nationalities who have long desired it, it is impossible to hope for removal of those causes of unrest in that part of Europe which so long have threatened its genuine peace.

While we do not challenge maintenance of the

Turkish empire in the home lands of the Turkish race, with its capital Constantinople—the passage between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea being internationalized—Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine are entitled to recognition of their separate national conditions.

An independent Poland, comprising all genuinely Polish elements, is necessary to the stability of Europe.

The inhabitants of the African colonies must be placed under an administration acceptable to themselves for the purpose of preventing exploitation for the benefit of European capitalists and European governments.

We should be proud to fight to the end side by side with the new Russian democracy. So would America, France and Italy. But * * * Russia can only be saved by her own people.

A MONUMENTAL VICTORY

[From The Raleigh, N. C., News and Observer, Dec. 18, 1917.]

As was generally expected, the house of representatives yesterday adopted by more than the required majority the motion to submit to the states the national prohibition amendment. The action of the house was forecast last August when the senate, also by more than the required majority, gave its sanction to the submission of the amendment. Sentiment for national prohibition has been growing with astonishing rapidity ever since the beginning of the war, and the growth was accelerated when the United States became a participant in the world struggle.

Vigorous efforts to accomplish the defeat of the resolution were made. It was claimed that it would mean the policing of the states by federal officers, but in answer to this it was pointed out that federal assistance in enforcing liquor laws had been in effect in the states for many years without undesirable results.

It was claimed further that national prohibition would be an invasion of state's rights, but as the south, where the principle of state's rights was most strongly entrenched showed by the stand of its congressmen that it regarded liquor as an evil that knew no state lines, but threw its sinister influence athwart the whole country so long as it had a grip on any appreciable part of it, this argument also failed to convince.

Another argument was that the working man was bitterly opposed to national prohibition, that he had to have his beer and that he would be terribly dissatisfied if it was denied him. This was to forget that laboring men are divided over the beer just as other people are. Not all laboring men by any means regard beer as necessary to their happiness, and it is a safe bet that taking the wives of laboring men into account, labor would muster more anti-beer people than pro-beer advocates.

Other arguments were advanced, but they could not stem the tide of the rapidly growing popular demand for a final knock-out blow for liquor.

It is gratifying to North Carolinians that a North Carolinian, Representative E. Y. Webb, led the fight in the house for the adoption of the resolution. Mr. Webb has been a consistent, able and fearless advocate of prohibition from the beginning of his public career, his name is inseparably connected with the Webb-Kenyon law as well as with the action of the house yesterday. All legislation in congress intended to loosen the grip of liquor has had his vigorous and effective support. He has been a tower of strength to the prohibition cause.

It was very fitting, too, that Hon. W. J. Bryan should have been a co-recipient with Mr. Webb of congratulations yesterday after the vote on the prohibition resolution. No one man has wielded so powerful an influence for a dry nation as Mr. Bryan. Since his resignation from the office of secretary of state he has given much of his time to the prohibition movement and his influence has been immensely valuable to the cause. The action of congress is further vindication of his wisdom and foresight and his work for prohibition will rank in value and importance with that which he has done for the election of senators by the direct vote of the people, the income tax, tariff and banking reform and other legislation aimed to benefit the rank and file of the people.

Yesterday's victory was monumental in its significance. It marked the beginning of the end of the menace of liquor.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE WINS IN HOUSE

A Washington dispatch dated Jan. 10, says: Woman suffrage by federal constitutional amendment won in the house tonight with exactly the required number of affirmative votes. While members in their seats and throngs in the galleries waited with eager interest, the house adopted by a vote of 274 to 136 a resolution providing for submission to the states of the so-called Susan B. Anthony amendment for national enfranchisement of women. But for the promise of Speaker Clark to cast his vote from the chair for the resolution if it was needed, the change of a single vote to the opposition would have meant defeat. Republican Leader Mann, who came from a Baltimore hospital, where he had been under treatment ever since congress convened, and Representative Sims of Tennessee, just out of a sick bed, and hardly able to walk to his seat, brought the votes which settled the issue.

FIGHT NEXT IN THE SENATE

The house hardly had adjourned before the suffrage champions began their fight for favorable action on the senate side of the capitol. Recent polls there have indicated that the necessary two-thirds vote could not be mustered, but encouraged by the house victory and counting upon the influence of President Wilson, who came to their support last night, the suffragists hope to bring the senate into line so far as to have the amendment before state legislatures during the coming year. They feel sure at least of forcing a vote in the senate before the present session ends.

PRESIDENT INDORSES WOMAN SUFFRAGE

A Washington dispatch, dated Jan. 9, says: President Wilson late today told a delegation of house leaders that he favored enactment of the Susan B. Anthony federal suffrage amendment and would make clear his position in a statement which he issued tonight.

After a forty-minute conference with the President, the congressmen issued this statement:

"The committee found that the President had not felt at liberty to volunteer his advice to members of congress in this important matter, but when we sought his advice he very frankly and earnestly advised us to vote for the amendment as an act of right and justice to the women of the country and of the world."

LETTERS FROM COMMONER READERS

H. S. Case, Ind.—Find enclosed draft for \$3 to pay for five yearly subscribers, and twenty-five cents additional to pay for extra copies of the December number.

R. C. Anderson, Oregon — Herewith find post office money order to pay for the enclosed club of six subscribers.

Geo. W. Pratt, Mo.—I enclose \$3 to pay for five subscriptions. Have always appreciated the work of Mr. Bryan and hope he will live to help bring about lasting peace along the lines he has advocated for years.

Col. James R. Campbell, Ill.—I enclose you a club of eight subscriptions, including my own, to The Commoner. To show how popular Colonel Bryan's paper is with our people, I only solicited seven persons to subscribe and not one refused. I had the pleasure of serving as colonel of the 9th Illinois in the same brigade as Colonel Bryan in the Spanish-American war, and from my personal relations with him I regard him as one of the greatest statesmen that we have.