

this nation is the friend of mankind as it said it was.' The enthusiasm, the hopes, the trust, the confidence in the future bred by that change of view is indescribable.

INTERPRETS WASHINGTON'S WORDS

"Mr. Taft was speaking of Washington's utterances about entangling alliances, and if he will permit me to say so, he put the exactly right interpretation on what Washington says, the interpretation that is inevitable if you read what he said, as most of these gentlemen do not

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CURED HIS RUPTURE

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and the thing that he longed for was just what we are now about to supply; an arrangement which will disentangle all the alliances in the world.

"Nothing entangles, enmeshes a man except a selfish combination with somebody else. Nothing entangles a nation, hampers it, binds it, except to enter into a combination with some other nation against the other nations of the world. And this great disentanglement of all alliances is now to be accomplished by this covenant, because one of the covenants is that no nation shall enter into any relationship with another nation inconsistent with the covenants of the league of nations.

"What are we to say, then, as to the future? I think, my fellow citizens, that we can look forward to it with great confidence. I have heard cheering news since I came to this side of the water about the progress that is being made in Paris towards the discussion and clarification of a great many difficult matters, and I believe that settlements will begin to be made rather rapidly from this time on at those conferences.

"But what I believe—what I know as well as believe, is this: That the men engaged in those conferences are gathering heart as they go, not losing it; that they are finding community of purpose and community of ideal to an extent that perhaps they did not expect; and that amidst all the interplay of influence—because it is infinitely complicated—there is a forward movement which is running towards the right. Men have at last perceived that the only permanent thing in the world is right, and that a wrong settlement is bound to be a temporary settlement—bound to be a temporary settlement for the very best reason of all, that it ought to be a temporary settlement and the spirits of men will rebel against it, and the spirits of men are now in the saddle.

TOUCHING INCIDENT OF WAR

"When I was in Italy a little limping group of wounded Italian soldiers sought an interview with me. I could not conjecture what it was and they were going to say to me, and with the greatest simplicity, with a touching simplicity, they presented me with a petition in favor of the league of nations. Their wounded limbs, their impaired vitality were the only argument they brought with them. It was a simple request that I lend all the influence that I might happen to have to relieve future generations of the sacrifices that they had been obliged to make.

"That appeal has remained in my mind as I have ridden along the streets of European capitals, and heard cries of the crowd, cries for the league of nations from lips of people, who, I venture to say, had no particular notion of how it was to be done, who were not ready to propose a plan for a league of nations, but whose hearts said that something by way of a combination of all men everywhere must come out of this.

"It is inconceivable that we should disappoint them, and we shall not. The day will come when men in America will look back with swelling hearts and rising pride that they should have been privileged to make the sacrifice which it was necessary to make in order to combine their might and their moral power with the cause of justice for men of every kind everywhere.

"God give us strength and vision to do it wisely. God give us the privilege of knowing that we did it without counting the cost, and because we were true Americans, lovers of liberty and of doing right."

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