

France or in Italy or in England when I was on the streets, when I was in the presence of the crowds, when I was in great halls where men gathered together irrespective of class.

I did not feel quite as much at home there as I do here, but I felt that now, at any rate, after this storm of war had cleared the air, men were seeing eye to eye everywhere and that these were the kind of folks who would understand what the kind of folks at home would understand and that they were thinking the same things.

I feel about you as I am reminded of a story of that excellent witness and good artist Oliver Herford, who one day, sitting at luncheon at his club, was slapped vigorously on the back by a man whom he did not know very well. He said, "Oliver, old boy, how are you?" He looked at him rather coldly and said, "I don't know your name, I don't know your face, but your manners are very familiar." And I must say that your manners are very familiar and, let me add, very delightful.

It is a great comfort, for one thing, to realize that you all understand the language I am speaking. A friend of mine said that to talk through an interpreter was like witnessing the compound fracture of an idea. But the beauty of it is that, whatever the impediments of the channel of communication, the idea is the same—that it gets registered, and it gets registered in responsive hearts and receptive purposes.

I have come back for a strenuous attempt to transact business for a little while in America, but I have really come back to say to you, in all soberness and honesty, that I have been trying my best to speak your thoughts.

When I sample myself I think I find that I am a typical American, and if I sample deep enough and get down to what is probably the true stuff of a man, then I have hope that it is part of the stuff that is like the other fellow's at home.

And, therefore, probing deep in my heart and trying to see the things that are right without regard to the things that may be debated as expedient, I feel that I am interpreting the purpose and the thought of America, and in loving America I find I have joined the great majority of my fellow men throughout the world.

Nearly every one of the republican legislatures that were swept into being by the tidal wave of the 1918 elections is doing its best to prove the mistaken judgment of the voters by vastly adding to the biennial appropriations. It is a queer bent of mind that cannot see in the fact that the people of the United States have a tremendously large war debt to carry and pay off in the near future a very strong argument for the reduction of all domestic taxes.

PENNSYLVANIA NO. 45

Pennsylvania completed the ratification of the federal prohibition amendment on February 25 when the senate passed the measure by 29 to 16. The lower house had previously passed the resolution by a vote of 110 to 93. Pennsylvania thus becomes No. 45 on the Roll of Honor. Only three states—Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey—have thus far failed to line up for prohibition.

"AND THE CAT CAME BACK"



—From San Francisco Chronicle.

President Wilson's New York Speech

A New York dispatch, dated March 4, says: President Wilson told the American people in an address here tonight on the eve of his return to Paris that he was going back to the peace conference to battle with renewed vigor for creation of a league of nations. "The first thing I am going to tell the people on the other side of the water is that an overwhelming majority of the American people is in favor of the league of nations," said the President.

Speaking after former President Taft had expounded the main features of the proposed covenant of nations, Mr. Wilson told the vast audience, which filled the Metropolitan opera house, his opinions of opponents of the league in America.

"No party has the right to appropriate this issue and no party in the long run dare oppose it," he asserted.

The doors were opened shortly after 7 o'clock, and as fashionably dressed men and women, with many representatives of the army, navy and marines, filed down the aisles to their seats, the port of embarkation band played patriotic airs.

The house presented a dramatic appearance, with hundreds of men and women in evening clothes, mingling with others in plain business dress. American and allied flags draped over the balconies were the only decorations.

Seats were provided in the front row on the platform for President Wilson, Mr. Taft, Governor Smith, Frank L. Polk, acting secretary of state; Abram I. Elkus, former ambassador to Turkey; Cleveland H. Dodge and Alfred E. Marling, president of the New York chamber of commerce.

MILITARY APPEARANCE GIVEN

A military appearance was given the meeting by the presence on the platform of Major Generals David C. Shanks and Thomas Barry, and their staffs, and Vice-Admiral Albert E. Gleaves and Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher and their staffs. Others on the platform included Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the President; former Governor Charles H. Whitman, former Ambassador Henry Morgenthau and other distinguished men.

At 8 o'clock hardly a seat was vacant. At that hour the audience joined wholeheartedly in the singing of patriotic and popular songs, and it was announced no speeches would be delivered until the arrival of President Wilson.

Mr. Taft arrived at the Metropolitan about 8:15 o'clock. Immediately afterward Governor Smith and members of the committee on arrangements had taken their places on the platform, a military touch was added by the color guards of overseas veterans who marched to the center and presented colors.

President Wilson arrived at the opera house at 8:25 o'clock. He was accompanied by Mrs. Wilson. The President went to the cloak room, where he met Mr. Taft. Mrs. Wilson was escorted to a box in the first balcony.

PRESIDENT AND TAFT ARM IN ARM

The President and Mr. Taft walked on to the stage arm in arm. They were applauded for several minutes. The audience remained standing until the President took his seat.

A wave of cheers went over the house as the President and Mr. Taft took the center of the platform. The President stepped forward and bowed to all sides of the house. Mr. Taft then stepped forward and acknowledged the cheers. Cleveland H. Dodge called for three cheers for President Wilson and three more for Mr. Taft. They were given with a will. Then some one in the house called for three more cheers for the President and the audience burst forth into another wave of applause.

Enrico Caruso, introduced by Governor Smith, sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Governor Smith opened his speech by paying a tribute to the part the New York soldiers had played in the war.

"The war is not yet won," he said, "and will not be until the golden rule is written into the international law of the world."

He introduced Mr. Taft as the man "who had worn the purple of the President of the United States and with grace and honor."

As President Wilson and ex-President Taft emerged from the room where they conferred and through the throned wings onto the stage,

Mr. Taft said: "I don't know on which side of you I should walk, Mr. President."

He was on the left and the President smiled and nodded.

Mr. Taft was greeted with loud handclapping. A detail of police stationed at the stage entrance failed to recognize Joseph Tumulty, the President's secretary, when the latter appeared with a dozen members of the presidential party for whom seats had been reserved on the stage.

Mr. Tumulty was held up by several patrolmen who crowded back the party. Eventually a police captain who recognized him appeared and the party was permitted to pass.

The President smiled broadly when Mr. Taft referred to the resolution introduced in the senate last night by Senator Lodge, proposing rejection of the league of nations constitution as now drawn.

"If the President insists, as I hope he will," said Mr. Taft, "that the league be incorporated in the peace treaty, and brings it back, then the responsibility for postponing peace is with the body that refuses to ratify it."

Referring to the argument against a league of nations that participation by the United States would be in opposition to the principles laid down by George Washington, Mr. Taft declared he believed Washington, if he lived today, would be "one of the most earnest ones pressing for the covenant."

Washington's attack on "entangling alliances," he said, was an attack on "defensive and offensive alliances with one nation against another."

Mr. Taft ended his speech at 9:15. Governor Smith then introduced Charles Hackett, tenor, who sang "America."

The rank and file of the American people are standing firmly behind President Wilson, declared Governor Smith in presenting "the world leader of today," the President of the United States.

The President began speaking at 9:30. Mr. Wilson was cheered for three minutes, while the band played "I Won't Come Back 'Till It's Over, Over There."

"I accept the invitation the band has just played," said Mr. Wilson. "I will not come back 'till it's over over there."

The President declared he was convinced "by unmistakable evidences from all parts of the country" that the nation was in favor of the league of nations.

"I am more happy because this means this is not a party issue," he said. "This is not a party issue, and not a party in the long run will dare oppose it."

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

President Wilson said:

"My Fellow Citizens: 'I accept the intimation of the air just played. I will not come back 'till it's over, over there. And yet I pray to God, in the interests of peace and of the world, that that may be soon.

"The first thing that I am going to tell the people on the other side of the water is that an overwhelming majority of the American people are in favor of the league of nations. I know that that is true; I have had unmistakable intimations of it from all parts of the country, and the voice rings true in every case. I count myself fortunate to speak here under the unusual circumstances of this evening. I am happy to associate myself with Mr. Taft in this great cause. He has displayed an elevation of view, of a devotion to public duty which is beyond praise.

"And I am the more happy because this means that this is not a party issue. No party has the right to appropriate this issue, and no party will in the long run dare oppose it.

"We have listened to so clear and admirable an exposition of many of the main features of the proposed covenant of the league of nations that it is perhaps not necessary for me to discuss in any particular way the contents of the document. I will seek rather to give you its setting. I do not know when I have been more impressed than by the conference of the commission set up by the conference of peace to draw up a covenant for the league of nations. The representatives of fourteen nations sat around that board—not young men, not men inexperienced in the affairs of their countries, not men inexperienced in the politics of the

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