

President Tells Women League Will Save Their Sons from Future Wars

President Wilson's address at San Francisco, September 17, at the Associated Women's Club luncheon, in part, follows:

"Quite apart from the merits of any particular question which may arise about the treaty itself, I think we are under a certain moral compulsion to accept this treaty.

"In the first place it was laid down according to American specifications. The initial suggestions upon which this treaty is based emanated from America. I would not have you understand me as meaning that they were ideas confined to America, because the promptness with which they were accepted, the joy with which they were acclaimed in some parts of the world, the readiness of the leaders of nations that were supposed to be seeking chiefly their own interests in adopting these principles as the principles of the treaty, show that they were listening to the counsels of their own people, they were listening to them and knew the critical character of the new age and the necessity we were under to take any measures for the peace of the world.

"Because the thing that has happened was intolerable, the thing that Germany attempted, if it had succeeded, would have set the civilization of the world back 100 years, we have prevented it. But prevention is not enough.

LIKES ATTITUDE OF WOMEN

"Again and again, as I have crossed the continent, generous women—women I did not know—have shaken my hand and said, 'God bless you, Mr. President'. Some of them, like many of you, had lost sons and husbands and brothers in the war. Why should they bless me? I advised congress to declare war. I advised congress to send their sons to death. As commander-in-chief of the army I sent them over the seas and they were killed. Why should they bless me? Because in their generosity of their hearts they want the sons of other women saved henceforth. They believe that the methods proposed at any rate merit a very hopeful expectation that similar wars will be prevented and that other armies will not have to go from the United States to die upon distant fields of battle.

"And so the moral compulsion among us—among us who at the critical stage of the war saved the world—the moral compulsion upon us to stand by and see it through is overwhelming. We cannot now turn back. We made the choice in April, 1917.

"And not only is there compulsion of honor, but there is the compulsion of interests. I never like to speak of that, because, not withstanding the reputation that we had throughout the world before we made the great sacrifice of this war, this nation does love its honor better than it loves its interest.

"But if you want, as some of our fellow countrymen insist, to dwell upon the material side of it and our interest in the matter, our commercial interest, draw the picture for yourselves. The other great nations of the world are drawing together. We, who suggested that they should draw together in this new partnership, stand aside.

DANGER OF STAYING OUT

"We at once draw their intense hostility upon us. We at once renew the thing that had begun to be done before we went into the war. There was a conference in Paris not many months before we went into the war in which the nations then engaged against Germany attempted to draw together in an exclusive economic combination, whereby they should serve one another's interests and exclude those who had not participated in the war from sharing in that interest. And just so certainly as we stay out, every market that can possibly be closed against us will be closed.

"So that if you merely look at it from the material point of view of the material prosperity of the United States, we are under compulsion to stay in the partnership.

"And then there is a deeper compulsion, even, than that, the compulsion of humanity. If there is one thing that America ought to have learned more promptly than any other country it is that being made up out of all the ranks of humanity,

in serving itself it must serve the whole human race. I suppose I could not command words which would exaggerate the present expectations of the world with regard to the United States.

"We cannot desert humanity. We are the trustees of humanity. And we must see that we redeem the pledges which are always implicit in so great a trusteeship.

"I cannot conceive a motive adequate to hold men off from this thing.

NOT SATISFIED WITH SHANTUNG

"Let me take the point in which my initial sympathy is most with them, the matter of the cession to Japan of the interests of Germany in Shantung in China. I said to my Japanese colleagues on the other side of the sea that I am not satisfied with this settlement. I think it ought to be different. But when gentlemen propose to cure it by striking that clause out of the treaty, or by ourselves withholding our adherence to the treaty, they propose an irrational thing.

"It was in 1898 that China ceded these rights and concessions to Germany. The pretext was that some German missionaries had been killed. My heart aches, I must say, when I think how we have made an excuse of religion sometimes to work a deep wrong. The central government of China had done all it could to protect those German missionaries. Their death was due to local disturbances, to local passions, to local antipathy against the foreigner. There was nothing that the Chinese government as a whole could justly be held responsible for. But suppose there had been? Two Christian missionaries are killed, and, therefore, one great nation robs another nation and does a thing which is fundamentally unchristian and heathen.

"For there was no adequate excuse for what Germany exacted of China.

"I read again only the other day the phrases in which poor China was made to make the concession. She was made to make that in words dictated by Germany—in view of her gratitude to Germany for certain services rendered; the deepest hypocrisy conceivable. She was obliged to do so by force.

McKINLEY DID NOT PROTEST

"Then Russia came in and obliged China to cede to her Port Arthur and Ta Lien Wan, not for quite so long a period, but upon substantially the same terms. Then England must need have Wei Hei Wei as an equivalent concession to that which had been made to Germany. And presently certain ports and territory back of them were conceded upon similar principles to France. Everybody got in, except the United States, and said 'if Germany is going to get something we will get something'. Why? No one of them was entitled to it; no one of them had any business in there on such terms. And then, when the Japanese-Russian war came, Japan did what she has done in this war—she attacked Port Arthur, and Port Arthur was ceded to her as a consequence of the war.

"No protest was made by the government of the United States against the original concession of this Shantung territory to Germany. One of the highest minded men of our history was President at that time—I mean Mr. McKinley. One of the ablest men who we ever had as secretary of state, Mr. John Hay, occupied that great office. And in the message of Mr. McKinley about this transaction he says that, inasmuch as the powers that had taken these territories had agreed to keep the doors open for our commerce, there was no reason why we should object. Just so we could trade with these stolen territories, we were willing to let them be stolen.

Which of these gentlemen who are now objecting to the cession of the German rights in Shantung in China were prominently protesting against the original cession or any one of those original cessions? It makes my heart burn when some men are so late in doing justice.

LEAGUE PROTECTS CHINA

"Now, in the mean time, before we got into this war, but after the war had begun, because they deemed the assistance of Japan in the Pacific absolutely indispensable, Great Britain and France both agreed that if Japan would

enter the war she could do the same thing with regard to Shantung that she had done with regard to Port Arthur—that if she would take what Germany had in Shantung she would keep it. It was Germany's right in Shantung and not Chinese that we conceded by the treaty to Japan. But with a condition which was not insisted upon at the cession of Port Arthur—upon a condition that no other nation in doing similar things in China has ever yielded to: Japan is under solemn promise to forego all sovereign rights in the province of Shantung and to retain only what private corporations have elsewhere in China.

"Coupled with this arrangement is the League of Nations, under which Japan solemnly undertakes with the rest of us, to respect and protect the territorial integrity of China. And back of her promise is likewise the similar promise of every other nation, that nowhere will there come a disregard for territorial integrity of the political independence of that great, helpless people.

"It is the first time in the history of the world that anything has been done for China. And, sitting around our council board in Paris, I put this question: 'May I expect that this will be the beginning of the retrocession to China of the exceptional rights which other governments have enjoyed there?' And the responsible representatives of the other great governments said: 'Yes, you may expect it.'

AIDS WEAK AND OPPRESSED

"Your attention is constantly drawn to Article 10 and that is the article, the heart of the covenant, which guarantees the political integrity, not only of China, but of other countries more helpless, even, than China. But besides Article 10 there is Article 11, which makes it the right of every member of the league to draw attention to anything anywhere that is likely to disturb the peace of the world or the good understanding between nations upon which the peace of the world depends. Whenever formerly anything was done in detriment to the interests of China, we had to approach the government that did it with apologies.

"Now when you have the treaty and the League of Nations, the representative of the United States has the right to stand up and say: 'This is against the covenant of peace. It can't be done.' And, if occasion arises, we can add, 'It shall not be done.'

"The weak and oppressed and wronged peoples of the world have never before had a forum made for them to which they could summon their enemies in the presence of the judgment of mankind."

WORLD-DRY CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN

A Rockland, Me., dispatch, dated Sept. 18, says "The victories of today call for a vastly enlarged program of service." Miss Anna A. Gordon, national president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, said in an address tonight at the state convention of that organization:

FOR CHILD WELFARE

"The W. C. T. U. is raising a fund of \$1,000,000 to be devoted to pushing constructive plans for child welfare, Americanization, women in industry, health and moral education and world prohibition.

"Our organization has been at work for 35 years in 40 lands. We are entering upon a new crusade. We are deeply stirred by the compelling challenge of a supreme and unfinished task. We exult in the high purpose and boundless possibilities of a new era of national and world activities for purity, total abstinence and prohibition.

"The work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union is not ended. With victorious faith and quickened zeal we shall meet the sacred obligations of tomorrow."

"It is providential," said Miss Gordon, "that suffrage for women in all probability is to be the 19th amendment to our federal constitution. The strong prohibition code measure will need the backing of men and women voters throughout the republic."

Mrs. Edward M. Lawrence of this city, the national lecturer, said:

"The nation has at last caught up with Maine, and it no longer implies that alcohol for beverage purposes is either useful or necessary." She appealed to the men to save women from the threatened cigarette habit, saying that it had conquered one sex, and that unless women conquered, "the precious life germ of the nation must become degenerate."