

"Cheaper Food--Higher Wages--Or STRIKE!" Threat Of 3,000,000 Toilers

LABOR has served an impressive warning on the administration in power at Washington. Speaking thru the American Federation of Labor the organized workers of the land, three million strong, demand that the price of food and fuel must come down or wages must go up. Washington has been told by the spokesmen of organized labor that the toilers' pay no longer comes anywhere near meeting his cost of living and that it has already been necessary for labor to accept greatly reduced standards of living. The administration has been told that unless it obtains effective legislation for the reduction of prices before July 1, nation-wide strikes paralyzing every important industry may be expected. This is a notice to the administration to curb the profiteering in the necessities of life and check the rising cost of living. It is a notice to the food profiteers and the big industrial overlords to get down and out or be kicked down and out. Labor is determined to unsaddle the American industrial and political plutocracy. IT HAS SOUNDED ITS WARNING.

This paper has been paid for, if not by you, then by some one who wants you to read it.

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What Has Happened To American Democracy? We Ask All The People To Read—And Judge!

Accurate Recital Of Events That Plunged Us Into War Herewith Presented—Read and Consider!

ON THIS one hundred and forty-first anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, The American Socialist lays before the American people the following facts, regarding the method by which we have been forced into the World War, and the causes for which this was done.

Nothing is here alleged except what can be verified by reference to newspaper files and to official governmental documents.

These facts constitute evidence that Woodrow Wilson, now President of the United States, has by the exercise of an autocratic, unconstitutional and inconsistent power, driven us into war against our will, and is now engaged in forcing our young men to cross the seas to fight on foreign soil; in the face of grave constitutional doubts, and by the claim to an authority greater than that enjoyed by the German Kaiser.

These facts further indicate that these things have been done to retain in power the financial autocracy which is now the ruling world power, namely THE HOUSE OF MORGAN. And we ask the President to answer:

"The House of Hohenzollern must fall, in order that the House of Morgan may rule; is this the essence and secret of our war?"

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST asserts, first; that facts known to the public indicate that in March of 1916, Woodrow Wilson determined that this country must enter into the war; that he communicated this intention to the leaders of Congress; that such a violent opposition was encountered that he was compelled to defer this object for a more convenient season.

Second; that these facts further indicate that during the year intervening between March, 1916 and March 1917 he awaited an occasion to force our entry into the war; that he made repeated pledges to the people, which were all disregarded; that he meanwhile mutilated an official communication of the German Government, accepting half of a conditional pledge and refusing to accept half; and that when the German Government determined to abide by the integrity of its own pledge, and not by his mutilated version, he declared this a sufficient cause of war.

Third; we charge that during the year intervening he accepted renomination for the Presidency on a platform whose central pledge was that he would keep the nation out of war; that he allowed the campaign to be conducted on a straight pledge that he would keep us out of war; that this constituted a compact with the people, on the strength of which he was entrusted for a second term with the Presidential office.

Fourth; we assert that as soon as he was within grasping power of this second term, namely in the closing days of February, 1917, he attempted to force thru Congress, by intimidation and threat, a bill giving him absolute war power, and also a bill which on a later occasion he publicly and solemnly admitted would have forced us into war; this power to be held and exercised by him during nine months of the recess of Congress while the new Congress, not yet summoned to convene, would be held at home powerless to function or to criticize.

Fifth; we charge that having failed in this attempt, he summoned the new Congress to meet on April 2; that within a few hours of this new session he appeared before them and read a statement which amounted to a declaration of war; in the course of which he assumed the power, delegated to Congress alone, of declaring war. By this act he placed Congress in a position where it would either have to comply with his declaration of war, or else by a vote of repudiation practically impeach him, a newly elected President.

Sixth; we assert that the actual base of our entry into the war is not democracy, but finance; that the admitted bankruptcy of Great Britain threatened the collapse of the power of the House of Morgan, the financial agent in this country of the Allied Powers; and the facts indicate that it was in order to place all the resources of this country at the disposal of Morgan that we have entered the war.

Seventh; we charge that the British Foreign Minister, Arthur J. Balfour, on his return to England from this country, stated publicly and solemnly that this country is now in alliance with Great Britain; which statement, if true, is based upon a secret alliance unknown to the Senate and people of the United States, and is therefore in violation of the constitution.

Eighth; we assert that this whole catalog of events constitutes, first, a breach of faith with the American people and secondly an exercise of auto-

An Appeal To The President

TO Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C. Sir:

We are grateful for your issuance of the Red, White and Blue Book, giving your version of the chain of events which drew us into the war with Germany. In return we beg to lay before the people and you a recital of this same chain of events as it appears to ourselves. On several occasions you have asked the people to counsel with you. We take you at your word.

The occurrences herein narrated constitute an assumption of autocratic power. Your claim of power was made on the ground that autocratic rule was necessary, first in order to protect the rights of Americans at sea, and later in order to wage a successful war. This plea has done more to strengthen the claims of autocracy abroad than any other single event or victory. Under the profession of a great democratic moral opposition, you have furnished to the upholders of monarchy their supreme argument. It is that according to your own actions, which have always spoken louder than words, a democracy is incapable of waging war for democracy; that a democracy must be converted into an autocracy in order to conduct itself with efficiency in war, or in neutrality. Already your course is cited in the Central Empires as proof that the monarchical form of government is the only safe course for a nation surrounded by foes; and that consequently when the foes are hereditary, a hereditary monarchy must combat them. Is this, Mr. President, "giving aid and comfort to the enemy?" We ask you!

But secondly, we could pass this over, were it evident upon the surface that actual democracy at home will be the result of these maneuvers. Yet the net result of your activities thus far has been that beneath the cover

of a flow of eloquence unparalleled in history there has been fastened upon the American people the rule of a hereditary financial master, the House of Morgan, which is even less intelligent and far less considerate of the rights of its subjects than either the House of Hohenzollern or the House of Hapsburg. You have also largely abrogated the functions of Congress and conferred them upon an irresponsible committee known as the Committee of National Defense, composed of hereditary junkers controlling the great communities of Coal, Steel, Copper, Oil, and Land. Every move made by semi-responsible officers of the Government, such as the Federal Trade Commission and the Secretaries of War and the Navy, in the direction of ending the criminal extortions of these enemies of the people, has been defeated by them.

In these circumstances, those of us who are still Americans at heart as well as with the lungs, and who object to being Prussianized under the guise of defeating Prussianism, ask you seriously to consider your course. The American nation is not yet a subject province of Great Britain by its own volition, neither has it of its own will accepted the ideals of the German war-lovers. Yet both of these parts have been forced upon it. We have the reported word of Arthur James Balfour as authority for the first statement, and a systematic cultivation of hate by our army and our newspapers for the second.

It is questionable whether German Junkerdom with all its stupidity could be as insensibly foolish as are the industrial overlords whom you have placed in supreme power over the nation.

It is possible, Mr. President, by threats such as you issued in your Flag Day speech,

to overawe a part of the people for a part of the time. It is possible, by branding as a traitor every person who expresses an opinion differing from your own, and by characterizing as "false and undermining" all professions of loyalty to the Government which do not accept every opinion uttered by you as divinely inspired and as infallibly perfect, to influence a certain portion of the population. These things are possible, but they are not wise.

There is but one way in which this assumption of imperial power can be justified; and that is, having made use of it to restore the American land to the American people, to resign with it this power into their hands. Restore to us the coal, iron, oil, water power, and forests. Restore to us the land; restore to us the railroads; restore to us the control of the great corporations; restore to us democratized the whole fabric of our industrial order, that we may be freed indeed.

We have not forgotten that the claim of immunity from criticism during war, when made by any government, has resulted invariably in the persistent stirring up of war in order to perpetuate such immunity. That claim we are therefore unable to grant, without repudiating the idea of a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

We lay before you these facts; and ask your judgment thereupon. Meanwhile, we place before the people a recital of events since March, 1916, and ask also for their judgment thereupon. For the people are the supreme power, in time of war as in time of peace; and in appealing to them we venture to remind you that we are not your servants, but that you are ours, according to your most solemn oath and covenant when you entered upon your office.

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST.

in Washington of the Chicago Tribune, wrote to his newspaper; "Some statesmen who have discussed the matter with the President quote the President as having said not only vigorously but sulphurously, that if German submarines caused the death of another American, he would hand the German ambassador his passports and recall Ambassador Gerard from Berlin, and that he will defend the rights of Americans on the high seas to the point of war."

STONE REFUSES TO FOLLOW.

ON THE following Friday, Feb. 24, Senator Stone wrote a letter to the President, which was promptly published. It read as follows:

"Since Senator Kern, Mr. Flood and I talked with you on Monday evening, I am more troubled than I have been for many a day. I have not felt authorized to repeat our conversation, but I have attempted, in response to numerous inquiries from my colleagues, to state to them within the confidence they should observe, my general understanding of your attitude."

He then outlines to the President what he understood the President to have meant; and concludes the letter by saying:

"As much as I would hate to radically disagree with you, I find it difficult, from my sense of duty and responsibility, to consent to plunge this nation into the vortex of the world war because of the unreasonable obstinacy of any of the powers on the one hand, and on the other hand the foolhardiness, amounting to a sort of moral treason against the republic of our own people recklessly risking their lives on armed belligerent ships. I cannot escape the conviction that such a thing would be so monstrous as to be indefensible."

because of it, the tumult in the House and Senate increased and spread. Senator Gore in the Senate and Representative McLemore of Texas in the House introduced bills warning Americans to stay off armed merchant ships of belligerent nationalities.

THE MCLEMORE RESOLUTION.

THE McLemore resolution read substantially as follows:

"The House of Representatives requests the President to warn all Americans to refrain from travelling on ships of any or all of the powers now or in the future at war, which ship or ships shall mount guns, whether such gun or guns or other armament be called offensive or defensive. And in case American citizens do travel on such belligerent ships, that they do so at their own risk."

HAD THIS COUNSEL PREVAILED WE WOULD NOT NOW BE AT WAR!

ABSOLUTE COMPLIANCE DEMANDED.

ON March 1, 1916, President Wilson wrote to Representative Pou, then ranking member of the Foreign Affairs committee, as follows:

"The report that there are divided counsels in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the Government is being made industriously use of in foreign capitals. I believe these reports to be false, but so long as they are anywhere credited they cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks."

He therefore urged an early vote on the resolution regarding travel on armed merchantmen, demanding an absolute repudiation of the bill.

This letter is a claim of exemption from criticism, and a demand of absolute obedience to his will, the like of which no European monarch has demanded or secured.

March 2, the papers carry very large headlines, to this effect:

"PRESIDENT USES LASH ON CONGRESS."

"The President will accept from Congress nothing except complete compliance with his plans in regard to the German submarine controversy. He served notice tonight that he will consent to nothing less than a record vote on the anti-administration resolution to warn Americans off armed ships of European belligerents, before he goes on with the German submarine negotiations. No compromise proposition, such as a vote of confidence in the President's foreign policy, will be acceptable."

In the same dispatch, Arthur Sears Henning says: "A majority of members of the house favors some step to warn Americans to keep off armed merchantmen, which German submarines are to sink without warning, beginning today. (March 1, 1916.) A

majority of the house is opposed to giving Wilson a blanket vote of confidence. A number of members of the Rules committee openly state that they will not do Mr. Wilson's bidding. Minority leader Mann and a large number of the republicans intend to vote for warning if it ever comes before the house."

GORE REVEALS A SECRET.

ON March 2, Senator Gore of Oklahoma flatly stated that Senator Stone had told him that in this conference the President had informed Stone that "war might not be a bad thing for this country."

Stone refused to confirm this, saying, "Whatever the President says to me is something I do not care to repeat. What he says to me is sacred."

On March 3, Senator Gore introduced a resolution warning Americans off belligerent ships, and requiring all Americans to take oath when they got their passports, that they would not travel or accept transportation on an armed belligerent ship, and subjecting them to a penalty of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 if they did so.

Under the gag rule, this resolution was tabled by a vote of 68 to 14, over vigorous protests from the leading Senators. The resolution was not voted down; it was side-stepped, in order to prevent discussion.

Senator Jones of Washington said, "The Senate has been gagged."

Senator Clarke, democrat, said, "I am out of patience with those who are constantly seeking to magnify the importance of utterances of the President; who feel that he having once expressed an opinion, other opinions must instantly be paralyzed."

Senator Borah said: "We denounce Germany because we do not like her system of Government nor her militarism. The senate of the United States, the highest legislative body in the world, was Germanized today."

PRESIDENT GIVES A PLEDGE.

WHAT terms were made with the senate to gag its discussion of the demands of the administration are not known. But the house of representatives embodied in its resolution a pledge made by the President in order to secure the stopping of this bill. The committee on Rules reported the McLemore resolution without amendment, and with the recommendation that it be laid on the table. But it did this with this clause embodied in its report; that the President had made a pledge that before he "took any steps for it, he would lead the country into war, he would report all facts and circumstances to congress for their consideration." This was on March 3, 1916.

BRYAN TAKES UP FIGHT.

SO ALARMING was the situation that William Jennings Bryan, only a short time previously secretary of state, came to Washington and opened headquarters there in order to fight the Wilson plan. Bryan is quoted as having said:

"The leaders do not dare bring the matter to a test" and he also urged that the McLemore resolution be passed, or some shorter and more explicit substitute for it. He opened headquarters and rallied all the leading democrats to fight for the curb on Wilson's power, fearing that war would be the prompt result.

On March 8, by a vote of 276 to 142, the House laid on the table the McLemore resolution. Strict application of the gag rule prevented discussion. Both Speaker Clark and Leader Mann agreed that an overwhelming majority of the House favored some kind of action to deter Americans from risking their lives on armed merchant vessels.

MUNITIONS PROFITS THE REASON.

WHY was this imperative demand made on Congress? Why was it forced to abdicate its own convictions, violate the plain will of the people, as well as all the dictates of common sense, and table the most intelligent resolution offered in congress since the war began?

THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST charges that the Administration was chiefly interested in protecting the safety of British munition shipments by the shield of American lives.

The whip was cracked, and the Gore and McLemore resolutions withdrawn, because Great Britain and the other Allies were using the lives of American men, women and children as a mask and shield for their dynamite and shrapnel.

With that protection withdrawn, the munitions manufacturers would have lost the cheapest and best insurance that could be devised for their wares; and the War Brides would have declined in value.

These shipments were paid for before they left our shores; the risk was assumed by the purchasing government, not by the manufacturers.

We criticize the German government for the destruction of the lives of women and children in this war—and rightly so;

What shall be said of our own government, which would go to war rather than restrain the use of the lives of American men, women and children to mask and protect the shipments of another government?

What shall be said of such a government as this?

This historic record will be continued in next week's issue. Are you interested? Send in your order for a bundle. We must get these facts before the people.

Let us make the week of July First "Subscription Week" for The American Socialist. For every man Registered for War let us register a Reader for Peace. We can Roll the Subscription List up to a Million If we start now, for the Country is Aflame with Eagerness to Know what Socialism is. 50c a year, 25c for six months.

