



# Goodwin's Weekly

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## *"Ill Fares The Land \* \* \* \* Where Men Decay"*

THE time has come for the present generation of Americans to show their mettle—to demonstrate to the world that the sons are worthy of their sires.

The fathers of the republic dedicated their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to the cause of representative government, and heaped high upon the altar of patriotism every sacrifice that free men could make.

The high estate which they attained became a priceless heritage to their posterity, and each succeeding generation of Americans have guarded it jealously.

In the face of every menace and attack, millions immediately sprang to arms and made every sacrifice necessary to defend their common country against the inroads of its enemies.

In not one instance have the former generations ever failed to keep the faith.

Thus was our government founded, and thus has it been handed down to us.

The present generation of Americans have yet to win their spurs; to demonstrate that they are worthy custodians of the most sacred trust ever imposed upon mortals—American citizenship—and the whole world stands in witness.

Circumstances have involved this country in the supreme conflict of the ages. The world is on fire and the cause of democracy, itself, hangs in the balance.

America's fate will be measured largely by the manner in which Americans meet the impending issue.

It is an awful responsibility. Likewise, it is an unparalleled opportunity for the Americans of today to prove that manhood has not begun to decay in this country.

But what of our actions to date?

Volunteer enlisting in the armed forces of the nation is at low ebb, and Utah is far short of her quota.

The fathers of the republic "pledged their lives" to secure the rights which we are so slow to defend. In a similar emergency, Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteers and 300,000 responded.

The Liberty Loan goes begging in a country that is rich beyond all the dreams of avarice, and Utah is lagging behind.

The fathers of the republic pledged "their private fortunes" to the poverty-stricken colonies during the revolution.

And speaking of "sacred honor," it is indeed a sad commentary upon the present generation of Americans to even mention the term.

Are we worthy of our citizenship?

Let us turn the searchlight on this community and state.

When a state of war was declared a wave of superficial patriotism swept the community. Bands played, orators shouted, citizens assembled and adopted ringing resolutions, and the colors were displayed on every hand.

Then reaction set in. The bankers lost their nerve and business came to a standstill. The citizens became apathetic—so much so that it is now too much trouble for them to applaud the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," or a procession of volunteers marching down the streets. Shameful to say, the departure of a certain young man on a foreign mission was given more publicity in the newspapers than the voluntary enlistment of a dozen others of equal standing, whose sole desire is to carry their country's flag to France.

There is something wrong with the community. The citizens are not measuring up to even the most conservative expectations.

As we view the situation, the fault lies mostly with our state and municipal authorities.

They have not met the emergency as becomes real leadership.

When public authorities are overcome with uncertainty, and fear to take a decisive stand, is it any wonder that the confidence of the people is shaken?

It is true that the city and state officials have given the situation much concern, but they have not acted as really big men should.

Under their direction, the planting of potatoes has been confined for the most part to back yards and tennis courts, while thousands of available acres lie idle and will be barren of crop this season.

The fact is that the authorities have been a party to the scare over a food shortage and the money stringency that has so greatly unsettled the citizens.

Moreover, they themselves have unwittingly done more to encourage a penurious policy on the part of private individuals than all other agencies combined.

It is time that the community sets itself aright and assumes a position where it will be able to give full support to the nation.

To accomplish this, it will be necessary for the authorities to pave the way.

Let the city commission stop fooling around over the proposed bond issue and submit the question to the people. It will carry with a whoop.

Let the governor change his mind about holding up the state road bond issue, and go ahead with the work as it was intended he should. That will tend to re-establish confidence.

Let the land board convert its heavy holdings of outside securities into cash, and lend this money to the farmers throughout the state.

Then let those bankers, whose institutions are bursting with eastern municipal bonds, show a little faith in their own city and withdraw their opposition to the continuation of public improvements.

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