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Is This a Statement of Austria's War Aims?

At Washington on Tuesday President WILSON stated with incomparable clearness to Congress and to the world the war aims of this republic; and at the same time he recommended to Congress the immediate declaration of war against the Austrian Government, the partner or serf of German autocracy. Our allies generally accept the American President's statement as expressing their own conception of the purposes for which the war against the Central Powers is fought.

At Vienna the next day, Wednesday, the Emperor CHARLES addressed a delegation of Austrians and Germans on the war situation and the conditions of peace which would be acceptable to his Government. Although somewhat vaguely expressed, this is a very important declaration and it deserves to be studied.

The two passages which come nearest to being a definite statement of aims of war and conditions of peace are here subjoined:

1. "We are now, as before, ready at any time to conclude an honorable peace which guarantees the existence and integrity of the monarchy."

2. "We must regard it as our sacred duty not to lay down the sword, which plunder-seeking and rapacious neighbors forced into our hand, until our enemies unequivocally have disavowed their mad plans of dismemberment and oppression."

That is to say, the Austro-Hungarian Government, as distinguished from the various peoples constituting the Dual Monarchy, has no purpose in fighting save to maintain its existence and prevent dismemberment.

That is to say, further, that the Emperor CHARLES prays the Almighty for peace; puts the blame for the war upon the rapacity of the enemies who have attacked Austria, and declares his readiness to accept peace on a basis which shall preserve the status existing when the war began three years ago last summer, and likewise guarantee his territories against partition by plunder-seeking assailants hereafter.

The world must wonder whether it is awake or dreaming as it reads this imperial version of the origin of the war. Austria in the rôle of a Belgium! Did the hypocrisy and cant to which Potsdam has so long accustomed us ever go to greater lengths in the reversal of the truth or indulge in more grotesque misrepresentation of the facts of history than in this first imitation by CHARLES of WILLIAM's too familiar rhetorical expedients?

It is particularly instructive at this time of our own formal entrance into war with the Dual Monarchy to turn back to July, 1914, and contrast the actual facts as to Austria's responsibility with the Emperor CHARLES's amazing version.

For years before the Sarajevo assassinations in June, 1914, Austria with Germany's consent and connivance had been pushing its predatory way southward along the Adriatic east shore and toward the heart of the Balkans. Serbia stood in the way, the main obstacle to what then appeared as an independent if systematic process of aggrandizement on Austria's part, but which now stands clearly forth in its true subordinate relation to the larger scheme in which Germany has been the instigator and participant.

In September, 1913, Count BERCHTOLD sent an eight day ultimatum to Belgrade, occasioned by Serbia's self-protective action in the presence of an Albanian rising believed to have been procured by Austrian intrigue. Serbia yielded. A few months later, on the pretext of a railway question, Austria again started a quarrel with Serbia; and on this occasion, it is now interesting to observe, the threat of war reached Belgrade through the German Ambassador at Vienna. What would have resulted from this pretext for invasion we never shall know; for on June 28, opportunely for the German-Austrian plans, the student PRINCIP, an Austrian subject, not a Serbian, shot and killed the Archduke FRANCIS FERDINAND and his consort at Sarajevo.

That was the beginning of the war long planned by the Central Powers and for which Germany had been preparing for years. The Austrian Minister at Belgrade, Baron von GIESL, wrote to his Government at Vienna: "We must settle our account with Serbia. * * * Half measures and protracted negotiations, resulting in a mixed compromise, would be the hardest blow that could be dealt at the credit of Austria in Serbia and the situation in Europe." The *Militärische Rundschau* of Vienna pronounced the moment favorable. "Russia is not ready," it said; "the moral factors are with us, as also is the force. As we must fight some day, let us provoke the conflict immediately."

And, as the world knows, the conflict was provoked immediately by Austria, for her own aggrandisement and for Germany's benefit. On July 14 the semi-official *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna said: "We must settle the affair with Serbia by force of arms. It is evident that a settlement is impossible by pacific means, and since we shall arrive at war later on, it is better to finish at once."

The epoch making ultimatum, designedly insulting, designedly provocative, designedly impossible of acceptance, then went from Count von BERCHTOLD's cabinet to Belgrade and did the work for which it was intended; and the crime of Sarajevo was speedily forgotten in the auspicious opening of the carefully planned progress of the Teuton Powers toward Salonica and Bagdad. Every line of the Austrian note to Serbia, as Sir MAURICE DE BUNSEN informed the Berlin Foreign Office, had been approved in advance by the German Ambassador at Vienna.

This is the truth about the beginning of the war which the Emperor CHARLES now has the effrontery to represent to his people as a purely defensive war on Austria's part; a self-protective struggle against "plunder-seeking and rapacious neighbors." So far as Austria's initiative has controlled events it was to be a war for the benefit of the Hapsburg dynasty. So far as Austria has been made the tool or catspaw of her more powerful partner, it is a war for the world dominion of Prussian autocracy.

Austria has suffered for her sin against civilization and her reckless assault on human rights. She is going to suffer more serious chastisement than that which she has already experienced. In her place, and with her record of responsibility for the upset of the world's peace, it is scarcely becoming for the ruler of the Dual Monarchy to attempt to range himself alongside of King ALBERT of Belgium.

The Philadelphia Police Strike.

The fact that the discontented policemen of Philadelphia, who for several days have been threatening to strike, protest that their agitation is designed to free them from control by corrupt politicians holding no offices, and to permit them to do their duty unhampered and impartially, does not obscure the vicious nature of their conduct.

Detestable and dangerous as partisan and personal politics in police direction are, a conspiracy of policemen to strike is more to be feared. The unprincipled politicians can be taken care of by orderly processes, but a rebellious police force renders the law impotent and endangers the safety of every resident in the district affected.

Every honorable man will sympathize with the announced aims of the Philadelphia policemen, but every intelligent man will warn them that their conduct is more to be condemned than the abuses against which their efforts are directed.

Saving Food and Making More Money in the Process.

THE SUN has received from Mr. GEORGE A. CULLEN, passenger traffic manager of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, a letter in which Mr. CULLEN says, respecting the war portions served in Lackawanna dining cars:

"The plan has proved so popular that 83 per cent. of all the meals served contain war portions.

"While started merely for the cause of food conservation, the plan has turned out to be profitable to the railroad company from a financial standpoint."

In offering these war portions of a third less at prices a third less the railroad sought, says Mr. CULLEN, to eliminate waste by making the quantity of food fit the size of the appetite. A further purpose, and perhaps one more important, was to make food conservation more acceptable and popular "by demonstrating that the purveyor of food was not taking advantage of the consumer by reducing portions without reducing prices."

We are of opinion that, in view of the results, many food purveyors would be well advised to study the Lackawanna's bills of fare and copy its methods, especially in scaling prices as well as portions.

The Canteen Question Comes Back.

ARTHUR GUY EMPEY could find plenty of interesting opportunities for debate on his statement that the abolition of the canteen reduced the American soldier's morals to a plane lower than that of the army morals of Europe. EMPEY has become one of the most prominent soldiers in all the world, and what he has to say does not pass unnoticed.

Professional prohibitionists and the eager agents of political bosh, however, are not those best fitted for contradicting EMPEY. If the canteen question is to be revived, the discussion should be among recognized authorities. A prohibitionist politician is an authority on prohibition, sometimes, but never on military morals.

As for the drinking of the soldiers in Europe, many tales of wholesale ruin wrought by the rum ration have been completely discredited. Before there is a fresh spasm of argument on the military liquor problem, will not some Government official present to the public the information which must by this time be available regarding both our own and the European liquor difficulties? Except for the occasional crusades of DANIELS and a few incomplete reports from cantonments the country is in the dark on army ways with the demon rum and associated evils.

It is forbidden that the public learn all the details of the soldier's equipment and destination. But we have a right, amounting to a responsibility, to know about the soldier himself. Is Private John Doe drinking too much rum, if any? What effect, so far, has "rotgut booze," as EMPEY calls it, had upon the American armies?

There is a record of such matters, surely. Why not bring it out and give the soldier's well wishers something better than rumor to condemn or applaud?

Turkey and Bulgaria.

The only member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee who has committed himself as favoring an immediate declaration of war on Turkey and Bulgaria is Representative MILLER of Minnesota, who recently returned from a visit to the battle lines on the west front. Offhand, the observer might say that an eye witness of the war was well qualified to pass upon questions of policy. For example, those who have been in or near the war are invariably better informed of war needs than those who have watched from a distance.

In this instance, however, familiarity with big guns is no advantage, but rather the contrary. A visit to France means a lurid realization of the necessity for defeating Germany and smashing every German influence; yet that realization runs so vividly into an impulse to overwhelm everything German that it sometimes leads to extreme ambitions. Standing on a battlefield in France, it is a natural impulse to hurl thunderbolts at the whole German machine. At a remoter distance—perhaps in Washington—the observer might feel that declarations of war were to be made only as situations demanded, and were more harmful than beneficial where the fact of war was impossible.

President WILSON has asked a declaration against Austria-Hungary for obvious reasons, material and moral. Turkey and Bulgaria are not in the same category, quite. We cannot meet them at arms, and officially, as a Government, we pity rather than fear them.

Mr. MILLER thinks discriminatory action against Austria is hair splitting. So it is. Germany is our enemy. Turkey and Bulgaria are Germany's allies; hence, by the laws of elementary logic, Turkey and Bulgaria are our enemies and deserve our avowed enmity. But this is a time for hair splitting. Perhaps the attempt to distinguish between vassal Austria and warring Austria is hair splitting. Perhaps a hair or two is split in the patient effort to separate the German people and the German Government—at least Germany thinks so. Let us split hairs carefully and with a prayer that we may split them fairly.

No one doubts President WILSON's purpose to prosecute the war with the full vigor of America. He will act on Turkey and Bulgaria when in his judgment action is necessary.

Mr. MILLER, we have said, has absorbed the battlefield impulse. Yet impulse is not desire. Who really desires any declarations of war that are not vitally necessary?

Workers in Munition Factories.

The National Industrial Conference Board has just completed an analysis of the latest of the rather voluminous British war time reports on hours of work as related to output and fatigue. The board disclaims any intention to set forth conclusions and emphasizes the importance of recognizing the difference between industrial conditions in Great Britain and the United States in the application to this country of the results of the British industrial experiences.

The value of the British studies lies in their broad suggestions. The Health of Munition Workers Committee reported against Sunday work except for necessary labors. It was also opposed to night work, but held that it was necessary in view of war requirements. "Discontinuous" night shifts—alternations generally weekly from day to night work—produced results practically as large as under day shifts, and in some cases larger. The committee therefore recommended that where night work was necessary the discontinuous system should be used.

The committee based its recommendations as to hours of work upon the expectation that the war will be of long duration. It held that for men the average hours a week should not exceed sixty-five to sixty-seven, including overtime; for boys under sixteen, not more than sixty. It held, too, that for women and girls hours in excess of the "normal limit of sixty per week ought to be discontinued as soon as practicable."

The objections to overtime were:

"When extended over a long period the rate of production tends to decrease, neutralizing the results of the extra hours worked;

"It frequently results in loss of much time, on account of exhaustion and sickness;

"It imposes a serious strain on the management and the foremen both on account of the actual hours worked and the increased anxiety to maintain output;

"It is liable to curtail unduly the periods of rest and sleep of those who live far from their work;

"The fatigue entailed increases the temptation to use intoxicants."

One of the committee's experts reported that where the hours of work have been reasonable "sickness has been lower than in normal times, especially among those engaged in light work." The report of the board of women physicians, which covered eleven typical factories, says the inspectors were "agreeably surprised" at the general physical condition of workers. It concludes:

"If proper care and forethought are exercised there seems no reason why women and girls, suitably selected and supervised, and working under appropriate conditions, should not take their place in munition factories and carry out many operations hitherto considered fit only for men, without permanent detriment to their future health."

The committee reports that the medical examiners found among the munition workers less ill health than they expected, and that "patriotism and the better food and clothing obtainable" through higher wages were undoubtedly material factors in securing conditions so favorable to the workers and to the nation. That patriotism may prove a powerful stimulus to workers is shown by the tribute paid French munition workers by a British mission that visited that country late in 1915. It reported that it found no evidence of fatigue due to excessive hours despite much Sunday work and extraordinary long hours in munition factories. The commission "attributed the increased production to a single cause, the patriotic enthusiasm of the French people."

The extraordinary measures to insure instant and wide publicity for President WILSON's greatest war address may seem to certain German minds a scandalous trick of American advertising. America has already been accused of the merest press agent methods in the war against Germany. But there are more natural imaginations who would compare this gigantic publicity effort with the thunderous blows of a Vulcan. The President struck, and struck a mighty blow; the sparks fly across the universe in flashes of lightning, illumining dark corners, frightening the unsteady conscience. Advertising it is, truly enough, as distinguished from the dark ways of plot and propaganda.

Your firm isn't on the black list; but is it on the white list?

Senator LA FOLLETTE is reported to be practically ostracized by the other members of the Senate, and it is to be hoped that their antipathy to him will result in the ostracism by the voters of Wisconsin of his candidate to succeed Senator HUSTING.

In American politics we crush a man with a steam roller; in Russia the unfortunate is thrown off a train. Politics, on the whole, is politics.

Neither Mr. KITCHIN nor any other national legislator has a right to complain that the Senate takes too long to make up its mind. Mind is at a premium in Washington; it is worth its salt in any situation. Hesitation and procrastination are not necessarily evidences of an overweight mind in the upper house.

Fifteen hundred barrels of Government flour, worth about $16,500, were stolen here last night from Wheeling and Lake Erie freight cars. Seven cars were looted.—*Despatch from Toledo, O.*

The rascals certainly were quick workers.

If a steel ship of 8,800 tons can be built in seventy days after three changes in the management of the Federal shipping project, there's hope.

"In most cases it is found that the women are given a piece rating, while the men are working for a fixed wage." So runs a report on the substitution of women for men in this State's industries. The matter is of small consequence at the moment—the United States Department of Labor estimating that the substitutions are only about 1,000—but we shall hear from it again. It is an engaging subject for women politicians, and it is not too small for the Federal labor authorities nor for organized labor. Women never have been properly recognized by organized labor, but they must soon be if war carries large numbers of women workers into industry. They have been recognized by labor departments of government only in a spirit of sex compassion—as a social welfare problem, largely. And in politics the woman laborer has been hardly heard. But times are changing. "Regular jobs for regular workers" will soon be a slogan. The sex line cannot be forever maintained on the payroll, war or no war.

In his advice with regard to the organization of a National Military Police ex-Chief DEVERY seems to have omitted practically nothing that Commissioner ARTHUR WOODS has had the New York police do.

Who's cutting holes in Swiss neutrality?

A Delightful Maryland Party.

From the Hagerstown Mail.

A delightful butchering was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Hart near Big Pool. Some fine hogs were killed, the head butcher being Luther Bowers. A fine dinner was served.

Alsace-Lorraine.

She dresses like a German frau,
In clumsy shoes and wide,
Ill fitting petticoats, with keys
That jingle at her side.
In frocks, flirtations, frills and fans
No more does she rejoice,
And Teuton gutturals disguise
The music of her voice.

But still her loyal heart to France
Is true forevermore.
And when her years of servitude
To Germany are o'er,
She'll dance again in silk attire,
And sing her chansons swoet,
No longer Fräulein Gretchen then,
But Mam'selle Marguerite.

MINNA IRVING.

CHAIRMAN FITZGERALD.

The President Conceded His Ability but Ignored His Patronage Claims.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Some one in the House once referred to Fitzgerald of New York as a "professional Congressman." The characterization was not made with amiable intention, but the friends of the New York member accepted it without resentment.

Why not? Fitzgerald was graduated by the New York Law School when he was 21 years old; received the degree of bachelor of laws, cum laude, from the Regents of the State of New York; the degrees of bachelor and master of arts from Manhattan College, and was elected to Congress all by the time he was 25 years old, an age when most professionals begin the practice of their professions. So Fitzgerald concluded to make a profession of "Congressing," as Kent of California calls it.

Many stories will go out from here about "Fitz," his ability while standing on his feet in a hot debate hastily and correctly to "do" problems in financial mathematics most men would want time, silence, paper and pencil to attack; his habit, as described by one Cabinet officer, of "biting our heads off" if executives appearing before his committee did not know to a dollar, a cent, why they wanted so or so many millions.

But if they could be fully told, Fitzgerald's relations with President Wilson would make probably the most interesting of the many stories that will receive currency through his resignation from the House. There are men in Congress who have put a score, fifty, possibly a hundred, men in office through the favor of the President. Fitzgerald, it is reliably told, never got an office from the President. He is said to have asked for one, to have gone to the White House personally to do so, and when the President refused, Fitzgerald, with a puzzled look, turned to go, stopped at the door and said: "Mr. President, I'll play you eighteen holes against a box of balls for one good Federal job."

Two or three years ago, before war appropriations began, Cabinet officers or their representatives frequently appeared before the Appropriations Committee with personal letters from President Wilson favoring some Department's estimate for an appropriation. These letters never had any effect on Chairman Fitzgerald, but he saw that they were affecting committeemen to such a degree that he sometimes had trouble to control enough votes in the committee to throw out an estimate indorsed by the President but of which the committee chairman disapproved.

Fitzgerald called up the White House, so a responsible member who ought to know unequivocally asserts, and made an appointment to see the President, saw him, and, if not in so many words in so many others meaning exactly the same, said: "Mr. President, you must stop giving begging letters to Cabinet officers to hand out to me. I'm in a better position than you are to know whether or not an appropriation is necessary or if we can afford it. It's my job."

The begging letters stopped.

He had made a profession of his job.

One afternoon on a nearby golf links Fitzgerald, Gillett of Massachusetts, Tuttle of New Jersey and Dick Whaley of South Carolina, when playing a foursome, were overtaken by the President and his invariable opponent, Dr. Grayson. Of course the foursome insisted upon the President's twosome playing through. The President, after some polite dissent, took his driving stance, saying: "It is a little embarrassing, gentlemen, to drive through such a distinguished group of Congressmen."

"Heavens, Mr. President!" exclaimed Fitzgerald; "are you not yet used to driving through Congress?"

The President's shoulders were shaking with some emotion as he addressed his golf ball.

Once at least, so an informant assures the correspondent, Mr. Wilson expressed his estimate of Fitzgerald as a legislator. Some New Yorkers came here to urge the President to appoint Fitzgerald to a Federal Judgeship then vacant. "He wants to leave Congress and this will be a good opportunity," they urged.

"But, gentlemen," the President is reported to have responded, "your argument deepens my impression into a conviction that I should not appoint Mr. Fitzgerald. I need his services in Congress."

In parts of the South the belief obtains that Fitzgerald is a late blooming Bowery bo-hoy, an uneducated but clever organization man kept in Congress by Tammany. The late S. A. Witherspoon of Mississippi after a year's amazed study of Fitzgerald declared to a group of Northern men: "Gentlemen, Ah'm heah to confess that Ah come to Congress shooly expectin' to see horns an' hoofs on Mr. Fitz, but by ged, sahs, Ah declare him the ablest man in the House, and I wish he was our leader. He's hones' an' he ain't afeard of any one." One Southerner, not so wise as Witherspoon, attempted to "take a fall out of" Fitzgerald when the latter was making exposition of an important appropriation bill, a time when House etiquette demands that a committee chairman shall not be interrupted.

Fitzgerald responded politely to the interruptions until it became apparent that they were meant to annoy. Then he gave his annoyer lots of rope, and presently exposed his silly ignorance of the subject, to the accompaniment of general laughter at the discomfited one. Resuming his expository voice, Fitzgerald said: "As I was explaining, Mr. Speaker, when I yielded to the polite and useful questions of my distinguished and learned friend from——"

He paused, turned to a seat mate and asked in a tone just audible to every one on the floor, "Where is he from?" The House howled.

New York members will tell you that Fitzgerald failed to get from the White House even the one place he asked for because he came under the President's general rule to give no New York patronage to any organization man. This rule the President would not break even after he came to appreciate and acknowledge Fitzgerald's abilities. "Fitz" is an organization man. He shamelessly admits that he knows no way to get out a party vote except to "organize to do it."

Muskrats Foretell a Mild Winter.

Frazee correspondence Detroit Free Press.

Muskrat houses are small and scarcely visible, which is an indication of a mild winter, according to Albert Iten, trapper, who says he stands as authority for the statement. He says that when the little animals begin to build "sky scrapers" it is a certain sign of a severe winter. Beaver houses are light in weight, Iten says.

THREE DOLLARS A DAY.

Some of the Things a City Employee Has to Pay Out of It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The laborers in the employ of the city are going to get $3 a day after January 1, according to the resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen on November 20.

Street cleaners have to buy three white uniforms, rubber boots, rubber coat, two uniform caps, and have their uniforms laundered. They pay $26 a year to the pension fund and $36 a year for car fare. Some are members of political or social clubs or belong to lodges and pay insurance bills. Many buy ball tickets and chowder tickets and are called on to assist the sick and the needy.

Milk is costing 14 cents a quart, eggs 50 cents a dozen, butter 50 cents a pound. Meat and clothing are going up. That extra 50 cents a day will be a New Year's gift for all city laborers.

We work on Sundays and holidays and never get any overtime pay, not to mention time and a half for overtime. I, Billy Waller, have not in twelve years received more than $2.50 a day.

WILLIAM WALLER,
Bridgetender, Willis Avenue Bridge.
NEW YORK, December 6.

THE KNITTERS OF LIES.

For Every Sweater a German Fabrication to Go With It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Something should be done at once to denounce and to prevent the further spreading of a story of pro-German origin now being circulated to destroy confidence in the Red Cross.

The story has come to me from three different sources within the last few days. While varying in detail the substance is to the effect that sweaters knitted at home and turned over to the Red Cross for soldiers at the front are sold by the Red Cross and the proceeds pocketed.

One version is that a mother who knitted a sweater for her soldier son in France turned it over to the Red Cross for transmission, but received word from him that it had never reached him; that later, while in a department store in New York, she saw the sweater on a woman in the store; that she called in a detective and proved her claim by ripping open a part of the sweater where she had concealed a $10 bill.

One of my children, who attends Public School 137, Brooklyn, tells me that the principal of that school found it necessary to denounce stories that are being circulated among school children about the Red Cross, asking the children to tell their parents that such stories are lies and to pay no attention to them.

The stand taken by this principal should be taken by all Americans, aided by the press, the pulpit and the stage, to foil this latest trick of the pro-German snake.

I believe if properly followed up these stories could be traced to their originators, and if called upon I will give the source of my information.

AN AMERICAN.
BROOKLYN, December 5.

IT IS WAR, BUT——

A Man Who Buys Wonders Why His Is the Only Money Sacrifice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I detect considerable war camouflage. At a theatre this week the price of the tickets advanced 20 per cent., although the war tax is 10 per cent., so that the proprietor uses the tax as an excuse for putting 10 per cent. profit into his own pockets.

At a department store I was asked to carry a bundle home on account of war conditions, which I did, although the saving thus effected did not result in a reduction of price.

In my hotel I acquiesce in a meatless and wheatless day, but the saving to the proprietor in meat and flour has not been reflected in my bill.

And now when I travel I am expected to give up the comforts of observation and club car which make travel endurable, and for which I pay extra, but I do not see any move toward reduction of fare.

I wonder if a great many citizens have not resolved, as I have done, that there ought to be an end to a condition which asks me to exercise self-denial, experience discomfort and endure sacrifice because of the war, while all the advantages accrue to the person who takes my money. H. L. W.

NEW YORK, December 5.

AN ECONOMICAL SHIP.

Forty-three Years Service With Only $5,000 of Repairs.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From my recollection I would say that among the old boats which have not been scrapped, probably the most remarkable is the steamer Quebec, plying between Montreal and Quebec. She was built in England and brought over and assembled in Canada about 1864. She remained in service between the two Canadian cities until 1907 without, it was said, having cost the company $5,000 for repairs. In that year she was rebuilt, her length being increased by adding twenty feet amidships, and only one plate in her whole hull was it found advisable or necessary to renew. She lost one year in the rebuilding; with that exception she has been in constant service since 1864 or 1865. C. B. K.

NEW YORK, December 6.

Were There So Many Temptations in the Seventies?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In one of your letters on old New York reference is made to a play called "The Seven Temptations." I think your correspondent means "The Twelve Temptations," that was played in the Grand Opera House some time in the late '70s.

RICHARD BUTLER.
NEW YORK, December 6.

A Georgian's Platform.

From the Bainbridge Post-Search Light.

A weak kneed sissy asked the editor of this paper if he was not afraid that his caustic reference to slackers and pro-Germans would cost us the patronage of some folks. If it does we want to pay that cost as quickly as we can. If there is a man that takes this paper that don't like the fact that it is straining every nerve to uphold the constituted authorities of our native land, the quicker he will withdraw his patronage the better we will like it. All we want him to do is be manly and say why he did it. One or two simps who haven't the man in them to take open issue with it, have done so, and like a fool ostrich have stuck their heads in the sand, thinking that none could see their reason. Like all simps, they are so thin that a loob can see through every move they make. When this paper can't live on the patronage of loyal Americans we will sell it for junk and jump in the river and be glad to get out of such a country. We don't want to trade with enemies, be they Janus faced or otherwise, for a disloyal man can't have an honest dollar. That's us.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND THE FEDERAL SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

Is It Good Politics to Make the Constitutional Amendment an Administration Measure?

For several years there has been a violent hue and cry to have President Wilson declare in favor of a Federal suffrage amendment and recommend it to Congress. The methods adopted to compel him to do this have been so well advertised it is unnecessary to describe them. The leaders in the National Association have known for some time that he did not intend to do so at present. It will be remembered that immediately after the New York election its honorary president, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw; its president, Mrs. Chapman Catt, and representative women from Indiana and Ohio, where the fruits of the legislative struggle had just been lost, made a call on President Wilson, which he prolonged for nearly three-quarters of an hour—the longest interview he had given since war was declared. They came away satisfied to let him assist the movement for woman suffrage according to his own judgment.

When in 1915 the President announced himself in favor of enfranchising women and cast his vote to amend the Constitution of New Jersey, his home State, for this purpose, he was exercising a personal right. When he urged the voters of Maine and New York to give the ballot to women he was not abusing his privilege as President. When, however, he recommends woman suffrage to Congress as a national measure he makes it a wide political issue and by implication puts his party behind it. It may be said with some justification that he has done this with other measures, but they did not enter so closely into the domain of the States and were not so political in their nature. He should not be utterly condemned for desiring some mandate from his party and for refusing to defy the one given at its last national convention: "We recommend the extension of the franchise to the women of this country. State by State, on the same terms as to the men."

Must the President wait until the next Democratic National Convention, in 1920, to receive a mandate from his party on a Federal amendment for woman suffrage? Its advocates both in and out of Congress expect to have it submitted and possibly ratified by the required number of Legislatures by that time. Even at that St. Louis convention the party could speak only through its delegated representatives, and has it not some authorized spokesmen for the interim? Its National Committee is composed of the party's leaders in the various States with authority to act for it during the four years. If they should foresee any action in Congress on woman suffrage which would give the Republican party an advantage over their own, could they not empower the President to strike a coup d'état? Such a crisis in the very near future is not improbable. The suffrage leaders have no illusions—not after trying forty years to get this amendment through Congress. They know that each party is keeping a lynx eyed watch on the other in order to claim the credit for the success of the measure when the influence behind it has grown too strong to be longer resisted.

But is it good politics for the suffragists to have President Wilson make the Federal amendment an Administration measure? Would this not have a tendency to alienate Republican members who come from States where there is no strong local pressure for it and who therefore feel at liberty to express their own opinion? It is said that his championship of the State suffrage amendment in New Jersey in 1915 lost for it thousands of Republican votes. Would it not place the women of the country under the same obligations to the Democratic party that negro men have felt to the Republican party for half a century? Is it not much more creditable to the houses of Congress to take the initiative in this matter themselves rather than to have the appearance of being coerced by the President? Why should the lawmaking body which represents the whole people wait for directions from the executive branch of the Government as to legislation which directly affects the whole people?

The President's support of the State amendment in the recent New York campaign was of inestimable value. It gave great prestige, and taken in connection with the favorable indorsement of his entire Cabinet except Secretary Lansing, refuted all the arguments of the opponents and doubtless influenced thousands of voters who had been undecided. The Congress should not need this stimulus. There is ample ground for believing that President Wilson is no longer opposed to a Federal amendment for woman suffrage and that at an opportune time he will make this known in his own way. For obvious reasons the present moment is not opportune. When he is ready to speak the words which will help it he need not necessarily shout them from the housetops or read them into the *Congressional Record*. The poll of the Senators and Representatives on submitting the amendment has been taken and the opponents are on record. A quiet little talk at the White House might be fully as effective as an address from the Speaker's desk.

Three and a half years ago, when woman suffrage was comparatively an academic question, this amendment received a majority vote in the Senate. In January, 1915, the lower house gave 204 negative and 174 affirmative votes. Since that time forty-three New York Representatives have been added to the list of those to be elected partly by women. The number of Presidential electors for whom women can vote has been more than doubled. Favorable public sentiment has increased several hundred per cent. At whatever time seems best during the present session of Congress, perhaps at once, a vote will be taken on the submission of a Federal amendment to the State Legislatures. The majority in favor will be much larger than it was the last time. Whether it will reach the necessary two-thirds in each house can no more be guessed than the "riddle of the universe."

IDA HUSTED HARPER,
Editorial Chairman Leslie Suffrage Bureau.

SINKING OF THE CEPHEUS.

No Lives Were Lost and She's Afloat Again.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of your contributors has stated in your columns that not one of the Iron Steamboat Company's boats has ever been sunk. I beg to differ with him. I have in my possession a photograph of the Iron steamer Cepheus. She is down by the stern in about eighteen feet of water in Gravesend Bay. The picture shows her being raised by a Merritt & Chapman wrecker. As near as I can estimate this happened in the year 1890 or 1891. This picture of the disaster was taken by a New York physician, Dr. E. C. Titus. My grandfather, J. R. MacPherson, kept a hotel at Norton's Point for years. I remember asking him what caused the Cepheus to sink. He told me that she sprang a leak and sank. This happened at night. No lives were lost.

I would like to ask your contributors if any one of them can remember as far back as the year 1840, when on the eve of January 13, on Long Island Sound, the steamer Lexington took fire and burned to the water's edge, over one hundred persons perishing.

I have in my possession the testimony of the only surviving passenger, a Captain Chester Hilliard of Norwich. This testimony, which is illustrated with a picture of the disaster and a diagram showing where it occurred, was published by N. Currier, 2 Spruce street, New York.

GEORGE W. R. MACPHERSON.
SEA GATE, December 6.

HE STALKS NO MORE.

Strange Effects of Hooverization on a Dutiful Husband.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My wife subscribes to several journals devoted to the interests of women, all of which for a year past have given much space to the conservation of food and suggestions for substitutes for the commodities so much needed by the Allies.

I am an eager victim to her experiments. Throughout our married life of over a third of a century I have indulged only a modest appetite without comment of approval or otherwise on the food placed before me, in fact, often with no precise recollection of the articles immediately after consumption.

Well, the woman has introduced so many new delectables that my appetite has grown stoutish, and I crave these novelties in such volume as to increase the cost of living to an inordinate degree. Temptress though she is, she commands me to be ashamed of myself, and while I obey I continue my evil course.

For several years past my understanding has weakened. Time was when my legs, if not admirable, were at least respectable, but now they are thin as lies, despite increased input of food. My shadow on the pavement is that of a legless wonder, and my only remedy seems to be to enclose the limbs in flexible jointed stovepipes under my trousers to increase visibility.

When I ask my wife for a frank expression of opinion as to what has become of my legs, she suggests that they are off on a search for my teeth, which took vacations on the instalment plan several years ago. Meanwhile I continue to eat disgracefully and fade away. EMACIATED.

NEW YORK, December 6.

SIX GREAT FRIGATES.

What Became of the Fleet of the Nation's Youth?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We have had a lot about the Mary Powell and her sisters and her cousins and her aunts. But going further back, some fifty years, who can tell me of the definite disposition or present whereabouts of Uncle Sam's first half dozen crackerjack ships, the first old time frigates—44s and 36s—authorized by Congress in 1794 and designed from stem to stern by that "father of the American navy" (the early wooden navy) Joshua Humphreys of Haverford, Pa.?

Those ships were the United States, the Constitution, the President, the Congress, the Constellation and the Chesapeake. What an account they gave of themselves in the war of 1812 and elsewhere! In what restful harbors of obsolescence do they now severally and peacefully repose? F. H. SHELTON.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 6.

SWINDLING BY CABLE.

A Mean Theft From the Parents of Americans Abroad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Before going abroad in any capacity and the parents should be warned of a game which is being worked by sharpers on the other side. These crooks procure the names of the boy's parents and cable for money in the boy's name.

I have had this warning from my own son, a Red Cross ambulance driver, some weeks ago; and now along comes an appeal for funds with certain internal marks of fraud. To checkmate the scheme all boys going abroad should be advised, should circumstances warrant, making it necessary to cable for money, to sign such a message with some collateral family name which could be known only to themselves and their parents.

Instructions to this effect should be given by all agencies—by the United States Army, the Y. M. C. A., the American Red Cross, or any other organization sending men to France. It is good advice for any one leaving home.

H. C. E.

WILMINGTON, Del., December 6.

Settlements and Pacifists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter from Erving Winslow on settlement education raises a very important question. Many years ago I looked into the settlements and came to the conclusion that they were turning out the very kind of citizens we now have on our hands, sentimentalists, pacifists, socialists of all kinds, everything but the right kind. So I decided to keep out of settlement work. I found many other people who felt as I did on this subject. However, the settlement movement has prospered, and it is only at this late day their methods are being questioned. Let us have them looked into now before more pacifists are turned out.

NOT A FRIEND TO SETTLEMENTS.
NEW YORK, December 6.

The Enjoyment of New York by a Cautious Nutmegger.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* New York is such a wonderful city, and the feeling of ease and safety of occurrency one has in viewing it from a distance!

WATERBURY, Conn., December 6.