

Send Us Men, Guns and Supplies Quickly and We'll Win This War in 1919

—PERSHING

To the Men, Women and Children of Seattle:

The three weeks commencing September 28 will be, in some respects, the most momentous three weeks that this nation has ever passed through. During that period our Government will call upon the people of the United States to loan to it an enormous sum of money—probably six billion dollars. This loan will be the largest ever floated by any nation in the history of the world, and every dollar of it must and will be forthcoming. The cost of maintaining this government during this next year of the war is estimated at twenty billion dollars, of which sum, eight billion is to be raised from taxation and twelve billion through the sale of Liberty Bonds. Uncle Sam proposes, with the help of our glorious Allies, to put forth an enormous effort during the next twelve months that will, if possible, bring the war to an end in 1919.

Our quota for King County will probably be fixed at twenty-eight million dollars.

While the news from France is tremendously encouraging—so much so that the hearts of the people of the Allied nations are buoyed up with the firm assurance that ultimate victory is sure—it would be a grievous mistake to underestimate the power and the strength of the enemy at the present time. Likewise, it would be a grievous mistake to underestimate the magnitude of the task that the Government of the United States is called upon to perform during the next twelve months to bring the war to a speedy end, and to underestimate the magnitude of the sacrifices the people in this country will be called upon to make in order to enable our Government to carry out its war program.

Twenty-eight million dollars! This is truly a stupendous sum. It can be reached only through a fixed determination on the part of every resident of this county to do his or her duty to the utmost extent, and to make all necessary sacrifices to co-operate with the men who have this drive in charge to the utmost possible extent during the period of the drive, making it each individual's exclusive business to see to it that the quota is reached quickly and uncomplainingly.

Methods that have sufficed to advertise and popularize past Liberty Loans will not be sufficient this time. It must be everyone's business to enthusiastically aid in putting this drive over and gladly contribute to publicity funds when they are called upon so to do, and to subscribe for the bonds to the best of their ability. There must be no apathy and no procrastination. Our President calls on us at this time to loan the Government twenty-eight million dollars. As a duty we owe to the nation and a duty we owe to the splendid boys we have sent and are sending to the battlefields of Europe to fight for us in defense of our homes and our liberties, and, if necessary, to give their lives for us, I pray that there may be no slackers in King County. By slackers I mean not only that there must be no one in King County who is able to subscribe in great or small measure to this loan who will neglect to do so, but that there may be no one in King County who will subscribe for a smaller amount than he should and might subscribe for if he were willing to make the necessary sacrifices.

It is surely a case where we must do not our bit, but our utmost. Up to date we have not entered into the sacrifice zone except in so far as we have sent our boys to war, which, of course, is the supreme sacrifice of all, but as a community we have not made any sacrifices of a financial nature comparable with the sacrifices that have been so freely made by the people of France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium and others of our Allies.

This call of our country will require us to make sacrifices—perhaps great sacrifices—but the greater the sacrifice the greater will be our joy in making it.

The task of raising twenty-eight million dollars in King County, even though it only be a loan that will be repaid to us with interest, and though it be backed by the best security in the world, is a task too great to accomplish by an appeal to pride. The committees who have this task in charge are not asking the men and women of King County to subscribe their quota fully and quickly in order to earn the plaudits of an admiring nation. In this case King County does not matter; Seattle does not matter; nothing matters but that our country and our Allies are calling on us to loan twenty-eight million dollars to help win this war quickly and surely, and we must unquestionably make a prompt and a favorable response.

I am not going to tell the people of King County that its quota can be easily reached, for it will become easy only when everyone of us realizes how hard a job it is that our country has asked us to perform.

King County's one interest during the three weeks commencing September 28 must be the raising of this quota. It must think only of twenty-eight million dollars. There is no other interest to be considered until this task is finished.

We want all our people to absorb that thought now.

It is not solely the work of those who have been honored by the nation to put this drive over successfully, but it is the job of every man, woman and child in this country to aid those men by every means in their power. You cannot shift the responsibility from your shoulders to ours. You must come forward promptly and willingly and give, and give, and give until our quota is reached. Every man, woman and child in King County is on the Liberty Loan committee. Every one of them must be its publicity agent. We must all talk and think only of the Fourth Liberty Loan until we can telegraph Washington that we have gladly assumed our share of the national burden. Nothing short of this will bring success. All our mentality, all our energy, all our resourcefulness, all our resources must be consecrated solely to that task until it is accomplished.

Day by day there comes to us more glorious news from France. Our boys over there are proving themselves worthy of our flag and worthy to be fighting side by side with our glorious Allies. We must prove by sacrifice that we are worthy of them. One of the foremost men in this community stated to me a few days ago that his waking thought each morning and his last thought each night were, "Am I worthy of my boy over there? Am I backing him up in every way I can?" Word should be flashed to Berlin that all our fighters are not across the sea, but that here at home we have a force equally patriotic that is massing its dollars to back its men.

Just as we would not welcome a son who faltered in the attack, so let us have no slacker dollars in our pockets. As we want our boys to come home quickly—just so quickly and just so generously must we give. These things we know—that we must fight until we win, and that we must pay for it. The sooner we win the less we will have to pay; and the sooner we pay the sooner we will win. Every consideration that weighs with us calls out for full and prompt response to our country's call—peace, humanity, our love of home, the lives of those who are near and dear to us, our sense of economy, our business judgment, our cry for reparation, and our hate for German militarism. If we weight these considerations in the balance with our dollars the latter will possess little value to us.

Remember, the drive opens on the morning of Saturday, September 28. It will close on the following Monday if we have raised our quota. It is twenty-eight million dollars we need. Portland expects to reach her quota on the first day of the drive. Spokane is making great preparations to reach her quota during a very short period also. Seattle and King County have never been called upon to perform a national service and failed. We shall not fail this time. It is a big pull and a pull all together. It is the biggest task we have ever attempted.

The word "failure" never had a place in Seattle's vocabulary. Pray God, it never will have a place there!

FRANK WATERHOUSE.

Seattle, September 14, 1918.