

needle by night? What of the organizations, superbly effective, that conserved food and fed the world—that carried nourishment to the very front trench in the face of hell's furies—that nursed the wounded back to life—that buried the dead in the dark shelter of the night—that inspired business men and artisans of all parties to work in harmony? What of the millions of men, women and children of all creeds, religions and otherwise, who stood in the ranks as firm as soldiers overseas, undivided by things they once quarreled about? What of the government itself—confirming the faith of our fathers as sufficient to meet the storms of time? Why the sneer at labor with the veiled charge that it was a mere slacker? The spectacle is sufficient to convince any unprejudiced man that the Republican leaders who have taken charge of their party and nominated its candidate, are no more possessed of the spirit of the hour than they were in 1912 when they precipitated a revolution within the rank and file of a great organization. If further proof were needed, the action of the present congress supplies it. Not a constructive law can be cited. Money and time were wasted in seeking to make a military triumph an odious chapter in history—and yet is it not significant that after two years of sleuthful inquiry, there was nothing revealed in that vast enterprise, carrying billions of dollars in expense, upon which they could base even a whisper of dishonesty?

The Mexican situation, trying to our patience for years, begins to show signs of improvement. Not the least of the things that have contributed to it; is a realization by the people of the country, that we have neither the lust for their domain, nor disposition to disturb their sovereign rights. Peace smiles upon the border and incentive to individual effort

seems to be making a national aspiration.

Many elements have made our republic enduring; not the least of which is a sustained gratitude. The richest traditions of our land are woven from historic threads that tell the bravery of our soldiers of every war. They make the first impressions of history upon the minds of our children and bind the hearts of generations together. Never in all time will the performance of our soldiers in the late war be surpassed. From farm, forest and factory they gathered together in the training camps—from countryside and city—men whose hands were calloused by labor, others whose shoulders showed the stoop of office task—the blood of many nations flowing in their veins—and the same impulse ran from the front trench in Europe back to the first day in training. We must not forget that war breaks into the plans of young men, and their first chart of life is in a sense more important than any calculation later on. In college and shop—in every calling, they were building the base for their careers. Thousands of them by the circumstance of injury or the disturbance of domestic conditions which war always brings, were compelled to change their whole course of life. We owe a debt to those who died, and to those the honored dead left dependent. We owe a debt to the wounded; but we must realize that considerable compensation is due those also who lost much by the break in their material hopes and aspirations. The genius of the nation's mind and the sympathy of its heart, must inspire intensive thoughtful effort, to assist those who saved our all. I feel deeply that the rehabilitation of the disabled soldiers of the recent war is one of the most vital issues before the people and I, as a candidate, pledge myself and my party to those young Americans to do all in my power to secure for them without unnecessary delay, the immediate training which is so necessary to fit them to compete in their struggle to overcome that physical handicap incurred while in the service of their government. I believe also that the Federal Board of Vocational Rehabilitation as far as possible should employ disabled soldiers themselves to supervise the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers, because of their known sympathy and understanding. The board itself and all agencies under it should be burdened with the care of securing for the disabled soldier who has finished his training, adequate employment. These men will inspire future generations no less than they have themselves been inspired by the heroes of the past. No greater force for patriotic effort was found when we were drawn into the late conflict than the example and activity of our veterans of previous wars. Under the colors they loved, gathered the soldiers of the past, bringing quickly to the support the new army of the republic. Response in the southland by veterans who wore the gray inspired the youth with a zeal which aided greatly in the quick mobilization of our forces.

The women of America, in emotion and constructive service, measured up during the war to every requirement, and emergency exacted much of them. Their initiative, their enthusiasm, and their sustained industry, which carried many of them to the heavy burdens of toil, form an undying page in the annals of the time, while the touch of the mother heart in camp and hospital, gave a sacred color to the tragic picture that feeble words should not even attempt to portray. They demonstrated not only willingness but

capacity. They helped win the war, and they are entitled to a voice in the readjustment now at hand. Their intuition, their sense of the humanitarian in government, their unquestioned progressive spirit will be helpful in problems that require public judgment. Therefore they are entitled to the privilege of voting as a matter of right and because they will be helpful, in maintaining wholesome and patriot policy. It requires but one more state to ratify the national amendment and thus bring a long-delayed justice. I have the same earnest hope as our platform expresses, that some one of the remaining states will promptly take favorable action.

Senator Harding's theory of the great office to which he aspires, putting a thoroughly fair interpretation on his own words, is that the government of this country, so far as it is embodied in the executive, should be what he is pleased to call "government by party," as in contrast with exercise by the president of his own best final judgment under the re-

sponsibility assumed by his solemn oath of office, taking into consideration the views of others, of course, in arriving at the final judgment, but recognizing no group of any kind, but sworn, as he is, to the faithful performance of the particular duties in question, and not subject to impeachment, as he is, in case of serious malfeasance in the performance of those duties. The latter is the conception of the presidency held by Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson in initiating our great experiment in political and personal freedom under the constitution. It is the conception held by Lincoln and Roosevelt, by Cleveland and Wilson, and all other presidents of the past to whom history has assigned a significant place in the normal growth of our free institutions. It is the conception of the presidency to which, in case of success of the Democratic party in the coming election, my own best efforts shall be dedicated, with a solemn sense of responsibility to the Power above, to the people of the United

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