

WHY THE UNITED STATES

being we might better serve the cause of the Allies by remaining neutral and supplying all that we could in the way of arms and munitions, and, I am happy to say, some men, as our neutral right was; that nevertheless when, by entering into the war with all our might and with the aid of all our boundless resources, we could help to bring it to an end in the right way by the complete suppression of Prussian militarism, and the triumph of civilisation, it would be our duty to do so. That time has now come, and I am happy to think that our great nation has acted upon the same thought, and has been really true to all its great traditions." The American people "came into this gigantic strife," said the United States Ambassador, Walter H. Page, at an immense demonstration of the British Workers' League, held in Hyde Park, London, on May 27th, 1917, "not because they were bound by any treaties, or even any undertakings, or had anything to gain from it except to come as the support of liberty itself."

The declaration of the state of war with Germany was passed in the United States Senate by a vote of 82 to 6, and in the House of Representatives by a vote of 373 to 50. It was an impressive and conclusive vote. But the great process of national education which had prepared for it could never have been conceived or completed were it not for the steady operation of the fundamental cause which brought America into the war, namely, her devoted attachment to the belief that all humanity is entitled to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." In his Proclamation of April 15th, 1917,