

## PRESIDENT IS ALERT FOR SOLDIERS' GOOD

Never Too Busy to Turn From  
Matters of State to Attend  
To Fighters' Welfare

Makes Himself in Ranks—Executive  
Sends Many Informal Replies to Let-  
ters Received by Him From Parents

(New York Times)  
President Wilson's eye is easily caught by a newspaper story of some family or individual that has made a special sacrifice for the nation. Joseph P. Tumulty, Secretary to the President, in an article written for a recent issue of "Going Over," the official organ of the American Army embarkation camps, tells of the daily correspondence from the White House, which is repeatedly punctuated with simple notes showing how the President's heart beats for families that give and grieve.

"When I look at you, I feel as if I too and we all were enlisted men. Not enlisted in your particular branch of the service, but enlisted to serve the country, no matter what may come, even though we may sacrifice our lives in the arduous endeavor."  
"These words," says Mr. Tumulty in his article, "spoken by the President a few months before the beginning of the war, express as well as anything he has since said his attitude toward the men in khaki. His conception of the duty which every American owes the nation is thoroughly known, but there has special significance and very deep sincerity in this thought of himself and those members of the Government as being companions of the soldiers in the ranks."  
His private writings and his utter-

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ance continually convey this idea of closest partnership between the men who are actually fighting for their country and those, less fortunate in this country, who can only back up with unceasing labor for the army the irresistible advance of the Americans in France who are carrying this country's flag to the banks of the Rhine.  
There are few days during which the President does not give his personal attention to matters of Government detail that directly affect the welfare of the men in the army. And there is no day that finds him too busy to turn from affairs of State to make an ex-

haustive study of evidence in the case of a private soldier who has come under a court-martial sentence. The newspapers record innumerable instances of Executive leniency to young soldiers, but the great majority of the cases in which President Wilson devotes the exceedingly limited time at his own disposal are never known to the public.  
Mr. Tumulty cited a typical letter which the head of the nation wrote when he read that six sons of a Nebraska man had enlisted to fight for the American flag.

The White House.  
My dear Mr. McShane—May I not turn away from the duties of the day for a moment to express my admiration for the action of your six sons in enlisting in the service of the country? They are making, and through them you are making, a very noble contribution to the fine story of patriotism and loyalty which has always run through the pages of American history. Cordially and sincerely yours,  
WOODROW WILSON.

J. M. McShane, 1906 Chicago Street, Omaha, Neb.  
Mr. Tumulty said it was significant that the President replies with the utmost simplicity and entire lack of formality to the many personal letters which parents address to him as the Commander in Chief of the United States Army. Here is a letter that came to him from a West Virginia mother, who took it for granted that he was just as much interested in her fine soldier boys as she.

Wheeling, W. Va., June 18, 1918.  
Dear Mr. Wilson:—Perhaps you will think me presumptuous to write a letter to you, but we are all one thing—loyal Americans. I simply wish to let you know what one West Virginia woman has done for our country. I have sent two stalwart, strong healthy boys to the front. Perhaps you have already met them. While it hurts me very much to bid them good-bye, yet I know that our country needs them and I must not mind a few more partings. They have both written a lot of letters and sent me their pictures in uniform, of which I

am justly proud. If you have the time, Mr. Wilson, and want to see a healthy man go to Company D, 6th Regiment, just arrived in Washington, D. C., from Columbus, Ohio, and ask for Fred and Louis Meyer, Ambulance Corps. And don't forget, please, to return my treasures (the pictures) and obliging,  
Mrs. LOUIS MEYER, Wheeling, W. Va.

The suggestion that a President of the United States "look up" two boys in a passing regiment and admire their stalwart fighting ability might appeal to some people as amusing. It did not commend itself in that light to the President. Here is his reply.

The White House, Washington, D. C.  
My dear Mrs. Meyer—Your letter of June 18 has warmed my heart. Your feeling about your sons is the feeling which I should think every mother in whom the true spirit of motherhood and of Americanism dwells would have, and I like to believe that it is true that the country is full of mothers of the same heroic and self-sacrificing sort. It quickens my pulse and strengthens my belief in the splendid capacity of this

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and I like to believe that it is true that the country is full of mothers of the same heroic and self-sacrificing sort. It quickens my pulse and strengthens my belief in the splendid capacity of this

country to meet every crisis of this sort to receive such a message as you have been gracious and kind enough to send me, and I shall treasure it in my heart as a typical expression of devoted American motherhood.

Cordially and sincerely yours,  
WOODROW WILSON.  
Mr. Tumulty said that these letters from the President to parents of soldiers had been selected at random. "But they convey," the Executive Secretary said, "at least a suggestion of the intimate personal interest he entertains toward every one of the several million splendid young Americans enlisted for the service in which he feels that he, too, is 'an enlisted man.'"

—BUY VICTORY BONDS—  
Former President Roosevelt—"I regret greatly that President Wilson has entered into these negotiations and I trust that they will be stopped."

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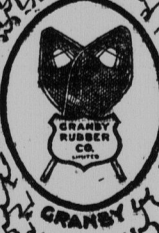
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