

STRIKING TRIBUTE TO CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF WAR IN ADDRESS EMPHASIZES MUTUAL GOOD-WILL

Duty of Canada and United States to Set Example to Countries which have Just Gained Freedom and Show them Higher Plane of Friendships on which Democracies Exist.

"WE WATCHED YOU SHOULDER YOUR JOB WITH ADMIRATION"

Bringing a message of welcome and goodwill from the United States Hon. Newton D. Baker, American Secretary of War, who was the guest of the Canadian Club at Ottawa on Saturday, January 11, gave a masterly address on the duties of Canada and the United States in setting an example to the countries which had just gained their freedom in Europe. He paid splendid tribute to Canada's effort in the war and pointed out that the great international boundary between the countries was not as in Europe a place where friendships ceased, but was a place where hands were clasped in genuine friendship.

There was a notable gathering at the luncheon including His Excellency the Governor General, many cabinet ministers and other prominent men in the public life of Canada. Sir Henry Drayton, president of the Canadian Club, presided.

The full text of the American Secretary of War's address is as follows:—

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency, and Gentlemen,—I surely am the happiest person in this room, in having an opportunity to bring a greeting from the people of the United States to the people of Canada. I think the war has some consolations—it needs many, but it has some—and quite surely one of the permanent benefits which will result to the children of men from this great and tragical experience is going to be the fact that men who hitherto were neighbours have now actually discovered one another. (Hear, hear.) The bond of union which was established when your soldiers and our soldiers fought shoulder to shoulder is not going to be allowed to be broken.

I always have a sense of misgiving when I am on foreign soil. I visited France not very long ago, and while I was riding around in a railroad train we passed through a small city, which was darkened to protect it from air raid. While the train was stopped at the station, it was obvious that a crowd, for some reason or another, had assembled in the station; we could hear the low murmurings of persons outside speaking in a more or less subdued way, and I asked a French officer who was with me to go out and find out the cause of the excitement. He came in and said that it had been noised abroad in that city that the Minister of War was going through on that train, and the crowd had therefore assembled for the privilege and pleasure of seeing the Minister of War. I was very cheery about it. (Laughter.) I was delighted to know that my fame had preceded me and travelled so far and so fast, and with great complacency and kindness of disposition toward those who were thus honouring me, I got up and went out to the back platform to greet the crowd, permit them to see me, and bow my acknowledgements. (Laughter.) Which I did. I did my part. When I got out I waved my hat and bowed; whereat the crowd, with one accord, set up a unanimous cheer: "Vive Monsieur Clemenceau!" (Laughter and applause.) Apparently the only Minister of War of whom they had ever heard

was their own distinguished minister. (Laughter.)

UNITED IN ONE DESIRE.

And yet I am very much relieved from any of the embarrassments which that experience might properly be expected to entail, by the fact that I do not feel a stranger in Canada. (Hear, hear.) I have had, during the past war, business relations with the distinguished chairman of this meeting, in which it was perfectly obvious to me that his desire was to advance the common cause and that the arrangements he was proposing between the United States and Canada were made in disinterested friendship and in a desire to bring to bear as far as could be brought to bear the concerted strength and energy of the two countries for the common benefit. (Applause.) And I should fall in a very pleasant part of my task here to-day if I did not acknowledge in his presence the fact that in that instance and in subsequent business matters which he and I had—indeed, in all business relations, and there were many, between the War Department of the United States and the people and Government of Canada during the war—there was a delightful reciprocity of neighbourly feeling and a mutuality of helpfulness which I think will always be remembered by the Government in Washington as an exhibition on your part of the most gracious and courteous assistance and co-operation. (Applause.)

Now, may I talk to you just a few minutes about the war? That subject is, of course, uppermost in all of our minds. The things that we have had to do in this war have tested our capacity for self-government and our real loyalty to civilization. This was no ordinary test. The power against which we were arrayed was of course the greatest power which has ever been assembled, in a military sense, on the face of the earth, and the attack it made was for the most part against peoples whose traditions, beliefs and preferences were for the paths of peace. The people of Canada, like the people of the United States, had been for many, many years progressing industrially and commercially, and our attitude toward international relations was exemplified by the handsome fact that, although Canada and the United States are tangent to one another upon a wide-reaching boundary that stretches across a continent, from one ocean to another, yet for more than a hundred years our relations had been relations of peaceful friendship. (Applause.) If any of the hateful and pernicious philosophy which animated our adversary in this conflict—and if any grain of it had obtained in your country or mine, that great spectacle could not have been presented. But we were really wedded to the arts of peace.

TALES OF ANNEXATION.

I remember that when I was a boy there used to be talk in the United States about the relations of Canada to our country. I remember all sorts of prophecies about the necessity of either you annexing the United States or the United States annexing you. (Laughter.) I remember that the very great and talented author, Professor Goldwin Smith, used to write in the "North American Review" when I was a boy, articles about the commercial union of the United States and Canada. I have not seen those articles since I was a boy; but I have noted this, that

in accordance with the sound-hearted traditions of both of our peoples, that sort of talk has so long ceased to be current that when I recall the fact that it took place in my boyhood each of you will think I am a much older man than I look to be. (Laughter.)

Our two countries have learned to respect one another and to regard the invisible line which separates us, not as a boundary at which friendship ceases, but as a place where we join hands. (Applause.)

In addition, however, to being a peace-loving and peaceably disposed people, we had learned to ground our conduct upon a just philosophy. We believed that there were such things as laws which governed the conduct of nations among themselves. We were old-fashioned enough, or, may I say, inspired and prophetic enough to believe that the plain and simple dictates of morality, which gentlemen know how to apply in their personal conduct, were as applicable among nations as they are among individuals. (Applause.) And so we had supposed that so far as the civilized peoples of the earth are concerned, an unjust war, for the aggrandizement of an imperialistic military caste, was an unthinkable thing, and as a consequence we probably took less than enough precaution against the time when we were to be surprised out of that belief.

And then the great shock of 1914 came. We learned that the thing which had been first tried in Heaven by the devil and had since been tried by many of his imitators, but never with success—never with any more than he had—was loose again in the world; that all moral restraint had been cast aside; that all of the victories which civilization had won in the long course of its development as a guarantee of the immunity of innocence against the terrors and devastations of war were to be discarded. We learned that treaties were for the convenience of princes, and that when they ceased to be convenient they were to be disregarded; that innocent by-standers and non-combatants were to be slaughtered by newly devised and very terrible agencies, and that terrorism among a civil population was to be the instrument by which aggression was ultimately to succeed.

CONTEMPT FOR "KULTUR".

I confess my own contempt and surprise for the intellect of the country which could conceive that doctrine in this age of the world. I remember when the bombardment of the English eastern coast took place and the Zeppelin raids upon London were current and the newspapers told of children who were blown to bits as they went into candy shops to purchase sweet-stuffs for their palate. We were told that the German doctrine was that they would make the war so terrible and its destructiveness upon the innocents so frightful that the men of the country would yield in response to that impulse. Any man would scorn so hideous and cowardly a method of warfare. The vanity of it was its most impressive feature. What nation could have read history except through a dark glass and imagined that the British man could be scared into submission by the killing of his babes? (Applause.)

And yet, that was the thing that was loose in the world, and the evidences of its lack of conscience, the evidences of the intensity of its devotion to its own hateful doctrine grew apace, until finally we had the disaster to which our adversary struck medals—the sinking of the "Lusitania." That picture that was with us when we tried to sleep at night, when our eyes woke in the dark and we could not see the things that really were about us, but could see the waves of the English channel with their freight of women and children, done to death untimely in that cowardly manner by the assassins of the sea—that picture that was present with us always, the Ger-

mans struck medals to it, made effigies of it. So did we. They made them of bronze; we made them in our hearts. (Applause.)

And with the shudders that went through all civilization when those things went on there came a current of determination, a setting of the teeth, a spirit of consecration which devoted, in the language of the President of the United States, "all that we have and all that we are" to this cause. I have been twice to Europe during the progress of the war. I have seen what that devotion of all we have and all we are means there, in England and in France, the nearest to the great struggle, and I have watched from the United States what it meant to you here in Canada.

BIG "COLONIAL" JOB.

The last time I was in France I heard a story of an Australian talking to a soldier of the United States. He was very hospitable and glad to see the American soldier, and he said: "We Australians are very glad you Yankees have come. You and the Canadians and the rest of us Colonials have a big job on our hands." (Laughter.)

We watched you shoulder your share of the job, and I am sure you will permit me to express my unfeigned admiration at the size of the army Canada mobilized. I know the population of this Dominion, and I think the number is some 600,000, Sir Thomas—something like that. And I saw them abroad. I did not happen to be privileged to visit them at the very front, but I saw a great many Canadian soldiers. I saw them well and I saw them sick and wounded. I know what the cost of that devotion has been to the Dominion. The way you formed and trained and despatched your army, the way you mobilized the industrial and commercial and financial resources of this Dominion, the way you rushed to the defence of the great democratic empire of which you are a part, proved of course the solidarity of that empire, but it proved more than that: it proved the solidarity of civilization and of righteousness. (Applause.)

And so when the United States came to participate in this war it entered new proofs of the same doctrine. Our population of course is very much larger than yours, and I delight to think that in twenty months we raised the army of the United States from 190,000 men to 750,000. (Applause.)

If I may pursue that thought just a moment, it taught us many things. We had to decide first the question as to whether we should raise that army by the volunteer system or by some form of universal recognition of the obligation of citizenship, and we chose the latter course. Our country responded to it with complete acceptance, and though we had 3,700,000 men under arms on the 11th day of November, we had some five or six million more who were ready to go under arms, and we were taking them in at about the rate of 300,000 a month. We intended to keep that up until the last man was gone, if necessary. (Applause.) In those twenty months we had to do what you did in Canada, not more intensively, but, because of the larger numbers involved, upon a somewhat larger scale. The Congress of the United States in twenty months appropriated for expenditure by the War Department alone \$24,000,000,000. Fortunately, not more than half of it was spent. (Laughter.) My brother, the Secretary of the Treasury, thinks that I am the greatest spender that ever lived, and wonders why my father didn't foresee that and name me either Ceresus or Increases. (Laughter.)

THE CALL TO WAR.

And yet it is a fine thing to think that there is a country so devoted to the principles of just civilization that it will turn, as you turned, from the plough and the workshop, from the lawyer's office, from the doctor's practice, and in the incredibly short space of time of twenty months so mobilize its financial power that for the War Department alone so vast an appropriation will be made, and that from all over that country the talent and the genius and the brains of the men of affairs could be summoned and an organization created which on

[Continued on page 8.]