

# THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER

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A WORLD'S CHARTER

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## OUR GUARANTEE

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coln, the American nation still holds the white record of a blameless life.

We, commons of the British Empire, had long exercised our little minds as to the attitude of America's latest executive chief in this greatest of all crises which have overtaken the world. We knew a little of the President's difficulties but it would take weeks to write the mere list of things we didn't know about. We are thankful to-day that the men at the head of our national affairs are not the junkers of the times of George third, but men, who, in character and brains are a match for anything else on earth. They had knowledge and foresight and patience. They acted—and waited when they dare not act. The period of waiting was not filled in by shuffling diplomacy but simple understanding as between men whom the Almighty had knit together by those unseen ties of sound sense and the charity that "seeketh not her own."

And the result? It is simply amazing. Says the London "Daily News": "With his unflinching faculty for voicing the purposes of the allied nations with moderation, a clarity and a force no living statesman can surpass, President Wilson has recalled the world of enemies, allies and neutrals to the great fundamental issues of the war." In four sentences he states

**E**QUAL and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations these principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation." The words are those of Jefferson in his first inaugural address as President of the United States of America in 1801. They were not a party shibboleth but the heart sentiments of a great and a free people, of a strong and noble manhood. They have never been belied by any public act of the American people in their intercourse with the rest of the world in those hundred and sixteen years of their national life. From Valley Forge to Gettysburg, in every battle it has fought, there remains no humiliating sting in the memory of friend or foe. In all that is embodied in the story of Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, the American nation still holds the white record of a blameless life.

**"We hold these truths to be self evident—that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."**

—Jefferson, in the  
Declaration of Independence

the principles that every one of the warring nations — Germany with the rest — must sooner or later accept; he has promulgated what may be called the Charter of the Allies, wherein is set forth in terms measured, dignified and plain, the supreme objects for which they are fighting, and the conditions under which alone those objects can be achieved.

*"No people must be forced under a Sovereignty under which it does not wish to live."*

*"No territory must change hands except for the purpose of securing those who inhabit it a fair chance of life and liberty."*

*"No indemnities must be insisted on except those that constitute payment for manifest wrong done."*

*"No readjustment of power must be made except such as will tend to secure the future peace of the world and the future welfare and happiness of its people."*

That is a wonderfully perfect statement—delivered in splendid English but so simple that the humblest member of the English-speaking race can understand it. As one of our British journals puts it: "It is not too much to say that it is one of the most memorable documents that have issued from any State

Department during the war. Friendly in tone, it is inexorable in logic, and with a sure touch it dismisses dangerous illusions and sets in their place the realities that have to be faced if the friends of freedom are not themselves to betray the cause that they proclaim." The implication of those principles are far-reaching. Russia, France, Britain and the rest of the Allies can accept them in every syllable. Can the people of Germany and Austria resolve deliberately to shed new oceans of blood to repudiate them?

The American President sets the issue quite plainly. "Unless," he says, "we pour out blood and treasure now and succeed, we may never be able to unite or show conquering force again in the great cause of human liberty." That is what the Hohenzollerns see just as clearly as he does. They know that if only they could divide and baffle the present coalition, no other coalition would ever dare to stand between them and their vision of world-rule. For them and for the democracies alike, "the day has come to conquer or submit."

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