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## Roosevelt Wants America To Throw in Lot With Allies

**Fiercely Denounces Germany and Gets in a Few "Swipes" at His Political Opponents --Speaks of the Violation of Treaties but Forgets the Part He Played in the Colon-Panama Revolt.**

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—That the United States should feel it a duty to aid in restoring the freedom of Belgium, and that apart from any question of neutral rights, it is "highly moral" to export munitions which will help Belgium to free herself, was emphatically declared by former President Roosevelt to-night before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. In effect, he would have the United States openly side with the allies, in order to curb and punish the barbarous policy pursued by Germany. The ex-President said:

### ROOSEVELT'S ADDRESS.

"In private life no human being thinks it to the credit of any man that he makes a promise unless the promise is kept. But when we deal with nations instead of individuals, a large number of reasonably well-disposed people fondly take the view that the promise is itself meritorious and that the keeping of it is something wholly irrelevant.

"A treaty is merely a promise. If it is evident when made, that it cannot be or ought not to be kept, then those making the treaty are self-evidently either wicked or foolish. If it can be kept but nevertheless is not kept, those who fail to keep it are guilty of dishonorable conduct.

"The politicians in power who do such deeds are merely the agents of the people, and if these public servants act dishonorably, the dishonor is reflected upon the people themselves. Well meaning persons would be wise if they kept the analogy between public and private promises steadily in view. The analogy applies to pacifist speeches: it applies to what are diplomatically called notes.

### Micawber's Notes.

"Readers of 'David Copperfield' will remember that Mr. Micawber's speciality was to issue notes. He never honored these notes when they became due. His mind was so constituted that he felt that when a note became due he met it adequately by writing another. His creditors, however, did not take so charitable a view of the performance. They did not have single-track minds. To those acquainted with United States diplomatic history during the last year or two there will be no necessity of pursuing the analogy further."

Colonel Roosevelt mentioned. The Hague conventions in their relation to the violation of the neutrality of Belgium, declaring it was "dishonorable conduct on the part of the United States to take no action in the matter." Taking up the question of American export of munitions to the belligerents, he declared:

### Right to Help Belgium.

"It is immoral to export munitions or materials out of which munitions can be made, in order to prevent Belgium from freeing herself. It is highly moral to export munitions which will help Belgium to free herself. It is an act of gross infamy on the part of this government and this people to take any step which will help the wrong-doer against the wronged and such step would be taken if we imposed an embargo in the interest of Germany against the allies.

"A year ago this government notified Germany that it would hold her to a strict accountability if she sunk passenger ships and murdered women and children. Again and again in contemptuous defiance of this warning Germany has sunk these ships and killed non-combatants until the number mounts up into the thousands.

"Whether the acts were done by German submarines or by Austrian submarines or, as is now claimed, by Turkish submarines, or, as may possibly be claimed in the future, by Bulgarian submarines, represents merely the contemptuous desire of Germany—the directing and dictating mind of the Central Powers—to give this government a chance to crawl out of making good its fine words.

"We took no effective action whatever to stop these repeated murders. They were finally stopped simply because the British fleet destroyed so many submarines that the warfare ceased being profitable to Germany."

### The Price of Murder.

"Now, it is announced in the press, that the German government and our government are actually bargaining over the number of dollars which they think the American people will pocket as a payment for their murdered women and children.

"At the same time the German and Austrian governments through their accredited representatives in the em-

bassies here have carried on a campaign of the bomb and the torch against our industries. The action of our government should have taken in view of this campaign was not merely action against Dumba, Von Papen and Boy-Ed, but the holding of the German and Austrian governments themselves responsible for every munition plant that was blown up or damaged.

"Yet now it is announced that we are to accept money for the death of our women and children and in return are to play the game of the murderers of these women and children by acting in their interest against the allied nations who are trying to free Belgium. We are asked to kiss the bloody hands of the murderers of our women and children and to serve as the tool of these men against those nations which have behaved more valiantly and righteously than we have.

"It is a proposition of sordid baseness. It asks us to put dollars above lives and to consult our own cowardice and weakness instead of adhering to the eternal principles of justice. If we follow such a course, we will cover ourselves with everlasting infamy.

"Unfortunately it is evident that many of our public men are afraid of Germany, afraid of the professional German-American vote, and are willing to sacrifice the honor of this country to their fears. There is practically no French-American or British-American vote, and these politicians therefore feel that they can act against Great Britain and France with safety—and their motto is 'Sic ut vis'—first."

"I believe that the great mass of Americans of German descent are straight-out Americans and nothing else; just as good Americans as citizens of any other descent in this country. In the great crisis of the Civil war a larger proportion of the men of recent German origin than of the men of old native American stock stood for the Union and for freedom.

"I ask Americans of German descent to stand against Great Britain when it is wrong. I ask that all alike stand as Americans and nothing else. These Americans of German descent I believe will disapprove with all their hearts any proposal to use the embargo as a weapon in aid of the ruthless and brutal German militarism which has crushed Belgium to the ground.

"These Americans of German descent are the true patriots. I believe that they are shamefully misrepresented by the professional, the hyphenated German-Americans, who have

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been so loud since the war began in their insistence that the United States should be prostituted to the service of despotism against democracy, of tyranny against freedom, of wrong against right.

"I earnestly hope that the great mass of honest American citizenship which is in whole or in part of German descent will make its views heard against these men who speak as Germans only and treat America as a foreign land, a kind of use only as the tool of Germany, and against the base and cowardly politicians who seek preferment for themselves by truckling to the professional German-American vote, even although to do so means shame and disgrace for the United States, and perhaps permanent detriment to the cause of international right throughout the world."

### Enforcing Peace.

Colonel Roosevelt said he approved of proposals to establish a world league for the enforcement of peace, but only on condition "first, that we shall show that we keep our promise; and, second, that we shall show that we are both able and ready to make our promises effective by our action."

Many persons who favor such a world league, he declared, at the same time declare that "our duty is to be neutral and to avoid entangling alliances."

"As for entangling alliances," the league for world peace would mean that we would enter into an alliance on the largest possible scale. Do not let us even talk about doing such a thing unless we face what it means.

"This again comes down to a question of promise and performance. Personally, I believe that a great nation like ours should be willing to admit that it has international duties. I believe that ultimately, if we achieve the proper pitch of moral and material preparedness, we may enter an international peace league.

"But when we do so we must face the fact that we have abolished by just so much our right to be neutral and that we have entered into alliances which entangle us to the extent of making it necessary for us to keep our word where we have given it."

### His Ideas of Army.

Colonel Roosevelt considered preparedness, declaring he should have a mobile army of 150,000 and a total regular army of about a quarter of a million men.

"If we mean to 'prepare,' he said, 'we should prepare in good earnest. Thirty years ago I served for a time as deputy sheriff in a cow country of the West, which was at that time a rather lively country.

"We grew to accept several rules of conduct as binding. One was never to draw unless we mean to shoot. Conversation not followed by action was not looked on favorably. As has been well said, the policy of speaking softly and carrying a big stick is in the long run infinitely safer than the policy of indulging in irrelevant noise and blustering an olive branch. Again we found it was wise not to carry a gun at all unless we carried a good gun. Either be armed or not armed. To be half armed combines the disadvantages of both attitudes. That was before the days of automobiles. When I was on business as a deputy sheriff, I carried a self-cocking .45-calibre revolver. I was instructed not to use it unless it was absolutely necessary. I obeyed the instructions, but if I had been given a .22-calibre muzzle-loader I would have promptly thrown up my job.

"The proposal for the so-called continental army is a proposal to meet Uncle Sam's need for an automatic or self-cocking .45 by giving him a muzzle-loading .22.

### For Ample Preparedness.

"I stand for ample preparedness in order to avert war and in order to avert disgrace and disaster if war should come. I ask moreover that this nation in the great crisis of this world war refuse to be tricked or bullied by foes without or by politicians within. I ask that our people remember that while their first duty is to the United States, they have a second duty to humanity at large.

"I ask that we stand for property rights but that we put human rights ahead of property rights and finally that we show that we have it in us to dare to risk something and to suffer some discomfort and some loss, and, if necessary, some danger on behalf of a lofty ideal.

"It is by no means necessary that a great nation should always stand on the heroic level. But no nation can be called really great unless it can sometimes rise to a heroic mood."

Lots of people would get a good sendoff if we were only sure they would never come back.

### NOTICE

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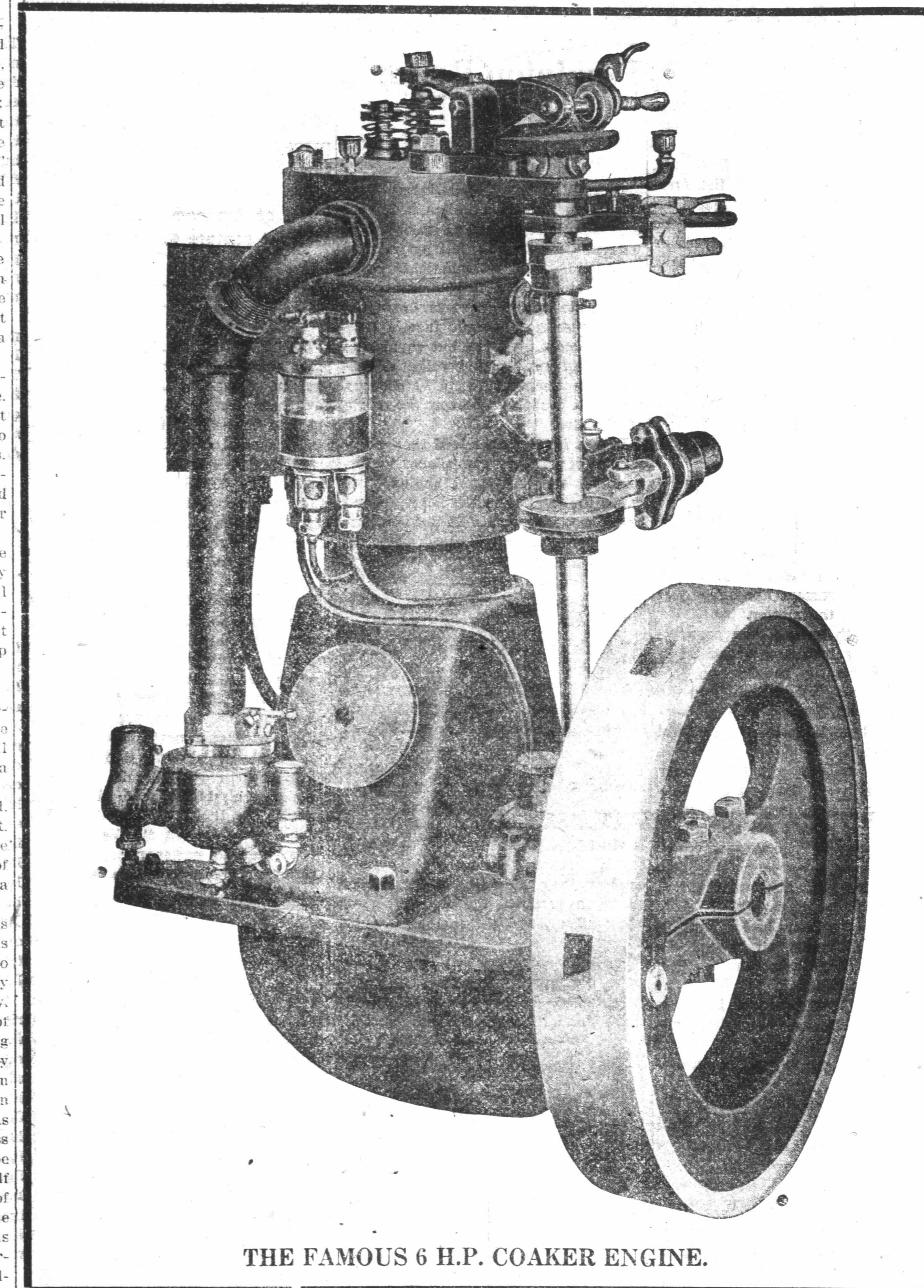
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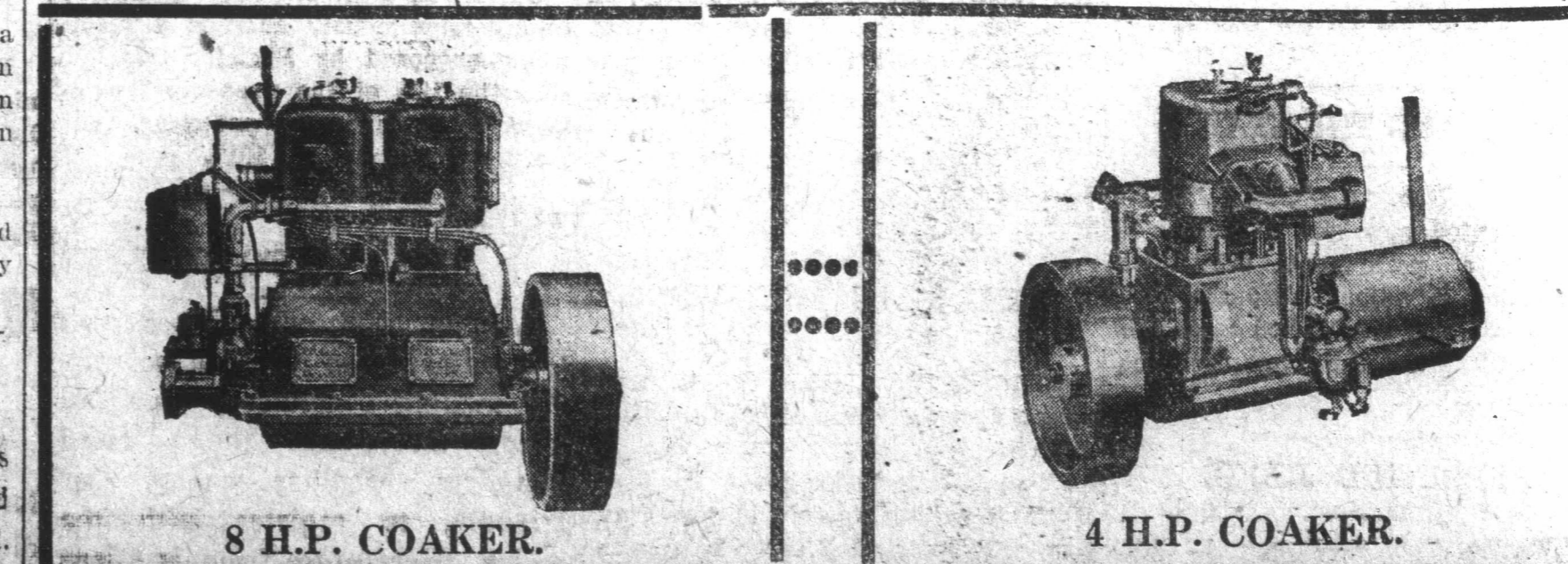
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