

P
335
S678a

FEB 11 '37
Hamed
\$3.00

"I pledge myself and all I possess to the cause of winning the war against Germany and her allies."

One of these cards sent out by The Journal, Flint, Mich., came to me, and as there were some points about it I wanted cleared up, I wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper mentioned, a copy of which I have made.

The letter itself reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"One of your membership cards in the club which is pledged to fight Germany until there is secured an unconditional surrender, came into my hands. I would be glad to sign this card, but before I can conscientiously do so I want to take the matter up with you. First, as to the question of unconditional surrender; I am afraid to sign that condition. The Congress and the President, as I understand it, have control of the war, and it is their final terms which I must uphold, because should I pledge myself to fight until Germany 'unconditionally surrenders' and should the President and the Congress see fit to make conditions at the end of the war, I would be solemnly pledged to continue to fight against the wishes of my Government, and I would either have to become a breaker of pledges and a liar or be in the end shot for a bushwacker and a guerilla.

"But there is one item of the card I want to declare my adherence to. That is the one that says:

"I pledge myself and all I possess to the cause of winning the war."

"With all the power within me I am ready to stand behind that pledge. I am within the draft ages and I expect some autumn day to go forth and give all I possess, so there is little use of my making pledges as my all is to be taken anyhow. But I know of some others who are not going and who, as the country needs money, I think would be glad to get and sign this pledge to 'give all I possess,' and I suggest you send them each one. As their names come to my mind, they are:

"John D. Rockefeller, New York, N.Y.

"J. P. Morgan, Jr., New York, N.Y.

"Thomas W. Lawson, Boston, Mass.

"H. P. Whitney, New York, N.Y.

"Mr. Swift, care Swift & Co., Chicago, Ill.

"These gentlemen, I am sure, will all sign, as they are only called on for one-tenth the sacrifice I am ready to make. I am to pledge myself to give up my home, my friends, my position and the income from it ('all I possess'), and perhaps my life. All that you ought to ask them to do is to give up all their surplus and unused property and incomes, which surely they will be willing to do if I am willing to go to France to save them.

"But now I have conceived a suggestion that I feel will make your eyes light with the glow of sacrifice. It is this: Let you and I rise above mere pledges. Let us pair. Let us sign a new card, and let us put into full effect every promise we have made. Thinking of this makes me feel like lifting my hands and thanking Allah that you and I are given so great an opportunity.

"I am going soon into the army. When I go I will give up until the war is over the sight of my family and friends, and leave behind a pair of soft blue eyes that shall seek me out even in France with the look of sorrow that was in them when I said good-bye. I am going to give up my income, to eat what is given me, to work at hard labor, to put on khaki, and to arise, move, sleep and have my being by rules that others make—on penalty of death.

"I ask you only to do a small part of what I am ready to do. You know we need men to raise food for soldiers. Well, I only ask you to pledge yourself to give up your newspaper, your property, and your profits, and to leave your family and friends until the war ends and come here to Virginia, where I have for you a position on a farm at \$30 a month and board, exactly what my Government is to give me. I have already arranged about the place, as I know you will come.

"I am so sure about your coming, because I ask so little of you and myself am willing to give much. For my part, I will give up all those things I ask of you, and, over and above, I pledge my life. I will go 'Over There' and listen in the trenches through long nights to the