

ROOSEVELT EXHORTS WEST TO JOIN IN WAR

Thousands in Chicago Applaud Demand That Nation Exert All Its Might.

URGES ARMY BE SENT NOW

Colonel Pleads for Own Division—Wants Use of Grain for Drinks Barred.

CHICAGO, April 28. — "Farm and arm!" With this battle cry Theodore Roosevelt entered Chicago today and in two stirring speeches urged that every energy of the entire nation be directed toward making the potential might of the United States felt in the war against Germany, and he demanded that not an hour be lost in dispatching troops to the trenches.

His first speech was made at a luncheon at noon, his second at a mass meeting in the immense amphitheatre at the stockyards, where the thousands who applauded his words were numerically exceeded by the crowds turned away in disappointment when it became necessary to close the doors.

The Colonel advocated both universal training as a permanent policy and conscription, but he pleaded that he should be allowed to recruit a division for immediate service with the Allies. He was roundly applauded when he urged that during the war the use of grain for the manufacture of alcoholic beverages be prohibited.

"I want to get Americans into the trenches of France at the earliest possible moment, to show our allies that we are as ready as they to shed our blood for the cause of democracy," he said. He declared that he wished to find service for those efficient men who would be left on the sidelines under military policies so far under discussion—for men who could not get conscripted.

Plea Sent to President.

At the luncheon Harry Pratt Judson, President of the University of Chicago, introduced a resolution to be forwarded to President Wilson requesting that the Colonel be authorized to raise a division and to lead it into France. Colonel Roosevelt interrupted to ask if he might amend it.

"Make it read that we want the division sent under any competent officers, and please to let Roosevelt go along," he said.

"Certainly," replied Dr. Judson, and his resolution was adopted unanimously.

"I'd go as a Second Lieutenant," said Colonel Roosevelt in a digression from his prepared remarks. "I commanded a regiment during the fighting in Cuba, I headed a brigade before we left the island, and I have even been the recipient of honors from citizens of the United States. But I'm willing to go in the train of any competent officer who may be selected. To get the division there is the thing."

Other addresses were made by Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, Major R. R. McCormick, Governor Frazier of North Dakota, and Major Gen. Thomas H. Barry, commanding the Central Department, U. S. A., were among those at the speakers' table.

13,000 Hear Night Speech.

In his address at the crowded Stock Yards pavilion, which seats 13,000 persons, Colonel Roosevelt said in part:

"I come here tonight to appeal to the people of the great West, the people of the Mississippi Valley, the people who are the spiritual heirs of the men who stood behind Lincoln and Grant. When once waked up to actual conditions, you have always stood with unflinching courage and iron endurance for the national honor and the national interest. I appeal to the women as much as to the men, for our nation has risen level to every great crisis only because in every such crisis the courage of its women flamed as high as the courage of the men.

"I appeal to you to take the lead in making good the President's message of April 2, in which he set forth the reasons why it was our unescapable duty to make war upon Germany. We can make the President's message stand among the great State papers in our history; but we can make it good only if we fight with all our strength now at once; if at the earliest possible moment we put the flag on the firing line and keep it there over a constantly growing army until the war closes by a peace which brings victory to the great cause of democracy and civilization, the great cause of justice and fair play among the peoples of the world.

"We Americans are at war. Now let us fight. Let us make it a real war, not a dollar war. Let us show that we have the manhood to pay with our own bodies, and not merely to hire other men to pay with their bodies. Let us fight at once. Let us put the flag at the front now, at the earliest moment and not merely announce that we are going to fight a year or two hence."

Asserting that America should imme-

diately set about raising a great army on the principle of universal obligatory military training and service and declaring that it would require a long time to train such an army, Mr. Roosevelt said:

Wants Troops Sent Now.

"But most emphatically, we should not rest content with this. We should not rest content with merely preparing an army to act a year or eighteen months or two years hence. Let us put the flag on the firing line at the earliest possible moment this Summer, wherever our services are most needed—in France or Flanders or the Balkan Peninsula. It need only be a small army at first. But even a division would be better than nothing. Then we can constantly keep that division filled, and other divisions from time to time added to it; until a year hence, if the war continues, we have a really formidable fighting force at the front, a fighting force which will be steadily increased month by month, year by year, until the triumph comes.

"I wish to see the system of obligatory service used in order to make all men serve who ought to serve. But do not hinder men, who, under conscription, would be entitled to stay at home, from volunteering to go to the front if they can render good service. Under the bill proposed to Congress by the War Department many millions of excellent fighting men would be exempt from service, while a long time would elapse before the others are sent to the front. Under these conditions we ought to use the volunteer system to fill the gap; it opens to us at once a great possibility; let it be used, and used exclusively, to give to those who would otherwise be exempt an opportunity to go to the front without claiming exemption.

"I most earnestly hope that we shall avoid any policy of delay. Congress has passed, without a dissenting vote, a bill to appropriate \$7,000,000,000 as representing part of our contribution to the great war. This is fine; but only on condition that we also put our men into the fighting line. Half of this great sum is to go to the Allies; that is, it is to be spent by them in getting their men up against the German and Austrian and Turkish shells and bullets. Now, we Americans have always prided ourselves on being able to do our own fighting. It is right to help others to fight in the common cause for which we are engaged. But it is even more necessary that we should fight ourselves.

Fears "Lasting Calamity."

"It would be an evil thing, a lasting calamity to this country, if the war ended and found us merely preparing an army in safety at home without having sent a man to the firing line, merely having paid some billions of dollars to other people so that with the bodies of their sons and brothers they might keep us in safety.

"I ask that we send a fighting force over to the fighting line at the earliest possible moment, and I ask it in the name of our children and our children's children, so that they may hold their heads high over the memory of what this nation did in the world's great crisis. I ask it for reasons of national morality no less than for our material self-interest. I ask it for the sake of our self-respect, our self-esteem.

"Our children will have to read the history of what we have done during this war. Let us make the chapter that yet remains to be written one that our children shall read with pride; and they will read it only with a feeling of self-abasement unless they read that in the times that tried men's souls we have shown valor and endurance and proud indifference to life when the honor of the flag and the welfare of mankind were at stake.

"At the earliest possible moment send an expeditionary force abroad, show our German foes and our allied friends that we are in this war in deadly earnest, that we have put the flag on the firing line, and that we shall steadily increase the force behind that flag to any limit necessary in order to bring the peace of victory in this great contest for democracy, for civilization, and for the rights of free peoples.

"Now that we are at war, let us make it a real war, not a make-believe war, not a war of limited liability. We have walked into the ring, and now we must fight. No fight ever was won yet except by hitting. We have gone into the fight; we have determined to hit, and we must not hit soft.

"We owe our safety at this moment to the British fleet and the French and British armies. I, for one, am not content to rest under that kind of obligation, and I do not believe that my fellow-countrymen are content to rest under it. I wish to see us owe our safety to our own strength and our own courage and to the respect we inspire in our foe. We shall inspire no respect if we merely try to parry that foe's blows and not to return them.

"The only way in which we can return it is by immediately sending an expeditionary force to fight in Europe. I would be a scandal and a shame if the war ended now with our part in it limited to having furnished dollars behind the shield of other men's bodies. We are in the war. Let us fight it through ourselves, with our own strength and courage, to a triumphant conclusion.

Others May Lead Division.

"If I am allowed to raise the division for which I have asked, I most earnestly hope that it will have as large a proportion as possible of Americans who are in whole, or, like myself, in part, of German blood. The other day

I was with the head of the War College at Washington, General Kuhn. He is of pure German blood, his father and his mother being born in Germany. But he is an American, and nothing else!

"I would welcome the chance, if I am allowed to raise a division, to serve with that division under him at the front; and I would ask no favor of any kind save thus to serve with him and to be judged on my merits by him for my service. In similar fashion, I would gladly serve under General Barry, who is with you here in Chicago, and who is of Irish parentage; or under General Pershing, or, of course, with deep enthusiasm under my old friend and commander, General Leonard Wood, who, like Pershing, is of Revolutionary stock; or under any other men of the same type.

"Each of the men I have named has held my commission when I was President, and I would wish nothing more at the close of my active career than the chance to serve under one of them or under any other officer of their type. They differ in blood and in creed among themselves and from me. But they and I are Americans and nothing else. Our lives are actuated by the same principles of honor, and our undivided loyalty is given to the same flag.

"This is the appeal I make specially to the men and women of the West. I do not merely ask you to go to the front, you men of the West; or to cheer your men when they go, you women. I also ask you to see that I am given the high privilege of making my words good by my deeds and going to the front with you. I have asked leave to be allowed to raise a division to take to the front in the first expeditionary force, under the commander of that force; a division which, after two or three months' preliminary training here, can be taken for intensive training to France, and then put into the trenches at the earliest possible moment that the allied Generals deem it fit to render service. I ask that I be allowed to join with others who feel as I do in making good the President's message.

Kinsmen Would Go, Too.

"I ask that I and those dearest to me and closest to me by blood shall be given the chance to prove the truth of our endeavor and be sent at the earliest possible moment under the flag to the firing line.

"I do not ask for men in the classes which would be taken under the Administration's plan for an army raised under the obligatory system. I ask for men who would not otherwise be allowed to go. The force I propose to raise would represent an absolute addition to the nation's military strength, an addition which could be used at once, which would serve to put the flag and keep the flag on the firing line during the time that the great army was itself being raised, and while our flag would otherwise not be on the firing line. The favor I ask is the great favor of being allowed to render a service which I believe that my record entitles me to say that I am able to render."

In his luncheon speech Mr. Roosevelt said:

"The world is facing a shortage of food. Soon we in this country shall face a shortage of food. Therefore let us use all the grain we have for food and not for intoxicants. Now that the war is on, let us forbid any grain or corn being used in the manufacture of intoxicating liquors. Let the Government help the farmer by mobilizing labor, if necessary, and tell our young men that it is a case of farm and arm.

"During the last two years and a half of peace we have been foolish enough not to prepare for war. Now that we are at war, let us avoid the further folly of failure to prepare for the great tasks of peace, the tasks with which we will have to deal now while at war, and which will be of overwhelming importance as soon as the war is over.

"As yet our people are not waked up to the vital significance of this war. This is because at the moment we are safe behind the British fleet. In the papers yesterday I saw statements from England indicating the greatest alarm by the English over the submarine menace. I do not believe that Germany will be able to make her submarine warfare a success. But this is always a possibility; and if she did succeed, it would mean that we would be a helpless victim to Germany."

Colonel Roosevelt received a dispatch at the Pavilion saying that Senator Harding's amendment to the Army Draft bill permitting him (Roosevelt) to raise troops for service in France had carried. He paused in his speech, a smile spread over his face, and he exclaimed repeatedly, "Bully! Bully!" After the Colonel concluded his set speech, he read aloud the dispatch, and the entire audience arose and cheered for several minutes.

"Now we'll go, Teddy! Now we are ready!" came from numbers of throats.

"I want to say," continued the Colonel, "that this amendment was carefully drawn not to interfere in the slightest degree with the President's plan for obligatory service. I want to put myself in a position, not to say 'Go to the front,' but 'Come to the front.'"