

ROOSEVELT AGAINST INCONCLUSIVE PEACE

Tells Ohio Society That America Must Fight for an Over- whelming Victory.

WANTS THE WAR SPEEDED

Declares That Only by Realizing the Nation's Shortcomings Can We Correct Them.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, speaking at the annual dinner of the Ohio Society of New York last night, branded those who would make an inconclusive peace with Germany as persons who are "not only the enemies of America, but of democracy throughout the world, and stand on the level of the Bolsheviks, who have betrayed both Russia and her allies to the militaristic and capitalistic autocracy of the Hohenzollerns." To accept an inconclusive peace, Colonel Roosevelt added, would mean that the war would have to be fought over again by ourselves or our children. The peace that must end the war, Colonel Roosevelt declared, must be "the peace of overwhelming victory."

The dinner was served in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria, and was probably the largest attended ever given by the society. Myron T. Herrick, former Ambassador to France, the President of the society, presided, and the speakers, in addition to Colonel Roosevelt, were Sir Frederick E. Smith, Attorney General of England, and Edouard de Billy, Deputy High Commissioner of France to the United States.

Colonel Roosevelt, when he stood up to speak, was given a demonstration lasting a full minute.

Speed Up War Work.

Colonel Roosevelt said:

"There are two prime needs, to meet which we should bend all our energies at this time. The first is the immediate need, the need of winning the war, and, therefore, of speeding up the work of of war in every possible manner. We must accept no peace except the peace of overwhelming victory. To accept an inconclusive peace would mean that the whole war would have to be fought over again by ourselves or our children. To accept an inconclusive peace would really mean to work for a German victory. Those who now demand such a peace are not only the enemies of America, but of democracy throughout the world, and stand on the level of the Bolsheviks, who have betrayed both Russia and her allies to the militaristic and capitalistic autocracy of the Hohenzollerns.

"The men in this country who are anti-war are anti-American. All who are pro-German are anti-American. There is no halfway ground. Either we are against Germany and all her allies or we are false to our country and to civilization. Either we are fighting to give liberty to the subject races in Austria and Turkey, either we are fighting for the complete independence of the Czecho-Slovaks, the Jugo-Slavs, the Poles, the Rumanians, and Italians under the Austro-Hungarian yoke, and the Armenians and Jews and Syrian Christians and Arabs under the Turkish yoke, or else we were guilty of hypocrisy when we announced that our purpose was to make the world safe for democracy. Unless Belgium is restored and indemnified and France restored and indemnified justice will not have prevailed. And never forget that this fight is primarily America's fight. Our troops fight abroad beside the Allies now so that at some future time they may not have to fight without allies beside their own ruined homes.

"We must speed up the war. Ships, guns, auto-rifles, and airplanes must be built with the utmost speed. Our past lamentable failure in the speedy building of the indispensable implements of modern war, and of the great transport fleet which alone will enable us to utilize our giant strength after we have developed it, must merely spur us on to efficient action in the present and the future.

"To refuse to see and to point out these failures is both silly and unpatriotic; for we cannot possibly correct evils unless we acknowledge their existence, and to permit them to go uncorrected is to play the German game in the most effective manner possible. It is no mere accident that has made all the pro-German organs in the press clamor against the men who dare to point out our shortcomings; for the pro-Germans know well that the ruthless enemies of this country, whom they serve as far as they dare, desire nothing so much as to see this country afraid to acknowledge and make good its shortcomings; and these pro-Germans cloak their traitorous aid to Germany under the camouflage of pretended zeal to save American officials from just criticism. But there is an even lower depth, and this is reached by the men who treat the discovery of our shortcomings as a reason for relaxing our efforts to win the war.

Only Weaklings Fear Truth.

"Only weaklings will fear to face the truth, and only weaklings will be cowed and dispirited when the truth is found to be disagreeable. Only by realizing our shortcomings can we correct them; and we show ourselves base indeed if we fail to correct them, and fail to treat the necessity of correcting them as anything but a spur to constantly increasing efficiency and determination in fighting the war through to a victorious finish. Let us treat every failure in the past merely as something to learn wisdom from in the present in order that we may completely remedy it in the future. Our one and whole-hearted immediate aim must be to speed up the war in every possible way, and at the earliest moment to make our military strength of decisive weight in Europe.

"At the same time we will, if we are wise, make our ultimate aim such military and industrial preparedness as shall save us from ever again being caught in such shape as to be helpless to protect ourselves. One form of permanent preparedness is as vital as the other; for only vision, understanding, and firm purpose in forethought preparedness to deal with both our industrial and our military problems will enable us to guarantee future peaceful and just development at home and future immunity from attacks by outside

nations. But whereas we cannot long escape the consequences of indifference to industrial preparedness, it is possible for several years, perhaps for a decade or two or three, to ignore the need of military preparedness without paying the penalty which in the end is inevitable.

"In consequence, in time of peace it is comparatively easy for selfish, time-serving politicians, and for reckless demagogues to persuade honest, but short-sighted persons that there is no need for action. Therefore it is in the highest degree unwise for us not at this time to profit by the lessons of the war and introduce as our permanent national policy the system of preparedness in advance which must rest upon universal obligatory training of all our young men, with an accompaniment of annual field manoeuvres on a large scale, and upon the accumulation of a quantity of guns, rifles, airplanes, and the like, sufficient for the use of our troops during the period necessary for the production of additional weapons.

Would be a Democratic Army.

"Remember that the army thus produced would be the most democratic army imaginable. Its existence would be a great stimulus to and aid in the thorough democratization of our industrial system. It would represent the people under arms, and its very existence would mean the combination of alert and orderly discipline with entire mutuality of respect among all the men, from the Commander in Chief to the private in the ranks; for the officers would all be chosen strictly on their merits from among the men who had been trained in the ranks for six months or a year, and outside of the time when they were on duty all would stand on a footing of equality. In that way the son of the capitalist and the son of the day laborer, the son of the railway President and the son of the brakeman, the sons of farmer, lawyer, doctor, carpenter, and clerk would all go in together, would sleep in the same dog tents, eat the same food, go on the same hikes, profit by the same discipline, and learn to honor and take pride in the same flag. And the best men among them, without regard to anything but fitness, would be chosen for officers. In the navy also the candidates for Annapolis training would be chosen only from among the enlisted men who had been at least a year in the navy and were still serving therein.

"The democratic ideal in the army is entirely realizable. Take that fine old fighting man, fit to stand as the type of the best kind of American soldiers, Lieut. Gen. Sam. Young, retired. He entered the civil war as a private in a cavalry regiment; and he retired as the commanding officer of the entire American Army. In this war he has four sons-in-law and five grandsons in the army; one of the grandsons, not yet 18 years old, being a Sergeant of cavalry—as his grandfather was over half a century ago. That's the right type of American family! The members serve as officers or enlisted men, wherever they can get in, and do the best work; and all are entitled to the same honor and stand on the same footing of mutual respect and self-respect.

"Under the system of universal military training and service there would no longer be talk of discrimination against the enlisted man. Take any club in this city at this time—my own Harvard Club, as an instance—and every day you will find in it officers and enlisted men of the army and officers and enlisted men of the navy, all in uniform, all on a footing of self-respecting equality, and every man of them an example of alert and orderly discipline while on duty."

Sir Frederick E. Smith, Attorney General of Great Britain, who followed Colonel Roosevelt, began his address with an expression of the appreciations of the Allies for the unflinching support which since the beginning of the war Colonel Roosevelt had given to their cause. Sir Frederick said that he was amazed at the results so far attained in this country to bring the nation to a state of war efficiency. He said that Anglo-Saxons, wherever they happen to be, as a rule, "always stagger into efficiency."

"The spirit and determination of England to carry this war to a successful conclusion," he added, "burns as brightly today as it did in August, 1914. In England no one ever thinks of money now. Money does not count under circumstances such as now exist, and if necessary I am sure that all the Allies will pool their resources, whatever they be, in a new form of currency. Neither treasure nor blood will stop Great Britain until the war is won. In all her long history England has never deserted an ally, and she never will."

Sir Frederick in closing referred to the American troops already in France or soon to start for that country:

"The soldiers of England and France are more fortunate in one great way than are those of America," he said, "and I have in mind the fact that while Frenchmen and Englishmen are fighting close to home, your boys will be fighting 3,000 miles away from those they hold dearest. But I want to say that the women of England and of France are just as tender and loving as are those of America, and we know how tender are the women of this wonderful country."

Takes Time to Awaken People.

Mr. Herrick in the course of the speech referred to the fact that the United States was neutral this time last year, and "yet," he added, "we would not return to neutrality even if it were possible for us to do so." He quoted from President Wilson's speech to Congress last April, in which the President asked for the war declaration against Germany, a speech which he characterized as one that "met the aspirations of the most radical and expressed the desire and determination of the American people."

"America," Mr. Herrick continued, "has come late into the struggle, but at a moment when her vast and unimpaired resources of every sort will determine final victory. It seems almost a predestined thing that this young democracy of the west with the older democracies of Europe should set mankind free from conscienceless rulers and give to men the determination of their own destinies. Germany misled and deceived our people, but her true character and ambition are now revealed and understood.

"It requires time to awaken 100,000,000 people who have been taught that they were secure in their isolation, and that, at whatever sacrifice of honor, they were to be kept out of war. But they understand now that the salvation of America lies not in keeping out, but in getting in, and staying in to the end. The Kaiser, balked and disappointed, cannot daunt them with his angry threat of 'battering in with the iron fist and shining sword the doors of those who will not have peace' on his terms."

"Even though Germany were to meet that measure of success in the war that is possible, and admittedly that could now be only a partial success, she would have to win over the world after the war in order to exist. Friendship and confidence and respect must be earned; they cannot be forced. Germany has forfeited the trust of the world, and German faith will be a by-word for centuries. This loss of faith of a confid-

ing and unsuspecting world will be her chief obstacle to the attainment of peace."

"Germany," he added, "is today an outlaw among the nations."

Among those who attended the dinner were Sir Charles C. B. Gordon, Vice Chairman of the British War Mission; Nicholas Murray Butler, Rt. Rev. William A. Leonard, Bishop of Ohio; Mayor H. L. Davis of Cleveland, Henry W. Taft, Charles P. Bruch, Charles A. Otis, Oscar S. Straus, Colgate Hoyt, William H. Truesdale, Samuel Mather, C. A. Coffin, Cass Gilbert, Dr. Albert Shaw, John F. Mosby, and Robert M. Fulton.