

SEND US TO FRANCE, ROOSEVELT PLEADS

Laments That America, in Spite of War Declaration, Is Still in "Conversational Stage."

WOULD REMAKE MILITIA

Says Present Regiments Should Be Made Use of as Basis for Volunteer Organization.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt got a tumultuous welcome from a crowd of 10,000 last night when he spoke in Kismet Temple, Brooklyn, and urged that the United States send a force to Europe at once. His plea that he be allowed to do his part was greeted by shouts of "You'll get there, Teddy!" and "We want to see you go!"

The Colonel as usual hit straight out from the shoulder. He blamed no one in particular, he said, for the fact that this country was still in the "conversational stage," although Germany had been in effect at war with us for two years, but, he added, he felt that the time had come when for the honor of the United States, words should be translated into action.

After congratulating Congress for the adoption of the Conscription bill, he said:

"I ask only that I be given the chance to render a service which I know I can render, and nine out of ten of those who oppose my rendering it, do so because they believe that I will render it too well."

"Go to it, Teddy!" yelled a man in the crowd.

"You get me the chance and I will go on to France," the Colonel shot back.

Colonel Roosevelt spoke under the auspices of the County Republican Club for the first time since the 1912 split, and that helped the warmth of his welcome. The meeting was called for 8 o'clock, but at 7:30, a few minutes after the doors were opened, the hall was filled, and the crowds were waiting in lines which stretched for many blocks. The United Boys' Brigade Band played "There'll be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight," reminiscent of the Rough Riders and San Juan Hill.

The Colonel used his carefully prepared speech principally for a weapon with which to drive home his extemporaneous utterances. He told the crowd plainly that he did not think the American people were awake to the situation, and then he summed up some of his ideas in this charge:

"We have failed in time of peace to prepare for war, and for this act of folly both we and our allies will pay before the war is through. Let us at least do the two things we can do. First, let us prepare now, during the war, for the tremendous tasks which will be thrust upon us by the peace which follows war. Next, let us bear ourselves manfully in the war, and pay with our blood for our past folly."

Colonel Roosevelt's Address.

In his prepared address Colonel Roosevelt said:

"During this war we recognize no distinction of party, of section, of creed or of national origin. We are all Americans and nothing else. I speak to you as one American to his fellow Americans. Our whole duty is to serve the country as a whole, and to pay heed only to the way in which we can best render such service.

"In the present crisis, we have a twofold duty; first, immediately to meet, with every instrumentality available, the immediate needs of the war, at the moment; second, permanently to shape our policy not merely in military, but in social and industrial matters, so as to place this Republic on a permanent foundation of justice and strength.

"The first need should be met not only by immediately introducing the principle of obligatory universal military training and service, a beginning toward which has been made by the bill recently enacted, but also by the immediate use of organizations of volunteers who would not be included in the draft, who should at the earliest moment be sent to the theatre of war, in France, or, if necessary, to England, for intensive training.

"The ideal way would be to include in each brigade one regular regiment and two regiments of volunteers of the

type used in the Philippines under the act of March 2, 1899. But in any event, at the very earliest moment we should send at least a division for intensive training in France, with the purpose to put it on the firing line, as it could be put, if we strained every effort to do so, within ninety days. Then let this division be kept to its full strength, and other divisions, as rapidly as possible, be put beside it at the front.

Real War Training Needed.

"Any attempt to keep our men here, and train them for a year before sending them over, would mean that we would rightly awaken the scorn of our allies for the delay, and that the men trained here, and not at the theatre of war, would be imperfectly trained from the standpoint of modern warfare.

"We, of course, ought to have introduced in this country the system of obligatory universal service immediately upon the outbreak of the great war. As we, as a nation, failed to take this step, we should make good our failure in the best way we can, by using every good volunteer organization now. We can raise numbers of regiments, such as those which put down the insurrection in the Philippines, and in three or four months a regiment of this nature can be so trained that it can be employed usefully in the fighting. In addition, great use can be made of the National Guard.

"I have the highest respect and admiration for the officers and men of the National Guard. I myself served for a number of years in the guard, and the service was of great benefit to me. But it is, from every standpoint, a grave mistake to employ a National Guard regiment as an entity in war, and especially so long as it is under dual control, under the control of both State and nation. The duties which, as an entity in its original form, it can best do are those within the State.

"There probably never was a worse blow struck against our military efficiency than the passage of the Hay bill. Very many men in the National Guard who can render the proper State duty have family ties such that it is a cruel injustice to ask them to break up their business and see their families in want by serving under Federal command—and the Federal power should exclusively control all troops called out in war. It is an outrage to demand the services of Guardsmen such as these, and inflict such cruel want on their families, when there are any number of men outside who can render such service without hardship to themselves.

Remake Guard Regiments.

"Moreover, there are many National Guardsmen fitted to do good service in connection with the ordinary National Guard duty who are not fit to render service in a gruelling campaign. The only wise and patriotic course to follow, in connection with the National Guard, is to use each National Guard regiment as a basis and framework for a regiment of United States volunteers. Under these circumstances, all the officers and enlisted men, who are fit to go, or who ought to be asked to go, would be transferred into the new volunteer organization, making a skeletal, or framework organization, which would then be filled out either by the draft, or by volunteering, as necessity might demand. In this manner we would leave in the State those who ought never to be asked to go out of the State, or to perform other than the ordinary State duty, and we would use the men who ought to go to war as a nucleus on which to build a regiment fitted to render the most efficient service in war.

"These are details. The prime need at present is to use every method, so as to send a fighting force, by preference a mixed force of regulars and volunteers, immediately to the front, and to keep it constantly growing in strength, month by month, while here at home we prepare an army which should be at least 3,000,000 strong, an army which can be made growingly effective, if the war lasts one, two, or three years. Let us introduce as our permanent policy the principle of obligatory universal military training and service. In addition put the flag on the firing line at once, and use every instrumentality, including volunteers from the exempted classes, in order to make good our position until the principle of universal obligatory service begins to produce its full effect.