

ROOSEVELT URGES HEAVY WAR TAXES

**Advocates Graduated Impost on
Excess Profits as Large
as Britain Imposes.**

DANGER IN EXCESSIVE LEVY

**Colonel Tells Columbia County Men
America Is Less Formidable
Than Rumania.**

Special to The New York Times.

CHATHAM, N. Y., Sept. 5.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt delivered an address on war issues before an audience of more than 8,000 persons at the Columbia County Fair here today.

The ex-President arrived here at 12:40 P. M., and nearly 100 business men in automobiles escorted him to the home of Louis F. Payn for luncheon. Captain Albert S. Callan, President of the Columbia County Agricultural Society, introduced him at the fair. Lemuel E. Quigg and Mr. Payn occupied seats on the platform. Mr. Roosevelt said in part:

"We are at war. Every man and woman in this nation is, therefore, bound to serve the country in whatever way is necessary. What we and our allies at this time most need is maximum production and quick distribution of food, munitions, clothing—in short, everything. Any such restriction of profits as would reduce production would be a calamity. Moreover, in many of the most important industries labor is the largest element of cost; in view of the high cost of living a reduction in wages would be a calamity; and, therefore, profits must not be kept down so as to injure the ability to pay this rate of wages.

"Again, nothing should be done to upset the general financial situation, for the United States is the last financial reservoir of the world, and it would be a grave calamity to upset the financial situation by upsetting the economic basis of our business. As regards certain necessities of life the Government must certainly prevent owners, and especially speculators, from charging excessively high prices; but it is equally important that the Government should be cautious not to enforce unreasonably low prices, especially as regards what the Government itself uses, and as regards exports.

"Heavily graduated inheritance and income taxes are necessary; they should follow the English and German models. But at present what is most needed is a heavily—a very heavily—graduated tax on the excess profits due to war conditions, a tax as heavy as Great Britain has now imposed. In the purchases made by the Government it ought to pay prices high enough to enable not merely the big manufacturers, but their smaller and less advantageously situated rivals, to secure a generous living profit. This means that the big manufacturers would have excess profits; and the proper way to reach these is by taxing them heavily.

"The war has clearly raised two problems: The problem of the present, which is to help our allies to win this war by endeavoring in every way now to offset the effect of our utter failure to prepare in advance; and the permanent problem, the problem of defense against a future—perhaps a distant, perhaps an immediately impending future—attack upon us when we have no allies; the problem of preparing our strength as a permanent policy so that never again shall we be caught as shamefully unprepared as now, so that never again shall we be forced as at present to owe our safety purely to the valor of our allies and not to our own courage and strength.

"Now and then we read in the papers boastful accounts of how much money we have appropriated, of how many men have been registered for the draft, of what wonderful plans we intend to develop for an airplane fleet, of how many cargo ships and big guns we intend to build. All of this would be excellent if we meant to prepare for a war three years hence; but it is, all of it, every particle of it, just exactly what we ought to have done three years ago, or at the very least two years and a half ago, when the Lusitania was sunk—for we had exactly the same cause for action then that we have now.

"Seven months have passed since the German note of Jan. 31 last, which was in effect a declaration of war. And when you read anything boastful about what we have done during these seven months, remember what our accomplishment—not belated preparation, but actual accomplishment—really is. We have put a few anti-submarine craft into European waters under Admiral Sims; and that is all. We have in training camps in France gallant General Pershing and his fine divisions of infantry, his engineers, and his artillery regiments without guns. We have several hundred thousand National Guardsmen about to begin training in camp; and several hundred thousand drafted men are preparing to go to camp.

"We have not yet been able to put in France any heavy field guns fit to match the German artillery. We have not yet a single airplane fit to send over the German lines. We have not put a single man into the firing line. We have only what is relatively, to the size of the armies engaged, a small body of infantry without artillery who will be fit to go to the firing line in the immediate future. As for the rest, after seven months, this nation of a hundred millions of people, the wealthiest nation in the world, able to work without any danger behind the shield of the British fleet and the French and British Armies, has neither the trained troops nor the guns nor the aircraft to meet even a single small German army if it could get at us. After these seven months we are still nothing like as formidable as Belgium or Rumania.

"Under such conditions boasters would do well to remember the remark of Thangbrand, the priest, about the boastful Icelanders, in the Norse saga:

What's the use
Of all this bragging up and down,
When three women and one goose
Make a market in your town?

"There is but one way thus to prepare and that is by introducing as a permanent policy the policy of universal obligatory military training for all our young men in time of peace, and of universal service in time of war, so that every man and woman in this country shall be fitted in advance to render, and at need required to render, whatever service the nation demands. Then we won't have to begin to train for a fight after the fight has itself begun. The law of service should be the law of life; and in every real democracy universal suffrage will be based on universal service."

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