



Goodwin's Weekly

EDITORIALS

HE superb patriotic spirit manifested by the Latter Day Saints at their semi-annual conclave was more than surprising—it bordered on the sensational. Our churches as a rule are somewhat chary about going on record in support of the country's war policies,

and when they do, they usually confine themselves to the adoption of a stereotyped resolution. The dominant church in this state never does things by halves, however, and the resolution it adopted was of a more substantial order. In proposing that the church invest a quarter of a million dollars of its tithing funds in the Second Liberty Bond issue, the authorities set a splendid example for the laymen to follow. It was to the effect that they had firmly resolved to not only preach patriotism, but to practice it; and it will redound to the everlasting credit of the church that not a single soul dissented when the sustaining motion was put.

This splendid demonstration of allegiance to the country in time of need commends itself to all citizens, regardless of class or creed. It will substantially assist the state to meet its quota of subscriptions to the loan and it will encourage thousands of individuals to make a similar investment in the government securities. But in a larger sense, the moral effect of this action is immeasurable. Its influence will be far reaching and should forever silence the vicious tongues of Utah's traducers. Since the war began, the good people of the state have shown their true spirit time and again. We have long looked for the day when Utah would come out of the crucible, chastened in a common sacrifice and glorified in the splendor of her own achievements. That day has come and all loyal Utahns now find comfort in the contemplation of the manifest destiny of their incomparable commonwealth.

* * * *

UTAH TO THE FRONT.

SILENCE is sometimes eloquent. It was never more so than when the boys of the Utah Light Artillery marched through the streets on their way to entrain for the first lap on the long journey to the battle-front in France. To witness their departure was to experience a strange admixture of emotions. The solemnity of the occasion was impressive. There might have been more cheering had the serious-thinking citizens not been so occupied in choking back their sobs. Even the boys, themselves, seemed to be marching in double-quick time, as though they desired to get the affair over with as soon as possible. They must have known that in their wake they were leaving a trail of heartaches. So it was that tears took the place of cheers and the departure of the battery was all the more impressive because of the heavy silence that hung over the thousands along the line of march.

There is no need of assuring the boys that our cheers were reserved for the day—God speed it—when they will come marching home again, glorified by deeds of daring and devotion to the cause that their country champions. They looked fit to carry the colors wherever duty calls and our faith in them is supreme. Utah has a well-established reputation for furnishing first class fighting men; the artillery is well officered by men who command the confidence of the civilians, as well as the soldiers; and they will surely live up to our high expectations and make a record that will glorify the name of Utah for all time. We are proud of them; we have pinned our faith to them; and our united prayers will follow the boys of the battery the world around.

A BRITISHER'S VIEW POINT.

Lord NORTHCLIFFE has been somewhat of a disappointment to us, ever since his arrival in this country in the role of England's emissary extraordinary. After his splendid achievement in upsetting the ultra-conventional customs of the Empire, and in arousing every Englishman to a full sense of his duty, it was only natural that we should expect big things of the intrepid Britisher when he landed on American soil. So far, however, he has fallen far short of our expectations.

It was generally supposed that Northcliffe came here to give us the benefit of the observations he had made and the experience he had gained first hand in the actual prosecution of the war. The assumption was that he was to assist us in waging the war, but thus far his chief efforts seem to have been devoted to telling us why we are in the war. In a recent utterance, published in a current magazine, his lordship takes plain issue with President Wilson and scoffs at the idea that we have gone to war to "make the world safe for democracy." The Britisher is of the opinion that, if this were our sole reason for engaging in the awful conflict, we would have promptly followed England's suit and declared war against Germany at least three years ago.

Moreover, he ventures to infer that we are not altogether honest in our attitude; that our declarations are more or less hypocritical; and that the real reason we have gone to war is to save our own hides. That ought to make interesting reading in England, and it may be fairly well grounded on facts, at that; but serious-minded Americans do not relish the idea of being reminded that their only reason for waging war is based on a selfish premise. Such a reminder does no one any good and simply tends to rub the fur the wrong way.

This is no time to split hairs over such a silly subject. We are surprised that one so adroit as Lord Northcliffe has demonstrated himself to be on more than one occasion, should so far forget himself as to raise an issue of this sort. Whatever our reason for going to war, the fact remains that we are now in it up to our ears and propose to see it through. And the celebrated Britisher, in company with all his countrymen, should find some satisfaction in the thought that we cannot, by force of circumstances, accomplish this selfish object without rendering them substantial assistance in a similar enterprise.

This war has developed into a community affair. There is much that we can do for England, and there is much that England has already done, and will no doubt continue to do for us. Hence, as a mere matter of reciprocity, each country is entitled to its own opinion as to why it is waging war, and it would seem that the other is in honor bound to respect such opinion. As we view it, Lord Northcliffe owes President Wilson and the American people an apology.

* * * *

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

SECRETARY LANE made a splendid impression during his visit with us last week. Unlike most of the present day dignitaries, his casual manner and old-fashioned attributes would seem at first blush to make him as common as an old shoe. But there is something about the man that appeals to one's better self. He attracts men to him as if by natural impulse and his kindly counsels carry strong conviction. To meet him is to feel that one is standing in the presence of a real American—one whose qualities combine a rare mixture of sentiment and sound sense—who still holds true to the traditions of the Republic. It is a real privilege to come in contact with such a man and we can readily understand why President Wilson has re-