

# Winnetka Weekly Talk

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1918

## The Peace Preliminary

There are certain things that suggest themselves from the purposed visit of President Wilson to Europe to be present at the preliminary and opening meetings of the peace conference, particularly the suggestion that the important features of the peace treaty are not to be the subject of discussion in the large convention that will meet within a few weeks to adopt the terms of peace. We suspect that the essential parts of the peace terms will be arranged at the preliminary meeting of a few chosen delegates and that it will remain only for the larger gathering to ratify and adopt, with, perhaps, here and there minor changes in details conceded but with no variation from the essentials of the draft made at the preliminary meetings.

We cannot imagine that President Wilson can think that the government of the United States at a time such as this can function properly without its executive head. There is nothing in our Constitution or in precedent to authorize the transference of the President's power to any other individual. It is inconceivable that there should be a long period of time in which legislation shall stop, Congress held impotent because of the absence of the President, that the important work of guiding the nation through the difficult task of the reconstruction of our whole social and economic organization be kept waiting upon the return of the head of the government. An absence of a few weeks would be of little use to the President for attendance upon the peace conference. It will be a slow moving body, with a multitude of intricate and difficult matters to adjust. The United States must be represented in these by competent and responsible men, but the welfare of the nation can scarcely be served by sacrificing the President from his important duties at home for service upon a commission to which other governments have found trusted and trustworthy plenipotentiaries.

There is, then, the one interpretation to be put upon the departure of the President for Europe, the purpose to arrange in a small circle of diplomats the terms that shall be imposed upon Germany, to decide upon the disposition that is to be made of territory that will change hands as a result of the war, to determine upon indemnities, and the financial questions that must be settled, all before the formal opening of the conference at which the delegates from all the nations involved in the making of peace shall appear.

It is the method of the political convention carried over into the settlement of international political problems.

## The Peace Conference Where The Royalty Once Played

It is interesting and a little significant that the peace conference that is to end the war for democracy will, in all probability, be held in Versailles, the scene of the playground of the last of the French queens, the relic of the days before France had found the strength to rise and throw off the burden of the government under which it suffered.

Within a few weeks representatives from all the governments concerned will gather almost within

sight of the toy village where the pleasure loving Marie Antoinette played at the simple life, there to formulate the treaty that shall protect all Europe from oppression at the hand of a king.

The ill-fated Louis and his unhappy queen inherited the conditions by which they were overthrown. Theirs was not the guilt for the suffering that engulfed France in blood. Not so with the fleeing kings of today who are paying the price of oppression, except the Austrian ruler who came into power at a time when no other course was open to him. But William II. of Germany has deliberately built up the condition to which he himself has fallen victim and he will not have the sympathy of the world of the future as has the sixteenth Louis.

History has shown that a lasting dynasty cannot be built upon the oppression of mankind. The war which has just come to a conclusion has set the final proof to that fact. It is a lesson for rulers to ponder and to accept. The day of the autocrat has passed and the rights of man must now be recognized as the only firm foundation upon which a government may be established.

## Bread

The Food Administration announces that the ban upon white flour has been lifted and again the American people may indulge themselves in the snowy loaf that, in the good days before the war, constituted almost our only bread.

During the years that the wheat substitute has been a necessary part of the food of the nation we have learned to use a variety of other sorts of flour and meal. Many people have discovered that they enjoy the substitute breads more than that made of the highly refined wheat flour. Most of us have found that we have improved in health, have

developed a more efficiently operating digestive machinery, and many of us will find that a return to a diet in which white bread figures three times daily will be distasteful.

Health experts have for a long time been agreed that the American people were losing a very valuable nutrient in discarding the coarser grains and the outer covering of the wheat. The necessities of war have largely corrected that deficiency in our diet. It is a good result that we should seek to keep after conditions become such that individual choice and the ability to buy materials constitute the only restrictions upon the diet of those who are in good health.

## Demobilisation Must Be Slow

One does not have to be an independent thinker to realize the industrial necessity for a slow demobilization of troops abroad and in the training camps at home. Any flooding of the labor market just at the beginning of winter when war activities are being abandoned and the old peace industries have not been re-established would be a tragedy which we cannot risk. There must be time and provision for the absorption of the men of the fighting forces into the industrial and commercial life of the nation before men are released in great numbers to seek employment that will not be to be found.

It is natural enough that individuals should be impatient for the return of their men. It is natural enough that the men should be eager for the order that will mean the start for home. But in neither case would a precipitate return of the men contribute to happiness. We must wait for a gradual demobilization that will avoid the catastrophe that might so easily disorganize our industrial system and bring untold hardship and suffering to civilian and military as well.

# War Emergency Union Activities

## Lieutenant Roswell Hayes Fuller Missing

Much anxiety is felt in Winnetka over the fate of Lieutenant Roswell Hayes Fuller, son of Mrs. Frank R. Fuller, 362 Hawthorne lane. There has been no official word concerning him except that he is reported missing since September 29, when he was last seen flying far over the German lines in pursuit of a Boche plane, which succeeded in bringing down. Since then nothing has been seen or heard of him.

Roswell Fuller was a senior at Yale at the time he enlisted in the aviation corps in April 1917. He received ground training at Champaign and his flying training at the Wilbur Wright flying field at Dayton. From there he was sent to England and for the first two months was adjutant of the fourth wing of the provisional army. He was then sent to France where he was for six months an instructor in acrobatic flying at Issoudun. In July he was sent to the front, and has seen active fighting ever since. He has been overseas a year.

Lieutenant Fuller is a grandson of O. F. Fuller, founder and president of the Fuller, Morrison company. He is a grandson of the late S. S. Hayes, friend of President Lincoln and one of the early leaders of Illinois. He is one of Winnetka's most beloved boys and Winnetka is eagerly awaiting further news concerning him.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson has written a letter to an acquaintance which reads that "the tragedy your friend is bearing went straight to my heart. Please say to her for the President and me how our hearts go out to her and how much we hope her splendid courage and strength will not fail."

## Soldiers' Christmas Boxes

The time for mailing Christmas packages to soldiers of the A. E. F. has been extended ten days, to November 30. This does not mean, however, that persons who now have labels should leave their packages until the last moment. Boxes should be mailed as soon as possible.

In case the nearest relative of a soldier does not receive the Christmas label before the final mailing date, application may be made to the Red Cross authority to send the regulation package without it. Proof must be offered that the person making the application is the nearest relative, and a pledge must be signed that no other package has been or will be sent. Consult Mrs. Hammond, chairman of Christmas boxes, at the Parish house, corner Oak and Linden,

Private George R. Kelley, Battery F, Three Hundred and Forty-second Artillery was reported in this week's casualty lists as having died of pneumonia in a French army hospital.

Private Kelley was well known among the younger people of the Village. He formerly lived at 112 Church road. He enlisted early in the war.

## WAR PERSONALS

William E. Corvinus, with the Canadian Forces overseas, has been wounded and is recovering in a hospital in Ireland.

Edward J. Keil, who was assigned to the Marine Barracks at Paris Island, has been transferred overseas.

Sergeants Francis W. and Charles C. Mason, who are in the Automotive and Mechanical Section, American Red Cross, are now overseas. Sergeant Francis Mason has been made Liaison officer of his unit, and has been given stripes, which designate him as interpreter of his group.

George W. Peterson of the Automotive and Mechanical Section, American Red Cross, is at Camp King, Sound Beach, Conn.

Lieutenant Frank G. Farmer of the Medical Officers' Reserve Corps of the U. S. A. is in the transport service at sea. He has charge of his ship's hospital.

First Lieutenant Kenneth Layman, formerly of the Headquarters company, 81st Division, overseas, has recently won his commission as Captain of Infantry, 81st Division.

Major Hoyt McClain is now Storage officer of the 7th zone, located in Chicago.

Frank V. Herdman has been made an Ensign, and is stationed at the Reserve Officers' quarters, U. S. naval academy, Annapolis.

Miss Margaret Herdman is now in Washington in government work which includes filing records of Alien property.

Second Lieutenant Wilberforce Taylor is now at Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, Fla.

Joseph La Rose, who enlisted with the Canadian forces, has been wounded, and, having received an honorable discharge, is now with his family in Zion City.

## The Realization of Democracy

Things look rather dark in Europe for an early establishment of stable governments over the people who will begin a regime of democracy as a result of the war, but it is comforting to look into the history of other people for parallel conditions and to see how well they realized the ideals which were far from the issues of the upheaval that opened the way for them. It took France, for instance, two generations to perfect the republic that exists today with two revolutions. But there is no more democratic, liberty-loving people in the world today than the French.

How long it will take Russia to arrive at a state of ordered government one can only guess. Her way may be a more terrible one than that by which France has reached her present state, but the elements are there and we may be sure that Russia

has started upon the route to Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, and that she will keep going until she arrives, however long it takes.

We may expect, too, some uphill traveling for the tangled nations which will constitute the new Slav states and those peoples of the Balkans who are not Slavic, and, it may even be, in the new Poland that will arise out of the war there will be unrest and confusion in spite of the high quality of the patriotism, loyalty, and nationalism of the Polish people. Great changes are not likely to come without great struggles and time is required to readjust the many conflicting interests that arise out of tumult and turmoil.

A generation, two generations, perhaps three, will pass over Europe before there is the smooth running machinery of nations firmly rooted. How many will depend mainly upon what educational facilities are provided for the children of today.

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