

NATION'S JOB NOW TO AID SOLDIERS

Colonel Roosevelt Says Country Is United in Demanding Dictated Peace.

PRAISES WAR CAMP WORK

League for Woman's Service Starts \$200,000 Drive as Miss Wetmore Calls on All to Serve.

The National League for Woman's Service began a drive for \$200,000 to enable it to continue its war activities last night with a "victory-of-arms-only" dinner at the Hotel Biltmore. Miss Maude Wetmore of Rhode Island presided, taking the place of James M. Beck, who was unable to be present. More than 500 members of the league and their guests attended the dinner. Besides Miss Wetmore, the speakers were Colonel Roosevelt and Lieut. Col. Frank S. Evans, D. S. O., of the British Military Mission to the United States.

Colonel Roosevelt, contrary to his usual custom, spoke without notes, and his speech was largely laudatory of the war work of women's organizations like the National League for Woman's Service.

In introducing the Colonel, Miss Wetmore made a short speech which was punctuated by the diners with applause and laughter.

"I hold that, from this time on in this country," said Miss Wetmore, "citizenship should be conditional on service, and not on sex. I wouldn't let any man vote who was not eager and willing to serve his country in peace or war. [Applause.] And I'd let every woman vote who was willing. [Laughter and applause.]

"That is, I would exclude both the boy who was not raised to be a soldier and the woman who raised him not to be a soldier. [Laughter.] And I am not at all sure that I am speaking of an impossible idea. I earnestly hope that the day will come when we will tell the conscientious objector to rendering service to his country that we won't interfere with his conscience, but that he has got to go and exercise it somewhere outside the country. [Laughter.] If his conscience makes him act like a tom-fool, he can't do it here."

With this, Miss Wetmore presented to the diners Colonel Roosevelt.

Colonel Praises War Work.

"You have avoided," said the Colonel in addressing the league, "the ever-present danger in any organization of this kind to try to revolve in an orbit of its own. You have made your choice between the shell and the kernel. You have taken the kernel of service, and let the shell of credit be taken by whoever wished to have it. Whatever agency has developed any special activity to that you have been entirely willing to turn over work—to the Red Cross, to any branch of the Government itself, to the Department of Labor, to the Department of Agriculture, or whatever it was, caring nothing except but for the fact that you had done a definite piece of work, that you had done a job worth doing.

"My own knowledge of your work has been especially in connection with the War Camp Community Service," Colonel Roosevelt continued. "I grew interested in the War Camp Community Service from having myself seen the admirable nature of its activities in certain camps here and in the West.

"War, at the present day, is, I think, more terrible than it has ever been in the past, and at the same time, more is done to help the soldier who fights than has ever been the case in the past. The fighting man, the men on the other side, our sons and our brothers, have to go against every species of death by torture which the minds of man can imagine. I believe they suffer a greater risk than ever was endured in a similar space of time by any soldiers before.

Nation's Job to Aid Soldiers.

"It would be incredible, were such the case, if we who stay behind didn't do everything in our power for them and that is just what you are doing. And that is what such an organization as the War Camp Community Service renders by giving the men the chance to have decent enjoyment, recreation that is wholesome, the pleasure that isn't merely pleasure because it is indispensable to their fitness. You can't expect the soldier to do the best work if he doesn't get the kind of a chance for the relief from that work which means the tearing him up to the dot when he goes back.

"This is the nation's war, the whole people's war. If democracy is to have any permanent place in this world, in the face of autocracy and despotism, it must be by efficiency in doing the work of peace or of war that is necessary for the nation to do. Fourth of July speeches won't save us. We shall be saved, as a nation, only if we are able to do the job necessary for a free people to do.

"Did I say 'loving the job'? I should have said 'helping to do it,' for the real job is being done by the fighting men at the front. [Applause.] Nothing irritates me more than a type of placard which reads that 'food will win the war,' or something like that will win the war. This war will be won by one thing, and that is by the fighting capacity of the men at the front. But they cannot show their fighting capacity if the nation is not organized behind them.

Calls for Dictated Peace.

"The quicker we organize the woman power of this country, the quicker the man power of our fighting armies will bring Germany to her knees. The kind of peace I want is the peace we dictate to and impose on Germany. [Great applause.] As for a conference with Germany, Austria and Turkey, I would as soon advocate a conference between a criminal and a judge as to the sentence the judge should impose on the criminal. [Laughter.] We can get that dictated peace, that peace which will assure us against having to fight the war all over again in another decade, speedily and with a minimum of bloodshed, only if we organize all our strength in this country.

"If we only keep our eyes on the Bolshevik failure, we shall fail as badly as they have. We have, in this country, got to steer clear of the Romanoff failure just as much as we have got to steer clear of the Bolshevik failure. We have got to show the capacity of self-restraint here, the capacity of wise progress, and we must have the wisdom to refuse recognition to an unwise movement that was never heard of before."

Lieut. Col. Evans followed Colonel Roosevelt, and when he concluded the dinner was over. The drive will be under the direction of Mrs. Elizabeth Rudyard Currier, and forty-one teams will work under her direction. Each team will be made up of a Captain and five workers, and funds will be solicited throughout the city. The progress of the drive will be reported each day at luncheon at the Biltmore, where drive headquarters has been established.