

# PASTORS CHEER T. R. FOR WILSON ATTACK

## Colonel Addresses Plea for Preparedness to Methodist Social Union.

### SCORN FOR THE PACIFISTS

#### Arraigns the President for Attitude Toward Germany, Mexico, and Preparedness.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt was cordially received last night at the annual dinner of the Methodist Social Union at the Hotel Biltmore. His address, principally an attack upon the Wilson Administration's attitude toward Germany and Mexico, was applauded, and he was several times forced to wait until quiet was restored.

The Colonel arrived at 10 o'clock, and the 600 men and women rose and applauded while he walked the length of the room to the speaker's table.

Then, as the orchestra played the national anthem, a man in the centre of the room jumped upon a chair, waved a napkin, and shouted: "Three cheers for the next President of the United States!"

Scores of men and women climbed upon their chairs to get a better look at the Colonel.

Mr. Roosevelt delivered all the speech which he had prepared and made many insertions, most of them caustic remarks about Wilson's policies.

There were a number of the Colonel's old-time political supporters at the dinner, but hardly enough to make it a "family affair," as one man was heard to refer to it.

Before the Colonel arrived his friend W. H. Van Benschoten, who was of counsel for Roosevelt in the Barnes libel suit in Syracuse, was elected President. Right after that Walter R. Comfort, the retiring President, read a brief address laudatory of the Colonel, which paved the way for the demonstration which followed.

#### Starts Presidential Campaign.

"We loathe peace with dishonor," was one remark by Mr. Comfort that was cheered. At another point, referring to Colonel Roosevelt, he said: "He made our flag to be respected throughout all the earth. Under his rule every American citizen was respected in every land on the globe and on every sea." Men and women joined in the cheers that followed.

Colonel Roosevelt had been asked to talk on "The Methodist Pioneers," and he mentioned the pioneers, but his address was the opening gun of his campaign, which his adherents believe will bring him the Republican nomination.

Mr. Comfort had referred to General Grant as a man who had a sincere love for peace, but was not afraid to fight for right.

"I was glad to hear that reference to General Grant by your President," the Colonel exclaimed, following up that line. "General Grant set an example we all might well follow in our international relations. He never said anything he didn't mean. He never hit if he could possibly avoid it; but when he hit he never hit soft."

"Remember," added the Colonel, when the applause ended, "nobody is grateful if you hit him, but he is no more grateful if you hit him soft. He is just as ungrateful after being hit soft, only he is more dangerous."

Again there was much applause, and the Colonel did not let the opportunity slip by.

"Don't use language you don't mean," he said, "and don't use language unless you are getting ready to back it up. But make the other fellow understand that if he forces you he has a scrap coming."

The Colonel jibed at Bryan in some information he imparted about the war of 1812, which he said he would like to see in the schoolbooks, but which he never expected to get there. Prior to the war of 1812, he said, a man had said something like the Bryan utterance that "a million men would spring to arms between sunrise and sunset." It was "The freemen will rise and conquer Canada."

"Four thousand of them did," the Colonel said, "and 1,000 of them went into Canada. Then they were captured. The other 3,000 held a meeting and decided that it was unconstitutional for them to leave the borders of their State. Now these men were not cowards, for later they did splendid service. They were untrained. But it is a lesson we can all afford to learn."

#### Hit at Hyphenates Cheered.

"We must set our faces like flint against the hyphenated American in any form" was another remark which started cheering. The Colonel enlarged upon the idea and repeated that if war should come he would go, and his four sons would go. He added this new line: "If you think I shall be glad to go you are in error, and every father here knows how I will feel with my four sons at war and possibly among those to

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suffer death because of our folly in failing to prepare.

"The trouble is, and I am speaking for all of us now, we have been afraid to look unpleasant things in the face. And if there is war, as a result of our folly in not being prepared we shall lose ten lives where we should have lost but one if our men were trained and armed."

At the conclusion of his address the Colonel explained that he had had an argument with his doctor who said he must not deliver the address because of his health. He was determined to make the address, so they arrived at a compromise, he promising to leave as soon as he concluded. Most of the diners left with him and the other speakers were forgotten in the scramble to get another glimpse of the Colonel as he left the room.

## Mr. Roosevelt's Address.

Mr. Roosevelt said in part:

I accepted gladly the invitation to address this body on the subject of the old frontier pioneer Methodist preachers; for those old Methodist circuit-riders who spread Methodism west of the Alleghanies typified to a peculiar degree what we like to regard as essential in the American spirit. It is of little use to praise the men of the past or to commemorate their services by mere speech making. We must apply the lessons of their lives to us in the present. If we do not ourselves try to act in the spirit in which they acted, if we merely indulge our emotions without resultant action, we do harm rather than good. It is still worse if we misread and misapply the teachings of their lives; and it is worst of all if we misuse good words to cloak and falsify weak and dishonorable deeds.

It has been a matter of grave concern to see of recent years so many clergymen, amiable and well-meaning men, misled into a movement to deaden the national conscience and dim the national ideal by putting the Church in the position of favoring peace beyond righteousness. If these old Methodist circuit-riders had considered peace the chief of all earthly goods they would never have gone west of the Alleghanies. If Peter Cartwright and his fellows had feared to face trouble, if their zeal for the faith had been less than their dread of disturbance, there would not have been a single Methodist church west of the Alleghanies.

## First Kept the Faith.

They believed in keeping the peace. But they believed even more in keeping the faith. They strove for the peace that comes through righteousness. They were not only good Methodists, good Christians, but they were sound, stalwart American patriots. They knew that there is a peace which is the peace of cowardice; and that the peace of cowardice becomes in the end the peace of death. They knew that the peace which comes through the abandonment of duty, through the shrinking back when the forces of evil advance, through putting ease and material well-being and soft sentimentality above stern devotion to unpleasant duty may mean and in all probability will mean the loss of everything that makes life livable to honorable men and upright women.

I have a right to speak to you for peace. I was President seven and a half years. This nation during all that time never for one moment permitted any power to wrong this country or to wrong Americans either in their person or property or to make us recreant to our duty to others; and yet during these seven and a half years not one shot was fired by any man in American uniform against any foreign foe and not one American man, woman, or child was slain by representatives of any foreign nation.

## Lincoln a Man of Peace.

The Tories of the revolution included all the professional pacifists of the day. No more ardent lover of peace ever lived than Abraham Lincoln, but when he was obliged to choose between righteousness and peace he chose righteousness; and we of today enjoy peace precisely and exactly because he then dared to choose righteousness. It was the Copperheads of the civil war who preached the kind of peace which for several years past it has been fashionable to preach, and if the praters of peace of that day had had their way they would have purchased peace for themselves at the moment at the cost of intolerable humiliation and repeated wars for their children and children's children.

Scripture says that when a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are at peace. Let this nation take that lesson to heart. Let us be wary of making promises so that we shall make only promises which it is right and proper and possible for us to fulfill; but when we make promises of this nature let us keep them loyally. We can play the greatest part on behalf of peace that any nation has ever yet played. We can play it not by treading in the footsteps of China, not by showing that we have lost the iron that was in the blood of our fathers, not by permitting America to become a jangling knoll of old-world nationalities where the descendants of the old stock are too feeble either to stand up for themselves or for any one else.

## No Place for Hyphenates.

We must set our faces like flint against the hyphenated American in all his forms, against the men who would seek to manage our political life in accordance with the real or fancied interests of the several countries from which they or their forefathers came.

We must perform our international duties ungrudgingly and fully in the spirit no less than in the letter. Finally, we must scorn to wrong the weak and we must sternly refuse to submit to wrong by the strong.

This means that our lives must not be primarily devoted to the greedy achievement of purely material well-being and of ease and self-indulgence; it means that we must not surrender our souls to the guidance of that species of sentimentality which eats like an acid into the rugged strength of character; it means that with toll and forethought and self-sacrifice we must prepare this nation, in things industrial, things social, and things military, in the body, in the mind, and above all in the soul, so that in the mighty days it may stand equal to the mighty days.

Now, friends, the foregoing statement is what I wrote over a fortnight ago, before affairs with Germany and Mexico assumed their present acute phase.

## Unfitted Even for a Little War.

We are at the moment engaged in a little war in Mexico, a futile little war which may at any time burst out into a general blaze, which cannot possibly result in any real settlement of the situation. We are so engaged because our nation failed to do its duty from the outset in Mexican matters, failed repeatedly and continuously.

Nearly a hundred Americans, some

of them women and children, some of them soldiers of the United States, were killed or wounded on American soil by Mexicans on different occasions before the raid at Columbus took place. If, the very first time such an incident occurred, we had acted with instant decision and crossed the border, not within two or three days but thirty minutes afterward, had inflicted immediate punishment on the offenders, punishment of a kind which would have shown the extreme un wisdom of repeating the offense, there would never have been a repetition of the offense. Certain foolish pacifists at home would undoubtedly have been lackadaisical over the action, but it would have saved hundreds of lives.

At the time that we favored Villa we permitted the export of arms and munitions to him; and these arms and munitions have been used to kill our own people. Then, when we preferred the Carranzistas against Villa, we did the same thing with them, and within five last few weeks at times the Carranzistas, who were our nominal allies, joined with the Villistas in attacks upon our men, which cost the loss of gallant lives wearing the uniform of the United States.

And after years of these experiences in Mexico and repeated killings of our own people in our own territory along the border, our unpreparedness is such that this mighty nation has not been able to grapple efficiently with the situation created by the raid of a bandit chief who had been beaten by his fellow-bandit chiefs when they quarreled among themselves.

## Force of Quick Action.

Immediate action at the outset and preparation would in all human probability have averted trouble. In any event such action and such preparation could not possibly have produced more trouble than has been produced in Mexico by the policy this nation has actually pursued.

So it is as regards Germany. Fourteen months have gone by since as a nation we informed Germany that we would hold her to a "strict accountability" if she did what she said she would do as regards submarine warfare. Germany did not believe that we meant what we said and for fourteen months our action showed that we did not mean what we said and strict accountability turned into fourteen months of conversation on our part.

When we made that declaration we should have understood exactly what it meant and the obligation it imposed upon us. It was a declaration so serious that mere severance of diplomatic relations would have hardly made it good, and, of course, it could only be justified by immediate and thoroughgoing preparedness on our part.

Yet for fourteen months after making that declaration and with, during those fourteen months, outrage after outrage committed against us, of which the outrage as regards the Lusitania was merely the most conspicuous, we have not prepared in any shape or way to make good our words.

And now we find that the lack of preparedness, the lack of decision and fortitude on our part, have resulted, not, as our pacifist friends insisted, in increasing the likelihood of peace, but in bringing us to the verge of the gravest possible crisis.

If fourteen months ago it had been evident that we were preparing to assert our rights against wrongdoing from any source, that we were taking both these rights and our duties seriously, the result would have been, not as the pacifists would have had us believe, danger of war; it would have meant a guaranty of peace be-

cause it would have meant a guaranty that none of the things that have brought us within reasonable distance of war would have occurred. We would have saved our self-respect; we would have served humanity; we would have rendered war much less likely instead of more likely, and we would have put ourselves in shape so that if the war had to come it would come on terms consonant with national safety and national honor.

Before Mr. Roosevelt arrived at the dinner a newspaper man, who had frequently been mistaken for the Colonel, walked down the room to the press table. The diners were on their feet cheering and it was several seconds before the error was known. Then there was much laughter.

Among those at the speakers' table were the Rev. Allan MacRossie, A. J. Wallace, former Lieutenant Governor of California, whose topic was "Methodism in the Far West"; Bishop Wilson S. Lewis of China, Bishop W. O. Shepard, Bishop W. P. Thirkield, and Norman W. Rowell. The diners included Mr. and Mrs. William Loeb, Mr. and Mrs. Horace S. Wilkinson, F. J. H. Kracke, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Richard Derby, and William L. Ransom.

Mr. Roosevelt will leave at 2.45 o'clock this afternoon for Chicago, where he will deliver his second address in his campaign before the Illinois Bar Association on Saturday night. He will return to Oyster Bay on Monday.