

# AMERICA

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## Chronicle

**The War.**—Under the pretext that the Germans were giving aid to the Bolsheviki and Bolshevik elements in Polish districts, the Poles during the week marched into *Military Movements*, German territory near Posen. If

*Dec. 30, p.m.-Jan. 6, a.m.* rather obscure reports can be believed, the invaders captured the railway junction of Nakel, west of Bromberg, in Posen, and threatened Schneidemuhl and Beutscher, and Kosten in Southern Posen, while further north they are reported to have taken Moglino and Znin. But representatives of the Polish National Committee in Washington notified the State Department that they did not take seriously all these rumors and especially that they discredited the report that a Polish army was marching on Berlin. They stated that the Poles had trouble enough in the region of Vilna in warding off the threatened Bolshevik attack there and that moreover the army said to be advancing against the German capital was totally inadequate for such a purpose. American troops fighting desperately near Kadish on the Dvina front drove back Bolshevik forces which had advanced there. In the Onega sector American units coming along the Petrograd road also forced the enemy back. Riga is said to be in the hands of Lithuanian troops.

President Wilson's itinerary last week included Manchester, Paris, Turin, Rome, Genoa, Milan, whence he returned to the French capital. In Manchester Mr. Wilson was presented with the freedom of the city. In his address in reply to the speech of the Lord Mayor, he again outlined some of the ideals and principles for which he had come to Europe, saying among other things:

You know that heretofore the world has been governed, or at any rate the attempt has been made to govern it, by partnerships of interest, and that they have broken down. Interest does not bind men together. Interest separates men. For, the moment there is the slightest departure from the nice adjustment of interests, then jealousies begin to spring up. There is only one thing that can bind peoples together, and that is common devotion to right. Ever since the history of liberty began, men have talked about their rights, and it has taken several hundred years to make them perceive that the principal condition of right is duty, and that unless a man performs his full duty he is entitled to no right. It is a fine co-relation of the influence of duty that right is the equipoise and balance of society. And so, when we analyze the present situation and the future that we now have to mold and control, it seems to me there is no other

thought than that that can guide us. You know that the United States has always felt from the very beginning of her story that she must keep herself separate from any kind of connection with European politics. I want to say very frankly to you that she is not now interested in European politics, but she is interested in the partnership of right between America and Europe. If the future had nothing for us but a new attempt to keep the world at a right poise by a balance of power the United States would take no interest, because she will join no combination of power which is not a combination of all of us. She is not interested merely in the peace of Europe, but in the peace of the world.

Therefore it seems to me that in the settlement which is just ahead of us something more delicate and difficult than was ever attempted before has to be accomplished—a genuine concert of mind and of purpose. But, while it is difficult, there is an element present that makes it easy. Never before in the history of the world, I believe, has there been such a keen international consciousness as there is now. There is a great voice of humanity abroad in the world just now which he who cannot hear is deaf. There is a great compulsion of the common conscience now in existence which if any statesman resist, will gain for him the most unenviable eminence in history. We are not obeying the mandate of parties or of politics. We are obeying the mandate of humanity.

On his trip from France to Italy and everywhere throughout the trans-Alpine journey, the President was welcomed with perhaps even greater enthusiasm than either in England and France. On his arrival in Rome on the morning of January 3, he and Mrs. Wilson were received at the station by King Victor Emmanuel and Queen Helena, by members of the Government and representatives of the local authorities. The program of the first day's visit included a luncheon with the Queen Mother Margherita, a reception by the Parliament and a state dinner with the King. In the evening the citizenship of Rome was conferred upon the American Executive.

In his address to the President at the state banquet the King mentioned the common ideals of the American Executive and of the Italian people in the following words:

*Victor Emmanuel's Speech* The best traditions of Italian culture, the liveliest currents of our national thoughts, have constantly aimed at the same ideal goal—toward the establishment of the international peace for which you have with tenacious faith stood. . . .

When Italy entered into the war, a breath, a precursor of the American soul, penetrated into the rank and file of our army

through the means of our workers who returned to the fatherland from America and brought into Italy an echo of their second patria. So, correspondingly, the Italian soul vibrated in the hearts of our emigrants enrolled under your banners when the American nation under your guidance threw itself into the fight against the common enemy.

It was natural that your visit, awaited with a most earnest desire, should now give form to an expression almost tangible, to this fervid agreement of spirits, to this happy communion of intentions and of ideals, forming themselves between the two peoples, and which are employed in a union always more intimate and a cooperation always more cordial in the face of the grave duties imposed by the common victory. Italy, having now gathered to her own bosom those brothers so long sorrowing under foreign oppression, and having reconquered the confines which alone can give her security and true independence, is preparing herself to cooperate with you in the most cordial manner to reach the most practical means for drawing into a single circle the civilized nations, for the purpose of creating in the supreme form of a League of Nations the conditions most fitting to safeguard and protect each one's rights. Italy and America entered together into the war through a rare act of will. . . . They entered into war to conquer the powers of war. Their accomplishment is still unfinished, and the common work must still be developed with firm faith and with tenacious constancy for the purpose of affecting the security of peace.

In his reply Mr. Wilson paid a heartfelt tribute to the Italians in the United States as well as to all their gallant countrymen who in the motherland both at home and in the ranks of the Italian armies did so much and suffered so patiently for the cause for which the war was fought.

*The Pope and the President*

On January 4 Mr. Wilson called upon his Holiness Pope Benedict XV. The President drove from the residence of the American Ambassador to the Vatican. Here he was received with military honors by the Swiss Guard, then met by the Pontifical court, headed by the Major-domo, Mgr. Tacci, who escorted him to Mgr. Canati, Secretary of the Congregation of Ceremonials. Mgr. Canati extended to him a formal welcome in the name of the Holy Father. With Mgr. Canati and his attendant officials Mr. Wilson was then led to the Clementine Hall, where military honors were again paid to him. The President's arrival was announced by the Master of the Chamber to the Pope, who awaited Mr. Wilson in the Throne Room. The President was admitted immediately to the presence of the Holy Father, who welcomed him most cordially. They spent about a half hour together. It is not, of course, officially known what were the subjects which they discussed. As a testimonial of his high regard for Mr. Wilson the Holy Father presented him with a splendid copy in mosaic of one of the masterpieces of Guido Reni, while the Secretary of State, Cardinal Gasparri, offered him two sumptuously printed and bound copies of the New Canon Law, one for the President personally, the other for the University of Princeton.

*Mr. Wilson and M. Clemenceau*

It became evident from the speeches made during the week by the President and M. Clemenceau, respectively, that the President and the French Premier

seem to be at quite opposite poles of thought on the question of making the peace permanent by some form of combination or league of nations. From Mr. Wilson's utterances of the last two weeks, which confirm his previous views, it is evident that he stands for a "concert of power," and that he is opposed to what was formerly called the "balance of power." This view he clearly stated in his Manchester Guildhall speech.

In a speech on New Year's Eve in the French Chamber of Deputies, M. Clemenceau declared for the "balance of power." Replying to the objection brought against him that he had deceived the President, the Premier stated that he had been satisfied with allowing the President to present his views, and quoted him as saying, "I shall try to convince you, but perhaps you will convince me." The next day Mr. Wilson answered the French Premier in his Manchester speech, in which he declared that the United States is not interested in European politics as such, nor 'merely in the peace of Europe, but the peace of the world." After the debate which followed the Premier's declaration, the Chamber gave him a vote of confidence of 380 to 134.

**Alsace.**—Both in France and Alsace, there is a great deal of anxiety over the question of religious liberty in Alsace under the new conditions. For three centuries,

*Religious Liberty* in spite of many vicissitudes and many changes, the people of Alsace, Catholics, Protestants and Jews, have been allowed in accordance with solemn engagements, taken both by German and French Governments, to practise their own religion and to maintain their own schools. The proclamations which accompanied the entry of the French into Colmar, Metz and Strasbourg, have given solemn assurance to the people that their religious liberty shall suffer no diminution. No secret has been made in the French journals of the fact that the persistence of the loyalty of the population to France throughout the German domination was due in large measure to the Catholic clergy. It would seem, therefore, that there should be no reason to suspect that these engagements would not be faithfully carried out, especially since the disregard of "scraps of paper" has been so utterly discredited. Nevertheless the people and the clergy in Alsace are disquieted, and are filled with forebodings lest their return to France should cost them some of the liberty which is so precious to them. *La Croix* does not conceal the fact that there is some ground for their fears:

Alas, there are among us politicians of ignoble souls whose sectarianism and persecuting hatred refuse to be silent in the presence of any grandeur. Do we not hear them already clamoring for the enforcement of the laws against the religious who have come from every quarter of the globe to offer to France their arms, their breasts, their blood and their lives? Already they are talking of compelling the Jesuits to depart once more into exile and to seek elsewhere the religious liberty which France denies them, the Jesuits, whose bodies are lacerated, whose breasts are covered with wounds, decorated with crosses

