

# Significance of Treaty and League is Clarified by the President.

## COLUMBUS THROUGH HEARS KEYNOTE TREATY SPEECH

### Wilson Greeted with Wild Enthusiasm and His Address is Given the Closest Attention.

BY PHILIP KINSLEY.

Special Correspondent of the "Times" on Board the President's Train.  
(EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH)

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 4.—President Wilson began his campaign today for the League of Nations.

Out of the fog and drizzle of the early morning in the Ohio valleys, the Presidential special, with the Mayflower on the rear, rolled into Columbus at 11 o'clock this morning, where the "keynote" address of his twenty-seven days' tour of the West was delivered at Memorial Hall.

Big crowds came out to welcome him in Columbus. There were groups at many stations along the way and several times the President came out and shook hands with all who could reach him.

The President made it plain that he does not intend to get into a debate or controversy with the league opponents in the Senate. He has started out to interpret and "clarify" the whole document to the people. He takes the ground that the critics of the league plan do not understand it or are misstating its terms and that as a whole it is the best workable plan that could emerge from the world turmoil and that unless it is adopted more wars are sure to follow.

#### CONFIDENT OF ADOPTION.

He promised the people of Columbus if the league covenant was adopted, and he expressed assurance that it would be, that they would not have to send their sons and fathers away in khaki across the seas again.

The President laid stress upon the punishment inflicted upon Germany in the treaty, explaining that it was in the nature of reparation and that Germany had been treated on the basis that she must be made to pay all she could pay and not more.

He said that the league plan contained a new Magna Charta of labor and that whether the plan was ratified or not the first labor congress, as outlined in the league terms would meet in Washington next month. By his emphasis on this he seemed to point the way to a new policy for labor throughout the world. There is nothing political about it, he said, but it concerns the conditions of labor and that "labor shall be remunerated in proportion to the maintenance of the standard of living which is proper for the man who is expected to give his whole brain and energy to a particular task."

#### FULL OF AMERICANISM.

The central idea of the treaty, he said, is that nations do not consist of their governments but consist of their people. He said he thought he understood the heart of the American people better than some who are speaking for them. It was a treaty, he said, shot full of American principles, an American treaty without which he would not have dared to come home, an attempt to "right the history of Europe and in my humble judgment a measurable success."

He said that he was glad to get away from Washington and that it had become increasingly necessary that he should report to the American people.

He said he did not have to report to any one else. He asked if the opponents of the league had forgotten the promises made before the peace table conferences began.

"If we do not do this thing," he said, "we have neglected the central covenant we made to our people. The rivalries of this world have not cooled us, they have rendered passions hotter than ever."

#### REDEEM THE WEAK.

He warned the people that great wrongs would not be attempted unless the nations united. The center of the treaty, he said, is the redemption of weak nations. He ended his appeal in this way:

"It makes a league of the fine passions of the world, of its philanthropic passions, of its passions of pity, of its passion of human sym-

pathy, of its passion of human friendliness and helpfulness."

He asked the people to assert their spirit for the league, not to let it be "pulled down and misrepresented."

"What about Shantung, Mr. President?" asked a Chinese in the gallery at the Columbus meeting.

#### LISTENS INTENTLY.

The President did not hear him. The crowd at Memorial Hall was friendly and cheered the President warmly. They listened to him intently. The crowds along the street, where the parade of automobiles passed from the station to the hall along North High and Broad streets, were wildly enthusiastic. An escort of soldiers from Columbus barracks led the way. There was a long string of automobiles. Airplanes curved overhead. The President and Mrs. Wilson rode with former Gov. James E. Campbell and Major George L. Karb. Mrs. Wilson carried flowers which had been sent to the train by J. Cooney Jones, Mayor of Buckeye Lake, O., and Mrs. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones appended their pictures and the pictures of the three Jones children. In Columbus Mrs. Wilson was given a great bouquet of red roses. She carried this to the platform at Memorial Hall. A girl song leader started the crowd singing "Dixie" and the audience rose and gave a great cheer as Mrs. Wilson stood beside her husband clasping the roses.

#### SCOUTS FORM LANE.

Boy Scouts and police helped to clear the lanes in Columbus and the train got away on schedule time. The President was in a cheerful mood all day, and seemed to enjoy getting away from Washington. He came into the club car during the afternoon and chatted with newspaper men for half an hour. Cinema men are a feature of this trip, three of them going along on the train and taking scenes in every city.

The Presidential special is traveling as the second section of a regular passenger train. Thomas M. Lipssett, general passenger agent, is on board to see to details. A secret service man is ahead of the tour several days, making all arrangements. Every detail as to automobiles, routes, addresses and receptions is arranged.

At Urbana, O., a group reached the President. One man asked him about Shantung. The President explained that criticism of Japan in this matter was not justified at present. He said he thought Japan would keep her promise to restore the province and that this might be expected two or three months after peace was signed.

#### SURE OF VICTORY.

Someone ventured the opinion that he would beat his opponents in the Senate. The President replied that this was easy because their cause was weak.

The President greeted a group of Red Cross girls at Dennison, O., this morning. They were waiting to feed a trainload of soldiers that is following the special. The President told the girls he was sorry he could not be on hand to greet Gen. Pershing when he returns from Europe.