

1. Purposes of the Legion
2. Tribute to the Legion.
3. All men are welcomed, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant
4. Government and Patriotism, easy in warm, hard in indolence if peace
5. Need of officials who will speak their mind.
6. Design of government protection, and intelligent vote
7. Do not feel world is growing worse, rearing of child, etc.
8. Art galleries and mother with child
9. Barbarian settles his disputes with the club
10. Nations sustain same relation to each other to-day
11. Universal peace, world court, back by united armies and navies
12. Until that time we should be armed, better fleets in air and sea
- 13 Olive branch offered by mailed fist
- 14 Other wise it is ludicrous
- 15 When savegery of military pomp arose, boys were called away
- 16 ~~xxxxxxxx~~
Returned glorified, did not fight with the lust for wealth,
landed interest and conquest
- 17 More noble than Roman, Mighteier than Greed and more than Hannibal
- 18 Returned ennobled, not demoralized, to make better citizen
in time of peace, as good citizens as they were soldiers,
- 19 We hope that peace may come, we doubt
- 20 They are tonight striving that the race of men might be better
a labor of love
- 21 Abou Ben Adam

Address at Legion Banquet.

According to tenets and institutions of the American Legion it is designed that the soldiers of our wars shall be taught and required to be as patriotic in times of peace as in times of war. The Legion, in its teachings and requirements, goes further than this and requires that the youth of the land be taught the requirements of a good citizen, be taught to be as patriotic in peace times as in war. Every American citizen should honor this association for such, we need it in our land to-day as never before.

In passing, I who have not been allowed to become a member of this admirable organization wish to pay it this tribute, that no existant organization today is doing more to advance the interest of our government, none doing more to care for those, who but a few short years ago, were ready and willing to give thier lives that our country, our property and our lives might be preserved.

Here, in this organization, all men who have served their country in times of war may find fellowship. Adopting no particular creed. Forbidding all sectarian discussion within its huts, giving to each and all the privilege of his faith and urging that he be steadfast therein. Here Jew and Gentile, Protestant and Catholic, poor and rich, who have rendered service, may gather in the companionship of his fellow man and do his part in the upbuilding of his country and its citizenship. And so we can all, whether we be of the membership or not, give in the fullest our esteem and commendation to the Legion and the great work it has done and will do in the future for our country's citizenship.

And to those who died on the fields of France and Flanders, those who journeyed bravely into the horizon of the west going to meet the gray messenger coming on the last request, those who were denied a membership here, we can but pause and breath a prayer that such men have lived. Theirs was a sacrafice of love, heroes all, may they rest in peace. We are left only with tenderest memories and an aching void.

A life well spent and duties well performed are the finest monuments erected to the memory of the departed. The power of authority, the satisfaction of wealth, the charm of beauty and the distinction of great intellect do not surmount the grave. Only those things worthily done in the cause of humanity do or can surmount the grave. They are locked steadfastly in the busom of remaining friends and loved ones and warm with glowing affection the remembrance of the departed.

And so it behooves us in this life to direct our ways that we may be of benefit to our fellow man. Governments are erected but for men's protection and security. And therefore governments are of the people and for them. Patriotism is of but little avail if it does not insure or at least look to the better interest of our people. There is as much if not more need of true patriotism in times of peace as in time of war. With the strains of matrial music urging us on, the shouts of the multitude ringing in our ears; with a responding hate of an injustice done or to be done; with the anxiety of dire calamity to home and fireside, it is not so difficult to respond to patriotism. But in the calm of peace, the indolence of apparent security, the taxing needs of our business life, it is of great diffulty. And yet to stablize the state and perpetuate our institutions of government it is just as necessary to be constantly warring in times of peace

upon the things and the circumstances and conditions of our country as it is in times of war.

What we need in office to-day is, above all things, men who will have the courage to speak as they think. We need men in public life who will have the courage to tell the people the absolute truth as they see it. And then we need voters who will recognize worth and reward the same irregardless of prejudice and spite. We want men in office who will appeal to the judgment and reason of the people, who have the courage to speak their mind notwithstanding the loss of a few votes.

The design of our government is to afford protection and security to the people. The further design of that government is to have the people by wise selection provide men in office who will give the best thought and service to the country without thought to their own personal aggrandizement. This government of ours is primarily based upon an intelligent vote. When that vote is not intelligent, does not reflect the sound consideration and judgment of the voting public, then the very design of the government is debased. The very fabric of our institution has begun to ravel and disintergrate.

When men come before you seeking office because they are in need it is high time to look with suspicion upon their claims. When put forward their own personal wants instead of the greater benefit to be afforded the people, then they are selfish and not worthy of our consideration.

I am not one of those who believe the world is growing worse. I consider them much better than any others in all the history of the world. We have more intelligence, more enlightenement, and enlightenement makes for a better people. Ignorance cannot be good. Innocence may be appealing, but it cannot be constructive or very helpful. Knowledge gives us greater scope to become helpful to ourselves, our families and our fellow men. And no one will deny that the great majority of the people to-day are more enlightened than in any past period of the history of man. There are certain derelictions we should strive to correct. Perhaps less care is being given to the rearing of the young to-day than should be the case. Perhaps we leave too much to the law and forget the benefits of early inculcations of high principles of moral conduct in the young mind. We are going to seed of legislation and not planting sufficient teaching of things worth while in the youthful mind. The youth of the land is entitled to the best we have to give in the way of living a life that will be of service to humanity rather than obstructive. This, perhaps, is being neglected during these days of fast living, and in reality, change of living. We are in a the midst of transition, and being so perhaps we forget or neglect the very salient duty we owe the young. For statistics show that seventy two percent of the crime of the United States is committed by boys and girls between the ages of seventeen and twenty three years of age. This is an appalling indictment, not so much of the young, as of the parents. It must be the result of a too lax regulation at home, a too thoughtless care of the whereabouts, companions and conduct of our children. The lack of discipline in the home and in the schools is taking its toll. By a sort of fallacious sentiment the world has come to believe that it is wrong and injudicious to correct the errors of the young. That for some reason it is wrong to use either fear or force to attain an object that means the betterment of the race and our institutions.

I grant you it is better to waive punishment of our children; that it is more pleasurable at least to our selfishness, than it is to chastise. We parents get a great pleasure out of giving to our children the best there is to be had, but I submit that there is grave doubts as to its benefit for the child. All throughout life we must be subservient to some law, some regulation. In early childhood, it is the home, and later the schools, and in maturity the laws of the land and always the laws of nature. How much better it is for to send the young man into the channels of business and professional life disciplined and under proper restraint, than it is to send them forth without a smattering of restraint. On the very threshold of manhood they meet with rebuffs, and then become bitter and mean. By indulgence they have become soft and unselfreliant. By indulgence they have been taught to expect something that the world does not readily give, and especially so when each and all are granted the same indulgence in youth. It is unfair to the child, it is unfair to the man and woman that is to be. They have been deprived of the greatest lesson of life, to give and take, self restraint. By discipline and restraint the children go into the world better prepared to meet the demands of the world. And if adversity comes to them, as it most always does, that discipline will be a staff upon which to lean, and instead of the bitterness that comes with defeat, they can better gird their loins for future battles. This life is a battle, a fierce one at best. The boy in the street selling newspapers never receives my sympathy for the things he is missing; it is the boy in his father's car, indulged and petted, that is being imposed upon. When his time comes to meet the problems of life, he is unsuited and must build himself over again. And too often it is true that in seeking the easier, quicker way, that has been his in the past, he robs a filling station or pilfers a cash drawer. It is not because we are unjust that we should discipline the young, but because we are thoughtful of their future and their future frame of mind. By overcoming adversity we are made strong and self reliant. If we have the advantage of such teachings in early youth we are to the same extent strengthened for the struggles of life. And by such training we are made more considerate of other people's rights and ideas. A boy that has been led to believe that he can have whatever he may desire at the hands of his parents, is to that extent made unfit for the problems of life. His mental stamina has become atrophied. He must solve the problems for himself, his parents cannot always be there to do it for him. We must teach the young to be selfreliant. We cannot keep a picket fence about them all their lives, for surely a breach will be made and then we find the young inexperienced, unfitted to cope with the problems that confront them.

A short time ago I visited one of the great art galleries of the world. And there I saw upon the walls the great paintings of all times. Saw the reproduction of the illustrious dead, saw reproduced the beauty spots of the world. What a weight of patient toil it represented. Toiling with the pleasure of production, a production that meant happiness and joy to countless future millions. Not of the artists time but those to come. There in oil and paint reposed the features of those dead heroes of other ages. There in paint and oil bloomed forth the landscapes of the earth; the flaming sky, the soothing green of the forests and the flashing silver of the streams and springs and brook. And patient, loving toil had left it as a heritage to coming generations. I thought it the acme of accomplishments. And then I passed on into another compartment and with a feeling of awe saw the sculpture of physical beauty from marble and stone.

Now it can well be maintained that until the nations settle their differences in a world court, backed by the united armies and navies of the world, pledged to sustain the court, to police the world as it were, this world of ours will remain, to that extent, uncivilized. And just here, too, the mother of the world can do their part, for there never was a mother nor ever will be, who raised her boy for gun fodder. Yet in times of need, in dire calamity, invasion or extremity, she is as patriotic as the greatest hero. But in her lessons to the children and the youth of the land, she may inculcate those lessons that will eventually obviate the necessity of war.

But that thing so devoutly wished for will never be ours until more of the great nations of the earth set ~~the~~ the worthy example, and until that is done, I for one, am in favor of the United States being armed. Until that thing has been accomplished it shall give me joy to know that another armoured fleet has been launched, another armoured fleet has taken wings. The olive branch, that token of friendship, to be of any force or importance must be offered by the mailed fist. At least that is true until the coming generations have been educated up to a higher standard of thinking than exists to-day. For individuals make up the nations, and the ideas inculcated in youth bear fruit in manhood and in womanhood. Peace to-day must be offered by the nation that has the force back of the offer. When offered by a weakling it becomes ludicrous and meets only ridicule. The powerful, the imperial, must offer the olive branch, and by the offering it in such a way establish an example for the world to profit by. In such a manner it will be accepted in true spirit, otherwise it cannot. So, for me, until the world is more civilized than it is to-day, I am in favor of bigger guns, the largest fleets and the fastest and most efficient messengers of the air, to be had. I do not want a navy or an air fleet unless it is the best, for otherwise it will be but a gift to the enemy when the dogs of war are loosed. It is imperative to my mind that we must be ready at all times to defend ourselves against the world. Unless we are able to defend ourselves, being the richest nation on the globe, we become the ~~awaxixix~~ inviting bait for the hungry wolves of the world. The powerful nations are sitting there now envying us our wealth, and such envy engenders hatred and ultimately war. Until the world will enter into the spirit that makes for universal peace, we must be armed, and armed better than the others. Any other conclusion will be but an invitation to the bloodshot eyes, the greedy jealous maws of the war torn nations of Europe. We cannot depend upon persuasion, what good will persuasion and talk do when the fleets of the enemy steam into our harbours?

When the savagery of military power confronted the civilized world what availed the treaties? Our country could not stay out, the question was: "Shall all the great Republic take its stand to uphold the civilization of the world, protect the helpless nations of civilization?" That question was answered at St. Mahiel, Bellou Wood and in every trench. And the answer was irresistible.

The young men of our land were wrested from business and home, from the families and from their loved ones, to do battle for civilization. They were not seekers for vain glory, because the mothers of this land had taught them otherwise. They fought not to acquire wealth or landed interests. They were neither animated by lust for plunder nor the love of conquest. They fought to preserve the torch of liberty and that their children might have peace. They were the defenders of humanity; they destroyed military pomp and power, and in the name of

the future slew the monster that menaced the peace and contentment of the world. Peace could only be had by fighting for it, and we fought. They were putting the finishing touches to the ideal started in 1776. They broke the shackles from the feet of France and gave embattled England respite from her woes. Mightier than the Greek, nobler than the Roman and more persevering than Hannibal. With a patriotism as vast as the air itself, they battled for the right of others. Fought that mother might save their babies, that arrogant military tyrants might not trample down the helpless and set the foot upon the neck of patient toil. Blood was water and flowed in great rivers and human life was but the pebbles upon the beach of time.

And those boys of ours came back to us, some maimed and poisoned, came back to their homes, their families and their friends. They came back ennobled, not demoralized. They came back to be as patriotic in times of peace as in times of war. To be as good citizens as they had been soldiers. To be as brave in government as they were on the field of battle. And we love them for it.

We wonder if all the wounds of war will be healed? We hope so but we doubt. The nations that fought have not learned their lessons. We hope they have but we fear they have not. They poke fun at us to-day, we who saved them but yesterday. But perhaps the coming generations will learn the text, it is our sincere wish that they may, and that wars shall vanish from the earth. But until that day comes we must be watchful, armed and ready.

And such men as those are those who compose the membership of the Legion. Those who are met here to-night must ~~xxx~~ prepare the world for peace. From those who have gone we have the heritage of right living, fine patriotism and true citizenship. It is fit and proper that their buddies organize to protect the living, for there is no greater gift to man than that he has love and consideration for his fellow man. These Legionnaires are doing their bit, loving their fellow man, like old

Abou Ben Adnan, may his tribe increase
Awoke one night from a deep sleep of peace
And found, within the moonlight of his room
Making it rich and like a lily in bloom
An Angel, writing in a book of gold, etc.