

D (red)

St 291wb-

cop. 2



Connecticut State Council of Defense

WAR BULLETIN

No. 4

F

AMERICANS

of German Origin

AND THE WAR

Extracts from an address before
The Merchants Association of New York

By

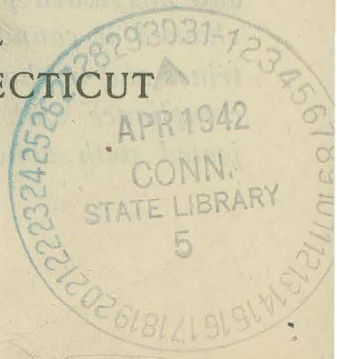
OTTO H. KAHN

Issued by the

Connecticut State Council of Defense

STATE CAPITOL

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT



AMERICANS

of German Origin

AND THE WAR

Speaking as one born of German parents, I do not hesitate to state it as my deep conviction that *the greatest service which men of German birth or antecedents can render to the country of their origin* is to proclaim, and to stand up for those great and fine ideals and national qualities and traditions which they inherited from their ancestors, and to set their faces like flint against the monstrous doctrines and acts of a rulership which have robbed them of the Germany which they loved and in which they took just pride, the Germany which had the good will, respect and admiration of the entire world.

I do not hesitate to state it as my solemn conviction that *the more unmistakably and wholeheartedly Americans of German origin throw themselves into the struggle which this country has entered in order to rescue Germany, no less than America and the rest of the world* from those sinister forces that are, in President Wilson's language, the enemy of all mankind, the better they protect and serve the repute of the old German name and the true advantage of the German people.

"I know that neither Germany nor this country nor the rest of the world can return to happiness and peace and fruitful labor until it shall have been made manifest, bitterly and unmistakably manifest, to the rulers who bear the bloodguilt for this wanton war and to their misinformed and misguided peoples that the spirit which unchained it cannot prevail, that the hateful doctrines and methods in pursuance of which and in compliance with which it is conducted are rejected with abhorrence by the civilized world,

and that the over-weening ambitions which it was meant to serve can never be achieved.

“The fight for civilization which we all fondly believed had been won many years ago must be fought over again. In this sacred struggle it is now our privilege to take no mean part, and our glory to bring sacrifices.

“Our one and supreme job, the one purpose to which all others must give way, is to bring this war to a successful conclusion.”

To accomplish that, let each one of us feel himself personally responsible, let each one of us work as if our life depended on the result. And, in a very real sense, does not our national life and our individual life depend on the outcome of this war?

Would life be tolerable if the power of Prussianism, run mad and murderous, held the world by the throat, if the primacy of the earth belonged to a government steeped in the doctrines of a barbarous past and supported by a ruling cast which preaches the deification of sheer might, which despises liberty, hates democracy and would destroy both if it could?

To that spirit and to those doctrines, we, citizens of America and servants, as such, of humanity, will oppose our solemn and unshakable resolution “to make the world safe for democracy,” and we will say, with a clear conscience, in the noble words which more than five hundreds years ago were uttered by the Parliament of Scotland:

“It is not for glory, or for riches, or for honor that we fight, but for liberty alone which no good man loses but with his life.”

THE CONNECTICUT STATE COUNCIL
OF DEFENSE.



... of glory to bring success.

Our one and supreme job, the one purpose to which all others must give way, is to bring this way to a successful conclusion.

To accomplish that, let each one of us feel himself personally responsible; let each one of us work as if our life depended on the result. And in a very real sense, does not our national life and our individual life depend on the outcome of this war?

Would life be tolerable if the power of France, Russia, and the United States, held the world by the throat, if the primacy of the earth belonged to a government steeped in the doctrines of a barbarous past and supported by a ruling cast which despises liberty, hates of sheer might, which despises liberty, hates democracy and would destroy both if it could? To that spirit and to those doctrines, we citizens of America and servants, as such, of humanity, will oppose our solemn and unshakable resolution "to make the world safe for democracy," and we will say, with a clear conscience, in the noble words which more than five hundred years ago were uttered by the Parliament of Scotland:

"It is not for glory, or for riches, or for honor that we fight, but for liberty alone which no good man loses but with his life."

THE CONNECTICUT STATE COUNCIL
OF DEFENSE