

Viereck's



The American Weekly



A PLEA TO THE PRESS

Special Attention of City Desks

GENTLEMEN of the Press: There has been a difference of opinion among newspaper men regarding the ethics of the world-war. The majority of papers have, however, since the beginning, espoused the cause of the Allies as against that of the Central Powers—while a small minority took the opposite view.

This was before the entry of our country in the capacity of a belligerent. From now on it is the expressed, plain duty of all loyal citizens to consider the interests of America solely.

Up to this point our fellow editors will unanimously agree with us.

Now, however, the time has come for publishers, as well as citizens, to prove the depth of their sincerity as patriots. Viereck's Weekly is one of the small minority group which vigorously opposed the entry of America into the international conflict. When an adverse decision was rendered by the high tribunal of national demand, we completely withdrew our opposition **BECAUSE WE CONSIDER IT TO BE THE OBLIGATION AND DUTY OF A PAPER TO AVOID ADDING TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF OUR GOVERNMENT** at a time when that Government needs the undivided support of all its sons.

Some of you, for reasons of prejudice, some from conviction, have taken, throughout the progress of the war, an anti-German standpoint. We are at last finally at war with Germany and we shall obtain, by force of arms, redress for the indignities we have suffered at her hands.

This should be sufficient to satisfy the bitterest enemies among us of the German Government. We think that now all newspapers should unite in aiding our country to cope with the situation ahead; and this aid is badly rendered when a newspaper wastes its valuable space in seeking to keep open old wounds, or in trying to sow prejudice, dissension and distrust at home, here, against our German American citizens and neighbors. The newspaper which pursues this policy is doing our country and the fair name of American justice an irreparable injury.

We honestly believe that the majority of our fellow publishers who have been—and are still—guilty of this conduct, are actuated by the most patriotic of motives. But if, to-day, an individual, or newspaper editor, professes to believe in the principles of true Americanism and undivided patriotism, then we think that these words, proclaimed only a few days ago by our President, should go to his heart and guide, in the future, his tongue and pen with more fairness: "We are, let me say, the sincere friends of the German people . . . we shall happily still have an opportunity to prove that friendship in our daily attitude and actions towards the millions of men and women of German birth who live among us . . . they are most of them as true and loyal Americans as if they had never known any other felity or allegiance."

When President Wilson sets such an example we think that none need be ashamed to follow it.