

with my lawyer the following morning. His paws retracted for a moment, exhibiting the claws beneath, still in a half hidden way. He was very sorry, he said, but his orders were formal. He was sure that I would not put him to the inconvenience of getting them changed. There was such a lot of red tape about these trifles. . . . I knew what he meant, and agreed. So I excused myself to my guest, took a taxi down to my lawyer's home in the country, and spent the night settling up my business. In the morning Simpson took me down to Tilbury in his car, and put me on to a transport, one of six. There must have been fifteen to twenty thousand men aboard. Our little flotilla steamed out of the Thames, and the following morning I was put off on to a fishing smack which took me into Flushing. I was terribly puzzled at the time, to know what on earth these ships were doing sailing north. But the mystery is now clear, from information received. It appears that there are still so

many spies in such places as Calais and Dover, that they do not care to send transports through the Channel, as their presence is sure to be reported to the enemy; they therefore send them around the north of Scotland into the Atlantic where their destination could not be spied upon.

As for me, I went to stay with a good friend of mine near Amsterdam, where I was joined by someone from Berlin who had a special desire to hear my news, and communicate his own. A small and selected part of the very interesting conversation which I had with him may form the subject of another paper. He went back after three days, and as for me, once more I concealed myself and sailed for the Land of the Free by the *Ryndam*, where my knowledge of English was increased by the personal instruction of Father Neptune as to the meaning of the term seasickness.

## WILSON WANTS WAR

Why Henry Ford Was Snubbed by the President

By George E. Miller, Staff Correspondent of the *Detroit News*

*"All the imps of hell never devised a more infamous lie than the declaration that has been made that President Wilson wants war," declared Representative Pou in the course of a recent debate on the McLemore resolution in Congress. We feel justified in pou-pouing the statement of Mr. Pou. For it appears now on corroborative evidence that Mr. Wilson made his bellicose statement not only to numerous members of Congress but to Mr. Henry Ford before the latter embarked on his pilgrimage for peace. The author of the following article is one of the ablest newspaper correspondents in Washington. Is Mr. Pou willing to brand both Mr. Henry Ford and Mr. George E. Miller as "infamous imps of hell" in order to save the President's reputation?"*

JUST what was said by the President to throw Congress into a riot of apprehension, and to keep it in a turmoil of doubt ever since, representatives and senators in their rage are revealing right and left. They charge the President with saying:

"It would be a good thing for humanity for the United States to get into this war. By doing so the war would be ended in a few months."

Practically everybody who attempts to quote the President's language uses these words or their equivalent. It was the circulation of this statement among the members of Congress which caused the excessive excitement of last week and led to the introduction of the resolutions notifying American citizens to keep off armed belligerent merchant ships.

### Discovery a Shock

It is this same statement which fills members of Congress with distress and doubt over the President's demand for a vote of confidence. The discovery that the President is fervently on the side of the Allies came as a shock to many of the statesmen, although it was not news to some other people.

One man to make the discovery as long ago as last November is Henry Ford, of Detroit. On the twenty-third of that month he called at the White House to enlist the President in the cause of peace. The President was the first man to whom Mr. Ford revealed his purpose of sending a peace ship to Europe. He hoped to make it the official ship of the United States operating under the direction of the President, as he had reasons to believe the other neutral nations would join willingly if the United States led the way.

### Ford Tells of Conference

Mr. Ford related the conference with the President to me as soon as it was over, and I immediately set it down with the understanding that I was not to cripple the peace ship project by printing it at that time.

The interview between the President and Mr. Ford revealed two things on which these men agree, but differ wholly as to the method of accomplishing the same. They agree that this war is the most ghastly horror of all the ages and that to end it would be the greatest blessing that could now be conferred upon mankind. That is one thing. The other is that all nations should disarm.

### Differ on Methods

In discussing methods they were in total disagreement. Mr. Ford insisted that the quickest method is the best; that the disinterested neutral nations ought to set up a high court of arbitration in the

shape of an international peace congress and that body to work without ceasing until peace is secured.

President Wilson saw no chance to stop the war by that method at this time, and did not believe the moment would arrive until the militarism of the German Empire had been crushed. Mr. Ford was startled by this unexpected revelation of the President's sympathy for the cause of the Allies. He held stoutly to the opinion that to disarm the Germans would be so much better than to crush them that the entire civilization of the world ought to be marshaled to that end. He was bitterly disappointed that the President could not see this in the same light.

### Pay No Attention

While the President agreed fully with Mr. Ford that all nations ought to disarm, he held to the opinion that the United States was not in a position to propose such a thing and would not be until it also was armed to the teeth. At present, with the limited forces at the command of this republic, the President appeared to believe that the heavily armed nations would not pay attention to a disarmament proposal from the United States.

Mr. Ford tried to impress upon him that the negotiations of a peace at this time necessarily must involve a disarmament agreement to which all nations on earth would become a party. He pointed out that the nations at war are killing and maiming at least 20,000 men a day, perhaps more; that this formed the most potent disarmament argument ever offered for the use of civilization; and that he saw no hope of world disarmament if this slaughter were to be continued deliberately, under the patronage of the greatest neutral nation, until one of the belligerents was crushed. Mr. Ford and the President split hopelessly on this point.

### Financial Ruin

Mr. Ford tried to tell the President that if it was to be regarded as necessary for the United States to spend half a billion dollars at once for armament to force the world ultimately to disarm, it would accomplish more in the direction of world peace to offer the money as a part of the peace proposal by agreeing to spend it in the construction of homes for the people made homeless by the war. Also, that to continue to spend money in this country for armament until the United States would so preponderate in arms as to be able to overawe all other nations and thus compel disarmament simply meant financial ruin for some nations, if not for all. For of course they would try to keep peace with the United States as far as humanly possible. But he could not perceive that he shook the President in his position.