The whole world knows now of our great national disgrace, how only three days after the publication of President Wilson’s reply to the Pope’s Peace Proposal in which our Chief Executive stated that this war was being fought to bring a greater degree of democracy to the German people, an officer of the Chicago police addressed the executive session of the First Federated Assembly of the People’s Council of America for Democracy and Terms of Peace, representing nearly two million law-abiding Americans, citizens of every state in the Union, as follows:

"BY THE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS I DEMAND THAT THIS MEETING DISPERSE. IF YOU DELAY OR RESIST, YOU WILL BE ARRESTED."

This was the climax of a two days persecution during which the conference had been refused its constitutional rights of peaceable assemblage by three governors and three or four mayors backed by well-staged "mobs," the State Militia and authority—either written or unwritten—from Washington.

"After that," says Miss Nellie A. Smith, delegate from the New York Branch of the Woman’s Peace Party, "I felt most of the time as if we were in the late ‘darkest Russia’ and the rest of the time as if I were in a comic opera. We have read of such things but you have no idea how fantastic it feels to have two plain-clothes men a half block or less behind you everywhere you go; to have plain-clothes men at your elbow every time you stop in a hotel corridor to speak to a friend; to open your bedroom door suddenly and find a plain-clothes man listening just outside; to have a friendly-appearing man who had sat at your table in your hotel and asked you a sympathetic question or two break up a private committee meeting later in the afternoon; to watch a Captain of the State Militia, swagger-stick in hand, enter your hotel, several dozen plain-clothes men at his back, and talk you over with the clerk as if you were so many undesirable cattle; to attend a socialist picnic in the daytime and be told that if there is a single speech made on any subject, troops which are waiting ten minutes away will rush to the spot and drive you out of the ‘public’ park at the point of fixed bayonets."

"We came out of the Chicago Auditorium," says Ada Chase Dudley, delegate from the Rochester, New York, Branch of the People’s Council, "after witnessing with our own eyes the first concrete proof that Free Speech is dead in America and for several minutes nobody made a move to go anywhere. The hundreds of delegates who had gone there in such high hopes of doing something constructive for peace, whose tickets had been bought out of the precious dimes and dollars of farmers and mechanics and clerks and street-car conductors and housewives—men and women who know what war means—lingered there on the sidewalk as if they could not believe the thing that had happened. We felt as if we had been turned absolutely homeless into a strange world; we felt as if we had lost something which we had been born possessing. And we had lost something. We had lost our country."

Not that the People’s Council met in vain. It formed a water-tight permanent Executive Committee of seventeen who will carry on the fight for a People’s Peace. It endorsed the President’s war aims as outlined in his reply to the Pope, asking further, however, that he now proceed to specify JUST WHAT DEGREE of democracy the German people must attain before the United States will arbitrate; it adopted a constitution and, with the iron ground deep into its soul by its first contact with the mailed fist of our Prusso-American plutocracy, it dedicated itself to a new country—the New America—which shall be worthy to wear the mantle of freedom for which our fathers died in ’76 and ’61 and where government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not have perished from the earth.

ANNE HERENDEEN.
Democracy Begins at Home.

"Berlin, August 28 (via London). At a meeting of the General Committee of the National Liberal Party a memorial by the National Liberal Women's Society of Cologne was submitted, asking that all women's societies be represented in the Central Committee of the Party. Much to the surprise of the women themselves, the Executive Committee voted for their admission, and granted them full-fledged representatives." New York Times.

"Be they conservative or radical, these women, whose earnestness and persistence and skill in campaigning we all know, how do they expect to interest the people of New York in their 'wrong' or their 'cause' in this year 1917? The State has other things to think of, life-and-death matters, cardinal, supreme." New York Times Editorial.

We're Sure of That

"Col. Roosevelt before an audience of soldiers: 'The war I was in wasn't much of a war but it was all there was and it was not our fault if there was not enough to go round.'" New York Times.

Here.

"If the People's Council is denied a hearing in Washington it will be a grave blow to free speech in America. The trouble seems to be that the public believes this group desires to talk pro-German nonsense or in some way to indulge in treasonable practices. Nothing of the kind we are sure can be truthfully alleged against them." New York Evening Post Editorial.

And There.

"Washington, September 6.—Prof. H. W. L. Dana, representing the People's Council of America for Democracy and Terms of Peace, the organization which was not allowed to hold meetings in several Western cities last week, was refused an interview with President Wilson to-day by Secretary Tumulty. Tumulty told Professor Dana the President was too busy to see any one from that organization." New York Call.

Whose Boy Will It Be?

"In order that the United States may profit by the experience of other allies and properly care for the great influx of war cripples which probably will begin to arrive here in the near future the National Society for the Promotion of Occupational Therapy announced at its annual meeting that it had devised ways to turn the war might have been an economic loss into an economic asset...." New York Times.

"Miss Susan E. Tracy illustrated her remarks by telling of one man who had neither arms nor legs and who was being taught water painting and had learned to do very fair work by holding the brush in his teeth." Evening Telegram.

The Response Graceful.

Bangor, Me.—The Examining Board of this draft district received the following letter from a man notified to appear:

"Thanking you for your favor asking me to report for examination, I wish to say that after careful consideration I have decided not to enter the national army at this time."

"YOU ARE THE WIDOWS OF DEMOCRACY"

"Surely this is a day that should be spent preparing the mourning to wear to-morrow. Democracy is dead in America and, to-morrow, its ghosts will walk in our streets. If we are daughters of the men who framed the Constitution and fought against the tyranny of England we will wear black until the conscription law is repealed."

Mrs. Florence Kelley at the Woman's Mass meeting in the Garden Theatre on the eve of the mobilization of the New York National Guard for service in France.

"We Seek No Material Advantage."

"There are indications that American finance is to have a big finger in the South African pie after the war if not before. This statement is brought out by a dispatch from Johannesburg which says that Sir Abe Bailey has formed the Anglo-American Exploration Company with a capital of $1,250,000 to acquire all British Geysen interests that he was left for New York in connection with the enterprise." London Financial Times.

Strangers, Take Warning.

"There is the usual hypocritical talk among the anti-patriots of the right of free speech and of public assembly. The origins of disorder should be repressed now before they have time to grow into something worse." New York Times Editorial.

"Blind loyalty without rational consciousness of the responsibility to self is but another name for slavery." VISCONTI ISSI of the Japanese Mission, at the Tomb of Washington.

"If after three years of the most fearful fighting the world has ever seen, the people of the world may not talk peace, what in God's name can they talk about?" People's Council Bulletin.

During the War for Democracy.

IN NEW YORK.

"Pacifists who gathered in the Plaza Police Court, Brooklyn, yesterday morning were hurried out of the room by the attendants and detectives when they started a demonstration on hearing John Prachtner, a 24 years old, sentenced to six months in the workhouse for speaking on a street corner against the draft." New York Times.

IN PARIS.

"The war will have to stop within two months," said a man whom the authorities have not yet been able to find, "otherwise the soldiers will refuse to march." "One Borrel, an aviator 35 years old, and his friend one Deruyck 24 years old, sentenced to six months in the workhouse for unlawful incitement against the draft." New York Times.

IN AUSTRALIA.

"Adela Pankhurst was sentenced today at Melbourne to nine months imprisonment for holding an anti-conscription meeting." Reuter Dispatch.

IN LONDON.

"E. D. Morel, Secretary of the Union of Democratic Control was arrested today after a search by the police of his office and his home at St. Albans. He was charged with unlawfully importing an anti-conscription book to convey to Switzerland a pamphlet contrary to regulations." New York Times.
"The Soldiers of Freedom."

Herewith we publish a variety of the actual experiences of various drafted men at different Local Boards. The conversations have been taken verbatim from the sworn affidavits on file in the New York Bureau of Legal First Aid.

L. F., a Russian, wants to file a claim for exemption as an alien with first papers and as a conscientious objector to war. The clerk hurriedly telephones the Provost Marshall's office and reports, "Conscientious objector is no claim nor first papers."

J. P., who had presented claims for exemption as an alien and as sole support of a wife, a widowed mother and two children under twelve, now appears with witnesses to establish his claim. A member of the Board takes J. P. into a private room telling the witnesses to remain outside. The following catechism takes place:

Board Member: "Are you a citizen?"
J. P.: "No, I am an alien."
B. M.: "You did not so state."
J. P.: "I beg your pardon, I did."
B. M.: "How long have you been in this country?"
J. P.: "Ten years."
B. M.: "Have you ever any intention of becoming a citizen?"
J. P.: "I intend to return to Russia as soon as circumstances and my finances permit."
B. M.: "Your claim is denied."

J. B., a Hungarian, asks for blanks on which to claim exemption as an alien. He is refused and dismissed by a member of the Board with, "You can't claim exemption, because you are a single man."

The Board has sent C. W. for examination to a second oculist. C. W. now returns with the diagnosis that his eyes are so poor that even glasses would not make them fit for service. The Board now refuses to accept even this diagnosis remarking, "We can't have anything to do with outside doctors." C. W. requests a form for appeal.

Board Member: "We will muster you in now and then you will be rejected at the time of the mobilization."

C. W.: "Why don't you reject me now? Why must I lose my job? Is it because I am a Jew and a Russian that you won't reject me?"
B. M.: "Get out."
C. W.: "You have got to speak more politely. People have to come for inquiries. Until now, I have begged you for an appeal blank, now I demand that you give it to me as a right."
B. M.: "Alright, I will give you a blank."

L. K. had not yet had his physical examination when the Board informed him of his certification for military service.
L. K.: "But why have I received no notice?"
Board Member: "A notice was sent and returned to us."
L. K.: "But I have lived and am still living in the same house as when I registered."

There being no response, L. K. marched in the conscript parade Sept. 4.

J. D. has a statement from the Bellevue Hospital, showing that he had been pronounced tubercular. After a cursory physical examination, he received his notice from the Board of his certification for service. J. D. now requests careful re-examination. "I did suspect you of being tubercular," says the doctor, "and I would gladly give you a re-examination but it is not in my power."

J. McC. claimed exemption on the ground of being a Christian opposed to war and also on the ground of a dependent mother, and asked for an exemption blank.

Board Member: "Are you a Quaker or a Dunkard?"
J. McC.: "No, I wish to state my claim as a Christian who is opposed to war."
B. M.: "Why, damn it all, ain't we all Christians?"
J. McC. insisted that he was legally entitled to a blank.
B. M.: "I don't give a damn if you are or not; you can't get it here. Now, get the hell out of here before I kick you out."

In spite of a perfect case as to his mother's dependency the postman the next morning brought J. McC. a denial of exemption.

Lucile Davidson.

Dear Mr. President:

You have said, "We cannot take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guaranty of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves as the other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting."

BRING PEACE NEARER

by stating further

WHO is to judge the evidence?
WHAT form is the evidence to take?
HOW MUCH evidence must we wait for?

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Lucile Davidson, Managing Editor.