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# What Will We Have, When We Have Enough?

by Irwin Tucker

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What are we fighting for?

Since our entry into the war to abolish secret diplomacy, our State Department has muzzled every member of its staff, with the exception of Secretary Lansing and a newspaper man whom he has appointed chief of the Department of Public Intelligence [George Creel].

The Senate and the House of Representatives have been denied permission to consult with the foreign envoys.

Obstructive tactics have been thrown around every newspaper which has attempted to clear up the dark fog of mystery surrounding our actual objects. The British and French envoys have come and gone. The terms of peace as well as the means of war were discussed, and according to the Associated Press, a thorough understanding was reached between the President and the foreigners.

But what was it? Nobody has been told.

The New Republic, chief of the highbrow organs who shouted for war, says in its issues of May 12:

The nation which entered the war against autocracy, which has claimed to stand for democratic open diplomacy, asks its citizens to make enormous sacrifices, to accept universal service, for a cause which apparently cannot bear the light of publicity.

What are we fighting for? Is it true that the cause which we are told is the cause of a world federation of freedom, is a truth unfit for open discussion? It begins

to look as though the State Department fears that if the American people were to be told just what our Allies want they would be even less enthusiastic than they are about the sacrificing their blood and treasure to gain that object.

Lord Robert Cecil told the House of Commons on May 16 [1917] that the German colonies in Africa will be retained by Great Britain after the war. "If we have any measure of success," he said, "I should regard with horror the idea of returning natives who have been freed from a government of that kind."

Is this a war for territorial aggrandizement?

Are we now making war to transfer German colonies to the British flag?

If this is a war for democracy, should we not begin by allowing those who are to be called upon to give their lives and to take the lives of others, to decide whether the object for which they are called upon to make these sacrifices is worthy of the cost?

What are we fighting for?

What will be the object we have gained, when peace is declared? Will the abdication of Wilhelm II satisfy us? Will the election of another German emperor by the states of the German confederation be sufficient? Will a German Republic cause us to call off the dogs of war? Suppose the German Republic is just as insistent on colonies as the German Empire has been? Will we fight on?

Just what will we have when we have enough?

What are we fighting for?

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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