



O folds of white and scarlet! O blue
field with your silver stars! May fond
eyes welcome you, willing feet follow
you, strong hands defend you, warm
hearts cherish you, and dying lips
give you their blessing! Ours by in-
heritance, ours by allegiance, ours by
affection—long may you float on the
free winds of heaven, the emblem of
liberty, the hope of the world!—Anon.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Replies to American.

The Editor of the Press

Will you kindly print the following statement concerning the Resolution presented in the Patriotic Meeting of April 2, 1917? It may serve to clear the atmosphere and help to broader vision. The writer is neither the maker nor the recorder of the Resolution. The Resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That in the sense of this meeting of citizens of the Town of Ridgefield that the Selectmen be and hereby are authorized and requested to appoint a committee of five to act in conjunction with all societies and organizations of the town in establishing a joint committee or organization to be a clearing house for all relief work and service which may be required and children may be required to aid the fed-

ernments and to coordinate all efforts of effort and to utilize all resources to the best advantage. The underlying motive is for efficiency and to coordinate every organization of the Town of Ridgefield and to coordinate the financial of the town and to be answered with the same generosity there will soon be a great saving of effort and a great saving of money, time and energy. There is a great dark cloud of confusion carrying us to our judgment and good sense in the way of this great business of war. If the cloud continues, as it has every probability of doing, some day when a great need arises, we shall awake to find our resources weakened, our energy lowered. No harm can be done by systematizing our efforts. The patriotism of our fathers was of sterner stuff than to be disturbed or cooled so easily.

Our Selectmen feel the call of patriotism. They are not the sort of men to make gain of the appointment of this committee. We should believe in them, and their public spirit. Also it should be carefully observed that the committee of five are in the first place simply to act in calling a council of all organizations likely to engage in any relief work, and this council will form a joint committee to act as a clearing house to aid in the avoidance of duplication and waste, and to help to the advantages of all interests concerned. Furthermore Fairfield county representatives to the number of 300 met in Bridgeport on Friday to bring to pass an organization for the county to accomplish the very thing the resolution purported for the Town of Ridgefield. The committee formed there is called the Fairfield County Resource Mobilization Committee. Fairfield County is the first county in the United States to take such action.

It is easy to impute wrong motives to people when we do not try to understand their purposes, either through malice or jealousy. It is much more difficult to have foresight and vision enough to plan for a great work and to successfully prepare against emergencies.

Yours for efficiency and the square deal,

AN AMERICAN OF EIGHT GENERATIONS.

This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.—Lincoln.

HERE'S TO OLD GLORY, GOD BLESS HER!

If anyone attempts to haul down the American flag, shoot him on the spot.—John A. Dix.



O folds of white and scarlet! O blue field with your silver stars! May fond eyes welcome you, willing feet follow you, strong hands defend you, warm hearts cherish you, and dying lips give you their blessing! Ours by inheritance, ours by allegiance, ours by affection—long may you float on the free winds of heaven, the emblem of liberty, the hope of the world!—Anon.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Replies to American.

The Editor of the Press:

Will you kindly print the following statement concerning the Resolution presented in the Patriotic Meeting of April 2, 1917? It may serve to clear the atmosphere and help to broader vision. The speaker is neither the maker nor the recorder of the Resolution. The Resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting of citizens of the Town of Ridgefield that the selectmen be and hereby are authorized and requested to appoint a committee of five to act in consultation with all societies and organizations of the town in establishing a joint committee or organization to have a clearing house for all relief and relief service which may be required for children and the aged, and to aid the federal government in its efforts and to make the best possible use of the resources of the town.

The underlying motive of the least patriotic and the least efficient and the least every organization of the town of Ridgefield should be to help financial and to be answered with one and if there will come to the nation of effort and of money, time and energy. There is a great danger in not carrying out this plan with good sense in the great business of war. If the need continues, as it has every probability of doing, some day when a great need arises, we shall always find our resources weakened, our energy lowered. No harm can be done by systematizing our efforts. The patriotism of our fathers was of sterner stuff than to be distracted or cooled so easily.

Our Selectmen feel the call of patriotism. They are not the sort of men to make gain of the appointment of this committee. We should believe in them, and their public spirit. Also it should be carefully observed that the committee of five are in the first place simply to act in calling a council of all organizations likely to engage in any relief work, and this council will form a joint committee to act as a clearing house to aid in the avoidance of duplication and waste, and to help to the advantages of all interests concerned. Furthermore, Fairfield county representatives to the number of 200 met in Bridgeport on Friday to bring to pass an organization for the county to accomplish the very thing the resolution purported for the Town of Ridgefield. The committee formed there is called the Fairfield County Resource Mobilization Committee. Fairfield County is the first county in the United States to take such action.

It is easy to impute wrong motives to people when we do not try to understand their purposes, either through malice or jealousy. It is much more difficult to have foresight and vision enough to plan for a great work and to successfully prepare against emergencies.

Yours for efficiency and the square deal,

AN AMERICAN OF EIGHT GENERATIONS.

Believes in Military Training.

We have received the following letter, from Charles W. Neth, which was written by his son, who is enlisted in the Coast Artillery Corps.

To the Editor of The Press:

No doubt at this time Ridgefield is as patriotic as most of the towns and cities throughout the country.

Here in New London, for instance, there was a meeting, which about 250 to 300 men attended, for the purpose of organizing a Home Guard. In this Home Guard, men and boys, who are not physically fit for military service, married men and men past age of enlisting, join themselves together with the purpose of, in case of war, protecting the women and children, and others left behind, when the young men and boys of military-fitness are enlisting to defend the United States and Old Glory.

Of course many will say, "What is this good for," but in case of a state of war, it would be fully realized that this is serving your country and those dear to you, just as faithfully as though you were right in the midst of the strife, which in fact would be the case if an enemy were to invade this country, as they certainly would not stop at the coast, and go no further.

Furthermore, young men, in Ridgefield, not having the opportunity, even though they would like to, of joining a military organization, owing to the fact that there is no such organization in Ridgefield, could pledge themselves together in a Home Guard, and drill and fit themselves, so that in case of war, they would be ready to be amongst the first to answer the call to arms, and could go with the assurance that they were not "recruits" but had had some preparation.

Being myself a member of the National Guard, of Connecticut and the United States, I would not be in a position to join such an organization, as the Home Guard, but will say that if for any reason of physical unfitness I were to be discharged from the Guard, would most assuredly join the Home Guard.

Hoping that I may in the near future hear that the boys from home have "started something," which, were I in the position, would work myself, and that in case of trouble pending, Ridgefield, will be well represented with a goodly amount of men, I remain,

Very truly yours,

PRIVATE C. W. NETH, JR.
Ninth Co., Conn., Coast Artillery Corps.