

**AMERICA
AT WAR**

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America at war by W. F. Osborne

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W. F. OSBORNE

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UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA,
WINNIPEG, CANADA



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TO

JOHN W. DAFOE,

THE ABLE EDITOR OF THE MANITOBA FREE PRESS, WHOSE
ADVOCACY OF CANADA'S FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE
WORLD STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN
SO CONSISTENT AND SO POWERFUL,
THIS RECORD OF A MEMORABLE
MONTH IS INSCRIBED.

PREFACE

Early in April, 1917, I was asked by the *Manitoba Free Press* to go to Washington as Special Correspondent to report upon the movement of the United States into the great world war.

Never before had I witnessed so absorbing or so exhilarating a spectacle. Two features about the American situation affected me most strongly. One was the readiness and the capacity of the American people for organized effort on a great scale. The other was the extent to which Ideality is now the outstanding characteristic of the American Republic. One hundred million free citizens advancing into the most desolating of struggles with no thought or prospect of ulterior advantage is one of the most inspiring incidents in the history of the world. At the same time I cannot help recording my conviction that, as a by-product of the war, great national advantage will accrue to the United States as a result of its participation. Upon the vast, conglomerate America that has grown up since the Civil War, the seal

of a unified Americanism will now finally be set. All classes, conditions, and races of America henceforth know that they can live and prosper under the American flag only on the condition of an unreserved devotion to the self-determined purposes of the Nation. For the achieving of this great result the immediate adoption of Selective Conscription will be largely to thank. I therefore heartily applaud the wisdom of that policy.

Into the American atmosphere, thus created by the Declaration of a State of War against Germany, came the two great Missions, the French and the British. Never were National delegations more admirably timed, never were they more admirably constituted. To the work and character of these Missions I have paid somewhat large attention in the course of this Correspondence. The variety and the power of great personality were never better illustrated than in the persons of Joffre, Viviani, and Balfour. The coming of Viviani and Joffre offered an opportunity for the expression of America's traditional and fully justified cordiality to France. The character and the deliverances of Balfour disclosed to the United States, as it had never been disclosed before, the splendidly democratic spirit of modern Britain.

The only consequence of this war that can be