Seven years have passed since that glorious 11 A.M., November 11, 1918. That was a never to be forgotten experience when every tongue shouted, "The War is Over". All along the fighting line, back in the training camps, in the streets of every city, in the homes where hung service flags—from every heart went out praise and prayer to the God of heaven as we wept and shouted and laughed together. My orders sent me from France down into Italy, then to Dalmatia, Serbia and Montenegro, but we were part of that mighty machine fighting to save the world. The war was won and we were happy.

It was impossible, at that time, to appreciate the terrible price that had been paid. We had seen miles of destruction, had seen the countless dead, had listened to bits of prayer from suffering lips that smiled and said "Carry on". Civilization hung as by a thread and humanity forced us madly on to the conflict. Statisticians have counted the material loss in terms of billions, the human loss in terms of millions, the spiritual loss in terms of eternity—but none can estimate the price to be paid by generations yet unborn. Terrible was the price, but liberty and justice had triumphed, popular government was rendered more secure, and modern civilization was preserved. The victory was worth the price. On this seventh anniversary of Armistice Day the world is turning more definitely and more eagerly towards the paths of real peace than at any time since the war.

Our hearts turn towards those who made it possible as they sleep buried in our national cemeteries and in the sacred spots dedicated in every town in all the world. We are mindful of the scores of thousands without hope this side of heaven because of broken bodies and shattered nerves. We think of the brave mothers, consecrated wives, and faithful sweethearts—God bless them every one as they bravely bear their sorrow. In-so-far as in us lies we owe it to these to see to it that their desires and dreams for world peace come true.
The Great Locarno Conference has been hailed as a new pledge for the peace of Europe, the League of Nations has demonstrated the advantage of combined influence for the peace of the Balkins, a United Church is aroused in its determination to work for the peace of the world—all these are far from perfect solutions, but each must be accepted as an honest effort to realize, "Peace on Earth good will among Men". The United States has welcomed every opportunity that has as its aim "WORLD PEACE"—the funding of war debts, the reduction of armies and navies, patient dealing with Mexico, liberal help to quake-stricken Japan, constant effort for the preservation of China, and many other evidences. We have never entered a war of selfish conquest, nor have we ever had a military policy based upon any other theory than that of National Defense." We may be divided as to the methods, perhaps disagree with Statesmen of other Nations, but the United States is a peace loving Nation and wishes the same peace for all the rest of the world.

The American Legion has gone on record to do all possible that war may be ended forever, and believes that, to a great extent, this can be accomplished by—

1. "The maintenance of adequate forces for internal and external national defense."

2. "The prompt enactment into law of the principle of the universal draft, thereby taking the profit out of war, and"

3. "The immediate adherence by the United States to a permanent court of international justice."

It is easy for us to grasp at the "straws" of international peace, and to feel that the new day has already dawned. We wonder about France and Syria when between two thousand and three thousand were killed in the bombardment of Damascus. We might raise questions about Italy and Greece in the bombardment of Corfu. We might go into Africa and question the various military campaigns. What is to become of the world wide program of Russia? How long will China remain the "over-grown country lad of the Far-East?" How long can we prevent a Pan-Arabian revolution
against France, Great Britain and Italy, with the objective of a Mohammedan uprising to drive the European powers out of Asia and Africa? It is hardly time to do the "Shouting" just yet. It is easy enough to sign treaties, or to dictate to bankrupt Greece and disarmed Bulgaria. There are fundamental causes out of which international friction comes—the demand for raw materials, commercial rights, insufficient lands for an increasing population, human selfishness. It is not enough to talk about eliminating guns and ships. We could still scratch out each other's eyes, tear clubs off the trees and swing madly back into barbarism. There must be a world program of religion—the kind of religion that will transform brains and hearts, eliminating hatreds, generating brotherhood, producing the spirit of honor and love.

"To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flander's fields."

We are a rich nation, and prosperous because the men who set up here a new form of government built with care. They knew the necessity for defense because, in the very first part of our Constitution, the Preamble, there appear the words, "provide for the common defense". Upon that part of the United States Constitution is based the National Defense Act of 1920. In these days when many are fearful lest we are being dominated by certain leaders who would plunge us into a program of militarism, it is well for us to understand the provisions of the present Military Policy. So long as human selfishness remains, in that proportion there must be a Police Department in every city, a Police Force in every nation. The United States has reduced in naval and military force so that today it is the smallest per-capita of any nation in the world. Our Navy has been reduced in compliance with the 5-5-3-3 terms of the Washington Conference. The Army has been divided
into three Components—The Regular Army, the National Guard, and the Reserves—all parts of the United States Army. The professional organization has been reduced much below its pre-war standing, and has been assigned the mission of policing our possessions and of training the other two or civilian components of the Army. The National Guard is made up of 11,410 Officers and 182,000 Enlisted Men. The National Defense Act provides for 800 Guardsmen for each member of Congress, which would give us 435,800 troops. But no effort has ever been made towards organizing more than the present 18 Infantry Divisions, 4 Cavalry Divisions, and certain Corps and Army troops. The National Guard has been assigned its position along with the Regulars as the First Line of Defense—whatever their organization and training, that is their assignment. The Reserve Divisions are organized by the assignment of the required Reserve Officers, and in case of national emergency these Divisions would be recruited by the operation of the Selective Draft Law. The organized military force is composed of a very small fraction of one percent of our population, and its upkeep and training require but a small contribution from each citizen. The brunt of National Defense must be born by the men who are willing to give of their time and ability, rather than by the small Regular Organization of professional soldiers.

In the organization of any Army, attention must be paid to the organization of its DEPTH as well as to the organization of its WIDTH. The strength of a fighting machine is no stronger that its DEPTH. This was manifest in the last war. The strength of Pershing's Force was not to be measured by the length of the front line trenches. His Force would have utterly failed had there not been RESERVES behind the lines, the Divisions being pushed up from the Ports of Debarkation, the constant stream of ships loaded with troops from America, the Divisions in the various Cantonments, the millions ready to respond to the Selective Draft Law—and besides all these, the consecration of industry and finance, the devotion of churches and schools, the absolute loyalty of a great people. So it is today. We must guard
well the organization and training of our National Depth. There is no place in the
United States for an organization that has as its mission the overthrow of our ideals
and standards. The American Federation of Labor has answered that question once and
for all. We dare not tolerate any selfish movements that would rob us of the right
to "worship God according to the dictates of our conscience". We must fight to the
last trench every effort that would undermine the Constitution—attacks on the
Preamble, the Eighteenth Amendment, or any other part of that great document. We
must see to it that the great army of boys and girls have the right to secure the
best possible education, and that they be encouraged along the lines of thrift, in-
dustry, morality, loyal citizenship. We must guard our Religious institutions
against the advances of greed and crime, saving the Lord's Day from shameful desecra-
tion. America must have a semblance of a military establishment, but our influence
as a great Nation will be felt in proportion to the power and glory of the DEPTH.

One thing will always stand out in my mind as I think of the World War—"The
United States, under the stress of the terrible emergency, got under and put over
the job that seemed to be staggering the world." Wherever you went that spirit was
manifest—with the boys out in no-man's land, with the consecration of millions of
wealth, with the Red Cross workers, with the School children, with the Churches of
the living God. Everywhere men, women, children were measuring up—DOING THE THING
BIG. The rich vied with the poor, the unlearned taught the learned, the cause made
heroes out of all.

But, dare we put anything less into these glorious days of world reconstruc-
tion? We must still "carry on" and answer back to the dead of the world's battle
fields,

"The faith with you we've kept and battled
with the foe;
On crimson fields by you we've slept where
poppies grow."
The torch you flung to us we caught;
With blistering hands we've bravely fought
To hold it high to guard you thro' the night,
And at the Dawn to guide you to the LIGHT,
When you awake from Flanders Field."

There are three great contributions that we can make, and each must answer to his God.

1. Whatever may be our plan for the solution of the world problem, the healing of the world's bleeding heart—the time has come when American genius must contribute to the international political situation. The world knows that we are not "too proud to fight"—the hob-nailed shoes of the American soldier never withdrew from one inch of conquered no-man's land, and they never will, but we can't be the world's banker forever nor send our products to all nations without contributing our full share in the saving of the world. I don't know the solution, but am sure that we should never get ourselves in the position where the United States flag must take dictations from any Nation on top of the earth. We must, however, give our full share of respect to the flags of other peoples.

2. In the realm of business, no man has lived his best who piles up for himself alone. Wealth is not in counting hundred dollar bills, but in using one's possessions and abilities for the maximum of blessing to the largest possible number of people. Nearly a hundred thousand young men were refused permission to put on the uniform because of tendencies towards Tuberculosis. The solution of that problem is a challenge to the Doctor. Thousands of children die without even a chance to survive the poverty, ignorance, and disease with which they are surrounded. That is a challenge to the business man. Millions know not how the other half of the world lives, and care less. That is a problem for the Churches. If we are going to be big souled characters, every last one of us must give out that others may thank God that his shadow fell on them. It is absolutely impossible for one to
live unto himself—if he tries the experiment, he is bound to schrivel and die. It is a violation of the fundamental laws of God.

3. There has been too much wrangling over religious forms and vocabularies, too much showiness in facing the problems of morality, religion, character. We have guarded our ports to shut out foreign poverty, and against individuals who would seek to undermine our high standards. But, we fail to take into consideration the man who, under the guise of intellectuality, pretext of independence, or the eternal grasp for the almighty dollar, defies the church, shatters the faith of children, and develops contempt for religion. Our Country was founded by Godly men and women, who came that they might better worship God. It was a sad day for other Nations when they forgot the Lord God Jehovah, and the United States will never be rich enough nor influential enough to snap her fingers in the face of almighty God.

We must contribute for the welfare of mankind:
1. The helpfulness of a favored brother.
2. The unselfishness of a prosperous life.
3. The sincerity of a faith that recognizes God.

Long years ago, Abraham Lincoln marked out the path of appreciation when on the field of Gettysburg, he urged that rather—"We dedicate ourselves". May we—YOU AND I—on this Armistice Day dedicate ourselves to the great mission of World Peace, Good Will and Brotherhood. Then, they shall not have fought, shall not have died in vain. They were just boys then—boys from your town, from the country, from the Colleges—JUST BOYS, BUT GOD BLESS THEM EVERY ONE!

I close with the message of "The Kid" by one of Indiana's splendid fellows—W. H. Herschell.

"The kid has gone to the colors,
And we don't know what to say.
The kid we have loved and cuddled
Stepped out for the flag today."
We thought him a child, a baby,
With never a care at all,
But his country called him man size,
And the kid has heard the call.

He paused to watch the recruiting,
Where fired by the fife and drum,
He bowed his head to Old Glory
And thought that it whispered,
"Come!"
The kid, not being a slacker,
Stood forth with patriot joy,
To add his name to the roster—
And God, we're proud of the boy!

The kid has gone to the colors,
It seems but a little while
Since he drilled a school-boy army
In a truly martial style.
But now he's a man, a soldier,
And we lent him listening ear,
For his heart is a heart all loyal,
Unscouraged by the curse of fear.

His dad, when he told him, shuddered;
His mother—God bless her!—cried;
Yet, blest with a mother nature,
She wept with a mother pride.
But he whose old shoulders straightened,
Was granddad, for memory ran
To years when he, too, a youngster,
Was changed by the flag to a man! \"