THE INAUGURATION OF LIVINGSTON FARRAND FOURTH PRESIDENT OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY

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hands of one of Cornell's most distinguished and best loved sons.

Chairman Hiscock formally installed President Farrand in office, saying:

PRESIDENT FARRAND, I now express to you, in behalf of the Faculty and the Trustees of Cornell, in behalf of all these friends and co-laborers in the cause of education, the wish that your administration may be filled with distinction and durable satisfaction for yourself and with worthy and substantial accomplishment for the University, with the presidency of which you are now formally invested.

President Farrand responded:

JUDGE HISCOCK, I accept this great trust with practical and full appreciation of the responsibility it carries. I can only say that, from this day on, whatever I have is placed absolutely and unreservedly at the service of Cornell University.

President Farrand delivered

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS

I PROPOSE, without apology, to exercise the personal privilege of choice of subject attaching to this hour and present for your consideration not a discussion of university organization but rather what seems to me the outstanding peril of the times and the unavoidable responsibility of our centres of intellectual leadership in what is nothing less than a life-and-death struggle to save our democratic ideals and civilization. It is easy, I know, loosely to employ superlatives and other terms of extreme significance and I recognize that

perspective is necessarily faulty in a picture as complex, extended and indistinct as that presented by the world today. It is perhaps more unjustifiable to paint exclusively in colors of gloom, but it is still more indefensible to close our eyes to the dangers which threaten our civilization as the result of the destruction of material, mental and moral values by the war and the economic, political and social confusion that has ensued. My thesis, then, is perfectly simple and clear. It is that European civilization, and that means our own, is today engaged in a fight for its very existence; that this fact is not clearly recognized either here or abroad, and that every opportunity must be seized to call attention to the critical aspect of the world situation and, for us in America, to our inevitable involvement in the outcome.

There has never been a better demonstration than in these last few years of the delicacy of the mechanism of the accumulation of experience, habits and reactions that we call civilization. We had become accustomed to think of it as a growth of deep root which might bend but not break, or as a structure whose foundations had been so firmly laid in the experience of the centuries that nothing but cosmic cataclysm could bring it low. Yet before our eyes we have seen this growth, over great areas of the world's surface, shattered in a night and chaos and confusion result. Whether this destruction shall extend is of course the world problem, and the answer is not to be sought in any temporary political adjustments, however superficially reassuring.

Analysis of the world situation may be made from different angles of approach, but after all there are not many factors, broadly speaking, which need to be considered.

One may take up the political aspect and dwell upon the significance of new national boundaries and newly awakened national and racial aspirations, or one may emphasize the economic phase of the problem in all its ramifications, or one may choose those less measurable but more fundamental and important considerations—the factors of human vitality and of folk psychology which underlie and affect all the activities of individual or of national life. Disorder in any one of these great fields is serious. In no one of them—and this is a point I wish to emphasize—in no one of them would confusion be necessarily fatal. Viewed in relation to the present European chaos, if the effects of the war were confined to any one of the fields mentioned, recovery would be, conceivably, relatively easy and, possibly, relatively prompt. It is, however, the coincidence of disorder in all of them that renders the present situation so critical and makes general disaster inevitable unless the public opinion of the world is thoroughly awakened and a conscious and informed sense of responsibility aroused and made effective.

We are not primarily concerned today with the question as to whether the present situation is the result of the war or the war but one striking expression of the storm to which our civilization was being subjected and of the revolution through which the world undoubtedly was and is passing. A satisfactory answer to that question might be academically interesting but would not perceptibly clarify the field. What is certain is that the war forced into bold relief and gave energy of high potential to certain factors which together present the disquieting threat. It is entirely conceivable that whereas without the war civilization, in its ponderous

course of evolution, might have surmounted the successive obstacles it met, it now may go down before the overwhelming force of the combination of dangerous conditions with which we are face to face.

I shall not digress to discuss the question as to whether or not European civilization is worth saving. At least it represents, broadly speaking, the best we have; at least, using the term European to cover our own, faulty as it is, it best expresses those principles of individual opportunity, of liberty and of justice which we are accustomed to regard as the ideals of our American democracy.

The two aspects of the situation most prominently in the public eye, the political and the economic, are to my mind not the most important. It is of course obvious that until those problems are solved or at least reduced to simpler terms, the reëstablishment of anything approaching stability is impossible.

This is not the place to discuss the wisdom of the action by which Central and Eastern Europe were, by edict, carved into a new and strange pattern. It may or may not have been wise, but the fact is obvious that out of countries and nations of centuries of standing and habits there was in a day created a number of new and independent republics. It is not difficult to picture the situation so brought about. Take for example the so-called Baltic Provinces. Suddenly there are established three new countries, Esthonia, Latvia and Lithuania, each one small, say a million and a half of population, no laws, no currency, no national habits, yet each, of course, imbued with patriotic aspirations. Each was called upon to take its place in the family of nations upon a moment's notice and was faced with the stupend-

ous problem of establishing, out of hand, the entire machinery of national operation, and that while still struggling against all the material hardships resulting from the war.

Similarly, on a larger scale, picture if you will the situation in Poland when there were suddenly brought together three diverse populations; Poles to be sure, but Poles who had lived for generations under three different dominations, Russian, German and Austrian. During long years, while retaining the fervor of Polish tradition, they had, nevertheless, developed the fixed habits and customs which went with the particular nationality under which each group had lived.

The surprising thing is that as much unity was obtainable as has been the case. In Poland, even more than in the northern provinces, the economic situation was desperate, for there had been widespread destruction on every side, and military operations were still active. Under the circumstances the establishment of political stability was impossible.

The dismemberment of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the creation of Czecho-Slovakia, the expansion of Serbia into Jugo-Slavia—all these, added to the Russian collapse in the East and the forcibly established new frontiers both on the East and on the West, are more than enough to explain the political confusion presented by Central and Eastern Europe.

The economic aspect of the problem is of course infinite in its complexity, yet certain of its phases are being forced into prominence. The first necessity is obviously to reëstablish production in order to replace the widespread destruction of war. The obstacles to such reëstablishment are many. The moral paralysis

of industry which was so striking and discouraging a phenomenon in the first two years following the Armistice shows marked improvement, but there have arisen the baffling walls of depreciated currencies and the breakdown of transportation. What in simpler days might have been incidents have now become the vital factors in the economic problem. There could be no better demonstration of the complete interdependence of nations which the last century has brought about. The increase of populations, notably urban, with the specialization of industry, has made economic independence, even relatively speaking, forever impossible. Lacking raw materials, the fall in the exchange values of money has made purchase impossible, and there is a growing despair as to the reëstablishment of production. The world has become involved in one of those vicious circles made familiar by the war and to break which no practicable method has yet been suggested.

It would appear that at the present time the problem of international exchange takes first place in its demand for solution.

In its effects on the immediate welfare of the countries under discussion the breakdown of transportation is perhaps even more significant. Except in certain restricted areas the harvests have been good and food exists. In spite of this, shortage to the point of starvation has been seen from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. The explanation lies, of course, in the fact that transportation has been impossible. A survey of the railroad map of Europe as it existed before the war shows a system covering all parts of the continent from France to Russia, completely articulated and organized and operated with freedom and efficiency. Now sud-

denly, by fiat from Paris, the establishment of eight to ten independent nations has divided the existing railroad system into independent blocks and for practical purposes international transportation in Eastern Europe has broken down and communication stops at the frontier. This, added to the destruction of roadbeds and of rolling stock, has completely demoralized what is in our modern day a first essential of economic existence.

Another temporary but profoundly disturbing factor is that of displaced populations. Every country in Europe is struggling with the problem of the refugee. The most difficult and pathetic of these groups is at the moment, of course, that of the Russians. The best estimates indicate two millions of Russian refugees thrust out of their own country and now, in desperate plight, scattered among other populations already overburdened with their own personal and national problems. There is no solution in sight except international action, and the probability of such in the near future is not high. Certainly the burden cannot be carried by private philanthropy.

At this moment in Poland the already difficult situation is complicated by the appearance at the Russian frontier of hundreds of thousands, probably a million, exiles returning to their homes. They had fled from Poland before the German drive in 1915, have been held in Russia and are now being repatriated by agreement with the Soviet Government. Without resources of any kind, homes and fields devastated, they are left to make a living if they can or starve. The latter is the probability during the coming winter.

The economic situation that exists throughout the great area of eastern and central Europe is desperate.

That group of countries had been accustomed to look both to the east and to the west for their commercial development. But to the east lies Russia in a state of complete economic and social collapse. To the west lies Germany slowly reëstablishing herself. Her material equipment was practically unimpaired but she lacks raw materials and coal. What is equally serious from the German point of view is the fact that before the war and under normal conditions nearly one-half of Germany's commerce was toward the east. That market is now entirely shut off. She must look to the west and to the Americas for her immediate field of activity and under the present conditions the difficulties which lie in the path of her reëstablishment are obvious. We must, however, do Germany the justice to say that even now her well known characteristic of industry is reasserting itself and she is making striking progress toward economic rehabilitation. Unfortunately, the basis of her apparent recovery is not as evident as its superficial activity.

In western Europe the situation is undoubtedly brighter. France is rapidly rehabilitating herself and is safe provided complete collapse does not occur in the east and overwhelm her. The same is true of Belgium. In Italy the situation is more confused, but even in that country grounds for optimism appear.

If any one of these countries were the only one concerned, or if in all of them the economic consideration were the only one in question, pessimistic predictions would be out of place because recovery would be certain.

It is, as remarked a few moments ago, the combination of factors which creates the appalling gravity of the situation.

And there is one factor not yet touched upon which is to my mind the most serious of all—and that is the factor of human vitality.

The sooner we realize that human vitality in Europe has been completely undermined by the experiences of these last seven years the sooner will it be possible to devise and perhaps participate in possible steps for the reëstablishment of the world's energy.

Recall, if you will, the eight million lives wiped out in battle or as the direct result of military operations. Stunning as that blow was, it is as nothing compared to the infiltration of disease and the results of malnutrition throughout the civilian population which followed in the wake of war. Remember too that the birth rate was cut in half and that the general death rate increased to an alarming degree.

The result of all this is that even where reëstablishment of production might be materially possible, it will be inevitably checked by the lack of human vitality with which adequately to operate. There is no single aspect of the whole problem to my mind so fundamentally serious as this particular one, and it is this underlying all other factors and added to them which makes the situation appallingly critical.

Throughout the territory in question, as elsewhere, there are in general two great groups of devitalizing forces, the epidemic diseases, of which typhus is perhaps the most fatal and widespread, and then that group of slower development but which is much more difficult to handle and which is associated with malnutrition and lowered standards of living. Of these, of course, tuberculosis is the most significant example.

Dramatic as the attack of typhus, cholera and other

epidemic diseases may be, too much stress should not be laid upon them as factors of ultimate importance to reëstablishment. They are relatively easily controlled. It is, on the other hand, the problem of those undermining diseases associated with profound malnutrition which gives most serious concern.

To cite Poland as perhaps typical of the situation, while accurate statistics are as yet naturally not available, the reports from city populations in that country make clear that there today exists a mortality from tuberculosis in excess of six hundred per hundred thousand inhabitants. Considering what this means in terms of morbidity and depleted vitality in the living population, a situation of the greatest gravity is evident. It is a mortality at least six times what it should be, taking the more favored countries of Western Europe and America as standard.

What has been said of Poland is true to a heightened degree of Austria. The tuberculosis mortality in Vienna has doubled since 1914 and the increase is particularly marked in children. The rate in Vienna in children under five years has reached the staggering figure of 665 per 100,000 as compared with 84 in England and Wales, which we may take for comparative purposes.

In Hungary the situation is similar, although the economic conditions are more promising.

It is needless to take up in succession the nations so affected. The situation described is illustrative of the general conditions in Eastern Europe.

It is still conceivable that this vital problem can be solved, but it is one to be met only by united action and that with adequate and speedy help. The reëstablishment of economic stability will of course go far to

rectify the conditions signalized by malnutrition and to which much of the appalling devitalization can be laid.

There still remains a problem, the solution of which we do not see. It is the problem of the European child. He has been subjected now for seven years to profound undernourishment. We deal here in figures which the human mind can hardly comprehend. A rough estimate, but one as careful as the material in our hands will warrant, makes it evident that there are in Europe today no less than eleven million war orphans, meaning by that children of whom at least one parent has been lost as a result of war conditions.

There are still more who, although not orphaned, have been subjected to an equal degree of hardship and lack of care as a result of hostilities. What we find, therefore, is a vast child population no longer developing normally, but one which already shows all the defects, deformities and abnormalities which necessarily accompany prolonged privation and illness. Lack of development, both physical and mental, lack of care and training, inevitable under the circumstances, mark the generation to which we must look forward in the next twenty years as that upon whose shoulders the civilization of Europe must rest; and the prospect is not reassuring.

The specific remedy is of course not apparent. Palliatives may be applied and it is only fair to say that in spite of economic prostration, all the nations concerned are giving such attention to the child problem as their resources and the immediate demands of political survival permit. It remains true, however, that unless the situation is thoroughly and internationally

apprehended and responsibility accepted, even relative restoration is out of the question.

It is, I repeat, no one consideration but the combination of factors now existing which makes the situation a crisis in every sense of the term. And it is literally true that unless improvement sets in the civilization of Europe cannot stand.

I shall not discuss the disillusionizing moral reaction whose expressions have become so evident nationally and internationally since the Armistice. While discouraging and thus far nullifying the realization of certain great ideals for which the war was fought, there is evidence that idealism still exists and can be made effective if comprehension of the situation is complete.

For us as Americans the always reassuring fact is the existence of that spirit of unselfish service in every group of the population which sprang to such impressive expression in the hour of national trial and which still survives if only it can be successfully invoked.

Why, it may be asked, should this occasion be chosen for presenting so forbidding a picture? The reason is simple. Unless international responsibility is recognized, disaster is inevitable, and unless we as Americans accept our part, that disaster is hastened.

As a practical problem, then, we have to assess our resources and determine the agencies to which we can turn with any hope of profitable response.

Before considering this particular point, let us admit at once that it is no new question that is now presented but rather a dangerously accentuated presentation which the war has brought about. That for a generation our civilization has been under indictment is recognized by every thinking mind. More than that,

social and economic maladjustment has been a disturbing element since the dawn of history and probably before. Never solved, it has been dealt with in different epochs in different ways. Absolutism has in local instances quieted the surface without stilling the turmoil which seethed below. Anarchy has at times expressed the brute strength of the victims without offering an endurable substitute for the conditions against which the protest was made. Even that great, many-sided social movement, of which the French Revolution formed the political apex, significant as were its effects on western civilization, could do no more than print in indelible lines, where all the world might read, the story of society's struggle and state in certain terms the factors in society's task. That the problem has persisted through the ages without solution is no reason for complacent evasion of the question now, for it is clear that a world-wide realignment of fundamental forces has presented a new battle front.

That a permanent solution can be devised or even relatively permanent adjustment effected is out of the question. Complete solution would of course postulate social, economic and industrial stagnation. It must be always evident that each advance in the world's knowledge serves to disturb any approach to equilibrium. Every discovery of science, applied as it always is to practical affairs, must inevitably affect the economic status and thus in turn react upon the social relations. Further, we must not forget that both time and space may and do have a profound effect upon civic needs and upon social responsibility. Even standards of ethics evolve with culture. What is moral and good at one time and in one place may be immoral and

wrong in another age and in another quarter of the globe. There is much more than a grain of truth in Pascal's dictum: "There is nothing just or unjust which does not change its quality with a change of climate. Three degrees of latitude overturn the whole science of life."

But, complex as the problem may be and unsuccessful as the struggles of the past may have been, the teaching of history does not warrant an attitude of hopelessness. Each historic upheaval has served to raise the general level of society and its relations. The fact that ultimate solution seems unattainable does not mean that enormous improvement may not be within our reach. Anarchy and absolutism cannot be admitted as the only alternatives at the world's disposal, and there is still ground for confidence that democratic ideals will survive and conquer. The necessity of the time is to define, if possible, the ends toward which we should individually and collectively strive and the methods we must employ.

We have as our first necessity to arouse an appreciation of collective interest, to establish common ideals of the common good, and to enlist the forces of humanity and justice and knowledge for the improvement of the world welfare.

Under relatively simple conditions this has not been an impossible task. The early history of our own country carries its illuminating lesson. The little Puritan communities of New England achieved results, the effects of which have persisted and on which we still build our governments and more or less order our lives. And why? Because they were communities of like-minded men—because they had the same ideals of

religion and liberty and life. Every person believed in the same standards of conduct; they revered the same righteousness and they hated the same iniquity; they had the same conception of the general good. The question is not as to whether their conception was sound and their customs admirable. The fact remains that common ideals produced results and the lesson thus taught may well be taken to heart in this present day.

I am far from urging that we shall sacrifice individuality or that all men should be moulded on the same pattern. What *is* desirable is that the same ideals, nationally and internationally, shall be inculcated in our youth and stimulate our common action. It *is* imperative that the great space which separates knowledge and ignorance, wealth and poverty, righteousness and vice shall be diminished. It is essential that tolerance shall replace arrogance, that self-interest shall modify its claims and that service to one's fellows shall be recognized as of all motives the most worth while.

What then are the agencies to which we can turn with any hope of profitable response? It must be entirely clear that it is elsewhere than in the field of active struggle for individual advantage that we must look for aid. It must be to those agencies which are consciously concerned with the propagation of ideals and with the training of intelligence that we must first direct the appeal. Sweeping aside all minor considerations, there is but one hope of solution and that is the spread of knowledge, coupled with a broad idealism and above all a readiness to give that service which is essential to the survival of our modern democracies.

The implications of what I have been saying must

be entirely apparent. There is one institution above all others to which our attention inevitably turns today, and that is our educational system. Perhaps the most serious fact of human psychology is that mental plasticity ceases with youth. The acquisition of new ideals outside the purely personal is for the most part denied to those who have passed their earlier years. It is therefore in those who are still receptive that the new habits must be implanted. It is in those institutions to which this youth is entrusted that the new social language must be taught and the new social outlook must be learned. Of these there is none which carries the measure of responsibility that is placed upon the colleges and universities of the land. There is probably no field of organized endeavor in which the habit of self-examination is more active than in that of higher education. In spite of that fact, there is no activity on which the hand of tradition lies with heavier weight. I do not propose to enter a discussion of the purposes of the university, but we may as well recognize the fact that we are undergoing scrutiny both from within and from without. There are those who view with disquiet many of the later university tendencies. They recognize that character and good citizenship and sound bodies are excellences to be desired for all, but they sometimes argue that these do not constitute the purpose of institutions of learning. They would admit that education certainly should not hinder their growth, but would deny them a place in the focus of academic attention.

I cite these forebodings not to scout them nor to condemn them. I cite them rather to suggest that the danger lies not in the substitution of another ideal as

that of the fundamental enterprise but in the possible emphasis upon a false ideal of citizenship and life. There is a very real danger that conventional success shall be erected as the goal of highest endeavor and that frank individualism shall be encouraged to a point where it will preclude the recognition of the common good. It will be a grave day for our national life when the "inquisition of truth," to borrow Bacon's phrase, and the cultivation of learning shall be elbowed to the side in our American universities, but it will constitute an equal peril when our institutions of learning fail to hold aloft and at the front the standard of high character, of sensitive honor, of sound citizenship and service to man.

The logic of the situation seems perfectly clear. The world is being tried as with fire. Society is in revolution. Our civilization is not only under indictment, it is fighting for very existence. Solution is not to be reached by local adjustment. Acceptance of international responsibility is unavoidable. Dogmatism and intolerance, whether national or individual, will be fatal. An informed citizenship—a citizenship imbued with the ideals of true democracy and that spirit and habit of service without which democracy cannot stand, is indispensable. It is a long struggle in which we are engaged. It is to the rising generation that the world must turn for help. It is to a youth trained to see clearly, to view broadly, to judge fairly and to act fearlessly that we must look for better things. The responsibility for his production lies most heavily upon our organized foundations of learning. In our present situation they are the saving institutions of society. No responsibility could be more grave—no

opportunity could be more inspiring. It was for leadership in such emergencies that the great sisterhood of universities represented here today has been established. To assume its part of the burden and to discharge its share of this responsibility Cornell resolutely sets its face, confident of the outcome—more convinced than ever of the inspired wisdom of its founders—and confident first and last of the vitality of those ideals of individual opportunity, of liberty, and of justice upon which our American democracy is founded and without which life itself is not worth living.

Professor William Alexander Hammond, Dean of the University Faculty, presented greetings from the Faculty of the University:

DEAN HAMMOND'S ADDRESS

Mr. President, I have the honor and the pleasure of extending to you the welcome of the University Faculty, of which you are now the presiding officer. We congratulate you on taking your place in a line of distinguished presidents and we await with satisfaction your educational leadership. There are few offices of greater responsibility, dignity, and opportunity. You will be relieved of the duty, except where it is self-imposed, of class-room teaching. The professors will teach the students and you, Sir, will teach the Faculty. This, I hope, you will regard as an equitable division of labor. Your problems will be no less difficult and, we trust, no less agreeable than ours. Our combined functions exhaust the fundamental business of the University. The University exists for the instruction of youth and for the extension of the boundaries of knowledge through research. For both of these phases of the University's life