

# THE NATIVE AMERICAN IN THE WORLD WAR.

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WHY does the red man fight for democracy? The Indian weeps to-day for devastated Belgium, and his sorrow for France is that of a real brother. He has entered this war and is going to stay in it until the pit-a-pat of his moccasins is heard Under den Linden.

There are more than 5,000 Indian young men under arms to-day, and more than 85 per cent of them are volunteers. They are in almost every branch of the service ready to lay down their lives that the Goddess of Liberty and Justice may continue to reign in the affairs of men.

You can not readily see the degree of patriotism the red man cherishes in his heart for the reason that 5,000 Indians compared with all the tribes is but a tiny part. The red man is truly aware of the disturbed conditions of this world through ungodly tyrants. He needs not to be told that his home and loved ones are threatened with bondage and slavery.

Of the 5,000 in the service, only a very small per cent of them are conscripts. Thus we get an idea of the percentage who see the righteousness of our cause. The red man has willingly accepted the strictest discipline and the severest possible danger which can be nothing but a credit to any race. The hyphenless American is proving himself worthy of his ancestry and has, therefore, a part in the history in the making that shines from many quarters.

Our grandfathers and families of old warriors of hostile leadership against Uncle Sam vie with others in the purchase of liberty bonds; grizzly chieftains wearing the scars of battles with the whites are preaching "the Kaiser must go" to their tribal descendants in native tongue as ardently as Patrick Henry ever plead for liberty or death, while the sons and grandsons of "Chiefs Joseph, John Gall,

and their followers through the enlistment offices. You can have no misgivings about the red man's part in the world war. He is ready to march to the drum beat of democracy until autocracy shall go down in the pages of history as an obsolete form of government which once assailed the right of men to live and be free. Whether on the reservation or in the training camp he is helping to defend Old Glory and all it stands for. He comes to the conflict ready to share in the dangers, sacrifices, and honors of those who fight and suffer untold agonies that freedom may continue to be an ideal of mankind. He understands that it is a call to him as it is to every other race of men who understands that freedom is a divine gift and has come to join in the battle against the contemptors of justice and honor; he knows, and all the world knows, that the fight must go on to the end, whatever the loss and the sorrow for us until the end is as bitter as death for the champions of wrong.

The red man has learned that this is not President Wilson's, the rich man's, the poor man's, or any other one or few persons' war, but everybody's war. Therefore he has offered and is offering his services and is willing to deny himself that his dollars may be poisoned arrows to the Hun while America is on the firing line. The Indian has come to look upon our President as a second Moses come to deliver a people including the German people themselves from the menace of Prussianism. The unspoiled Indian heart is equally and truly sensitive to all the finer humanities.

The Anglo-Saxon ideals of civilization and liberty have conquered the aboriginal American and he willingly faces death that it may conquer the world that there may be a lasting peace on earth and good will amongst men.

Less than 50 years ago, the bloodthirsty Sioux were scalping and mutilating the dead bodies of Custer's men, but to-day we find the sons and grandsons of those Indians standing in the trenches, facing the cannons, bombs, and poison gas, offering their lives as a sacrifice, that justice, mercy, humanity, and freedom shall not perish from the earth.