



# America First

## An Editorial:

### A Call to Every American Woman

**H**OW far the present upset condition of our peaceful country will carry us: how acute will become our state of disturbance, no one can foretell. It is a case of where "one man's guess is as good as another's." Only time can tell.

One thing is apparently certain: We are facing a time of absolute readjustment as a nation and of a sense of responsibility and coöperation that becomes personal to each one of us. Whether it was right or wrong that we should become a part of the madness that seems to possess a large part of the world; whether our participation could or could not have been avoided, are no longer the important questions. Nor is it a time of our personal beliefs or convictions. It is, essentially, a condition and not a theory that confronts us. Yesterday ended last night. To-day is all that we have. To-morrow is our problem. And the share that the American woman will take in that problem is to count for much. Already thousands of American women are busy; thousands more will be busy when these words reach the reader. But all of us must be sure that we personally and individually are busy. It is a time for every American woman, of whatever station, to do her "bit." And she will. The American woman never fails to rise to an occasion: her amazing ability in time of crisis is proverbial. No picture is more stirring than that of woman in the troublous times of 1861-1865, and no picture will be more stirring than that of the women of 1917.

**T**HE American woman has been favored beyond the women of any other nation of the globe. During the past two years or more particularly she has lain on beds of ease. All the way down the line, from the high to the low, much has come to her: more than to any other woman; and the world looks for much from those to whom much has been given. The time has now come for the American woman to lay aside her dolls and playthings, as did her sisters of 1861-1865, and show the mettle that is in her. The season of play and of the lightsome mood is over: the time for sterner thought and vital work is here. From every part of the land has come the voice of complaint that the American woman has been softened by prosperity, and, to a large extent, the complaint is justified. Prosperity invariably softens a people, men and women. But that condition is over for a period. What stern realities we may face cannot be forecast. But self-denial, personal sacrifice, the thought and doing for others invariably strengthen, and if it be within the wisest necessities that we shall be hardened by adversity, it is not an experience to be dreaded. Only so is a strong people made. What the adversities of human conflict have done for the women of the warring countries across the sea is beyond human calculation. It may be so with us.

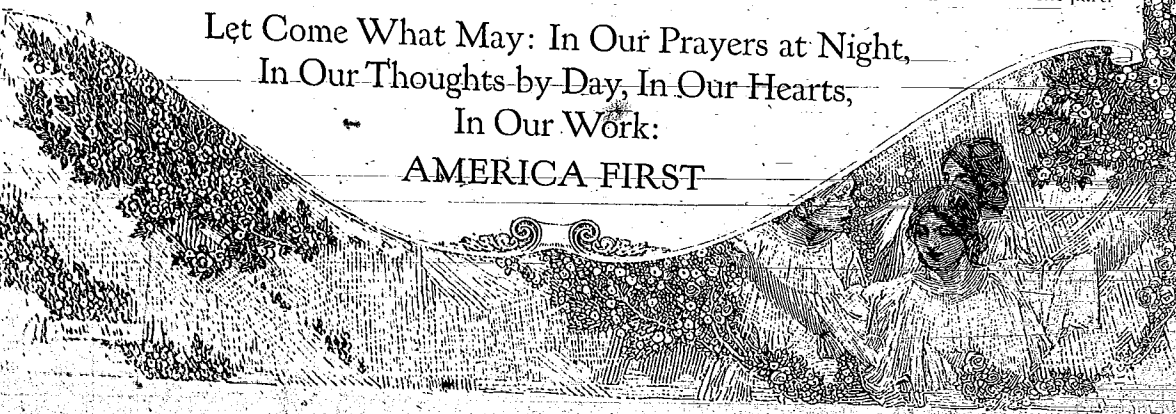
**I**F NOW becomes every American girl or woman to take an inventory of herself to see what abilities have been given her and to what service she can consecrate those abilities for the benefit of her native or adopted country. Some will work in the outer activities that the upset condition of a nation creates. Some may be called upon to send forth a husband, a father,

a son, or a brother into the sea of trouble. The vast majority of women, however, will remain at home to keep the children going and the home intact. And those women must not for a moment feel that no responsibility is theirs: that no work lies at their hand. It is always the women who remain behind in the homes of a troubled nation that constitute its bulwark, whether they have the time or the ability to work outside of their homes, or fight to keep those homes intact and keep the important machinery running for the benefit of a nation's childhood. Not a woman is there to whom war does not bring its problems. Its arm reaches all, even the idle woman who sits slothfully by. Upon her womankind sets the stigma of disgrace. But there are few such, and a negligible unhealthy quantity, in any proposition, can always be ignored.

Wherever there dwells a normal woman within the confines of the land we love, from that spot in this wonderful nation of ours will come the cry for her part to do and the willingness to do it, each according to her ability. With all personal interests put aside, the American woman will rise as a single unit to the call for AMERICA FIRST!

**W**HEN this woman THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL will go hand in hand through the future that is now veiled to us. Whatever problems there may come before her: whatever privations and self-sacrifice she may be called upon to bear, this magazine will endeavor to foresee the need and be at her side when the time is there to meet it. The most careful and comprehensive plans have been made to point the way to those outside activities that will need the help and the means of the woman who has the time, the abilities and the means. The magazine is already in close touch with the authoritative channels of the best activities and it will be their mouthpiece and the guide of the women who wish to take part in them. With the woman in the home the magazine will likewise keep in close touch. So far as human foresight and the mechanical exigencies of a magazine that must go to press so much in advance of the time that it reaches its readers make possible, the editors will forecast the economic problems that will face the home-keeper and the mother, and show the way out. While it will seek to stimulate, to cheer, to entertain as before, more strongly than ever will the note of actual help permeate the pages of the magazine. To others will we leave the recording of the course of events. THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL will help in the results which those events bring to the perplexed woman.

**S**O, HAND in hand, will THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL and its readers meet the new situations and their resultant problems, each striving to help the other in their wisest solution. And together will the magazine and its readers face unflinchingly the experiences that may be ahead, full of courage, full of faith, full of that undaunted spirit of true Americanism that has in times gone by made the world in contemplation of it stand with uncovered head, and in which the American woman has never failed to play a large and efficient part.



Let Come What May: In Our Prayers at Night,  
In Our Thoughts by Day, In Our Hearts,  
In Our Work:  
**AMERICA FIRST**

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