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The four-minute man

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formulated early in November. The meeting was canceled because of the signing of the armistice.

GLENN N. MERRY, *Chairman*.

A FOUR-MINUTE MASTERPIECE

LAST fall the chairman of the Illinois state Four-Minute men's organization instituted a state-wide contest for the best four minute speech on the subject, "The Part of the Four-Minute Men in the War." Speeches were limited to five hundred words. One hundred twenty-eight speeches were submitted; a committee of three was appointed; and, by what seemed almost a miracle, they agreed to a man on the same speech without consultation or the slightest suggestion as to preference. The committee however, came to the conclusion that the marvel lay not so much in the agreement as in the speech itself. It is presented in the QUARTERLY JOURNAL because it is after all a masterly exposition of the power of the spoken word of any and all kinds, not of four-minute speaking solely.

At the beginning and at the end change the words "I am a Four-Minute Man" to "I am a *Public Speaker*," and you have as powerful a presentation of the mission of the public speaker as can be found in all literature.

This little classic is the work of Mr. Fred A. Wirth, of 4448 Sunnyside Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

C. H. W.

THE FOUR-MINUTE MAN

By FRED A. WIRTH

I am a Four-Minute Man.

I am the Mouthpiece of Democracy.

I make men THINK.

I wield the most potent power of Human Endeavor—THE SPOKEN WORD.

The Blind do not read—the Ignorant cannot read—the Dullard will not read—but ALL MEN must harken to my message.

My appeal is universal—elemental—primitive.

I was a Roving Shepherd. I came back to my tribe and told of a Far County, green with pastures. My message reached Abraham. He led his tribe forth and founded a great people—Israel.

Again, I was a Nomad Slave. I returned to my people, groaning under the fetters of Pharaoh, and told of a beautiful land beyond the desert. My tidings came to the ears of Moses and he led his Chosen People to the Promised Land.

Again, I was a Wandering Monk. To the High and Low, I brought the tale of the Holy Land, suffering under Moslem oppression. My appeal inspired the Great Crusade.

Again, I was a Wayfaring Mariner, spreading strange rumors of unknown lands, beyond the seas. Columbus heard my message—set sail and discovered a New World.

Thus it is, that the destinies of Humanity have been swayed and directed by the SPOKEN WORD.

Today, my appeal is more compelling—more potent—more universal than ever.

I am a Stoker for the Great Melting Pot. In four minutes, I breathe the flame of true American Patriotism to people of all kinds and creeds.

I am a Soldier. I fight German propaganda, intrigue, falsehoods, treachery.

I am a Teacher. I set forth in 240 seconds, lessons in loyalty, duty, thrift, conversation, co-operation.

I am a Herald. I sound the clarion call for men to serve their country. I summon help for the Y.M.C.A. and the Red Cross.

I am a Salesman. I sell Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps.

I am a Preacher. Using the text that all men are equal, I invoke Loyalty, Patriotism, Devotion.

I am a Doctor. I give four-minute treatments for disloyalty, un-Americanism, selfishness, laziness. I eradicate apathy and listlessness and instill "pep" and enthusiasm.

I am a Lawyer. Before a jury of all races and creeds, I indict old world standards of caste, class distinction, privileges, and false pride.

I am an Efficiency Engineer. I plead for the elimination of waste and carelessness and the practice of economy and conservation.

I am an Optimist. I have faith in the triumph of Truth and Right over Might and Brute Force.

I am a Prophet. I predict the doom of Despotism and Autocracy and the triumph of Liberty and Democracy.

I am a Lover. I love the Stars and Stripes. I love to think that this nation under God is having a new Birth of Freedom and that Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

I am the Mouthpiece of Democracy.

I make men THINK.

I am a Four-Minute Man.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A FEW inquiries came to the President in October and November about the national convention. No doubt many others wondered that they heard nothing about it. Since the appearance at last of the October *QUARTERLY*, probably everyone has understood that I was relying on this number of the *QUARTERLY* to give due notice of the action of the Executive committee. In the light of our experience, I expected in September that the October *QUAR-*