

AERO SQUAD COMMANDER PLEADS FOR READINESS.

CAPT. FOULOIS DECLARES NATION
VICTORIOUS IN WAR ALWAYS
HAS GREATER ARMY THAN BEFORE
TO LEAVE MONDAY

The aeroplane division of the army of the United States of America sat in a private dining room at the Metropolitan hotel Saturday night and there was still room for a score of Fort Worth officials, military, aeronautical, business and newspapermen.

Speakers made the fact a subject almost of derision. The program wound up with an appeal by Capt. B. D. Foulois, commanding the first aero squadron and Lieut. J. E. Carberry, for support of the aero division and of preparedness in general through petitions of congressmen.

Capt. Foulois pointed to Germany as the most probable next enemy of the United States.

The first aero squadron was organized last July and stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., temporarily. It is flying now to San Antonio to establish permanent quarters at Fort Sam Houston. Captain Foulois was the first aviator the United States ever had.

TAKEN OVER CITY.

The aero captain and the five lieutenants of his squadron were luncheon guests Saturday of Mayor Tyra and R. E. L. Costan, president of the Southwestern Aeronautical Association. Following a visit to the King Candy Company factory, where they were presented with two-pound boxes of candy, the aviators were given an automobile ride over the city.

Besides the aviators, those present at the dinner Saturday night were Mayor Tyra, who was toastmaster; City Commissioner Smith, Jamieson and Littlejohn; Maj. C. O. Elliott of the Texas National Guard, President Ben E. Keith and Secretary R. O. McCormack of the Chamber of Commerce, President R. E. L. Costan of the Southwestern Aeronautical Association, J. J. Langever, Marshall Spoons, Guy Waggoner, Warren V. Galbreath, John W. Covey, A. B. Case, Frank T. Crittenden, William Monnig, J. Montgomery Brown and Amon G. Carter.

FOULOIS PLEADS FOR SERVICE

When he was called on as the last speaker, Captain Foulois apologized for posing as an orator, but said he felt obligated to improve every opportunity to do something for the advancement of the government's aero service.

"We have been trying for seven years to build our service up", he said, "and it has been hard to do with no money and little encouragement. In 1910 I was sent to San Antonio with the only aeroplane in the service.

"I had to teach myself how to fly and the government allowed me \$150 a year to keep the machine up. In the first year I spent \$300 out of my own pocket on it. One of the speakers has quoted a Texas congressman as having said 'preparedness' is all graft. I don't think you could have called me a grafter under such circumstances."

Major Elliott had quoted a recent speech of Congressman Callaway and had expressed his indignation that citizens let such statements go unanswered. Major Elliott also had cited Germany as a possible future enemy of the United States. William Monnig had followed Elliott and differed with him on the latter point.

"When Germany comes out victorious in this War," she will not be looking for another war for fifty years. I think our next trouble will be with Japan."

Captain Foullois agreed with Major Elliott.

WAR STRENGTHENS ARMY.

"If Germany comes out victorious in this War," he said, "she will have the strongest army in the world. Immediately after the Civil war, the Union army, far from being worn out, was the strongest in the world. If Germany is victorious, she will dictate to the United States. In fact, we are going to find ourselves in a very bad situation if any one of the European countries now at war should come out victorious and have occasion to tell us what to do. We would have to do it.

"I know you business men haven't had time to think of preparedness. You wouldn't be thinking of it now if the newspapers were not full of war and preparedness. Let us prepare, not for offense, but for defense, for we know that when we take the offensive in war it is going to mean death. Our little army today would be wiped out in the first good fight we had.

"We wouldn't be ready to fight if war were declared no: we wouldn't be ready in a year, nor would we be ready in five years if our condition were no better than it is today.

COULD LAND ANYWHERE.

"If Germany cared to take issue with the United States after this European war she could land troops anywhere she pleased along the Atlantic coast and take every munition factory we have -- they are all along the Atlantic coast.

"Congress in the last six years has said whenever a new invention was offered for military use, 'Let the European countries develop it and then we will take it'. European countries never failed to take advantage of such a situation.

Our people are now beginning to see aeroplanes and submarines are making records for themselves in this war. The highest number on any one of aeroplanes out yonder on the field tonight is 53. It means that many aeroplanes have been owned by the United States army in the last six years. That many machines are being shipped to Europe every day. That many are being destroyed in Europe almost every day."

He described the aeroplane's ^{use} ~~use~~ for reconnoitering and commented on the popular idea that the aero's greatest value in war is its bomb dropping. It is a fighting machine, he said, for self-defense, but it is primarily the instrument that makes it possible for the modern general to direct a battle from twenty-five miles behind the firing line.

Lieutenant Carbery's talk was a similar plea and he cited the backwardness of the aero squadron in equipment, besides its backwardness in number of machines and men.

SUPPLY STATIONS NEEDED

In conversation with Mayor Tyra before the dinner, Captain Foullois said the present cross-country flight, the first of its kind every attempted, had demonstrated above all else that there is no means of transportation that can adequately keep pace with the aeros. The motor transports that started from Wichita Falls with the aeros early Saturday morning had not arrived in Fort Worth late Saturday night.

This, the officer pointed out, meant a necessity for supply stations and he pronounced Fort Worth a logical location between Fort Sam Houston at San Antonio and Fort Sill, Okla.

At the suggestion of City Commissioner Jamieson, the diners Saturday night adopted resolutions christening Ryan's pasture, where the aero squadron landed Saturday morning and where the machines will be parked until Monday morning, Foullois Landing, in honor of the Squadron's commander.

The menu at the aviation dinner was prepared especially for the occasion and contained the following courses: "Commandery" cocktail, fried "Foulois" apples, "Milling" county farm sausage., "Aviation" spuds, boiled "Chapman" grits, scrambled "Bowen" yard eggs, "Rader" biscuits, sweet "Carberry" pied and "Lake Worth" coffee, the quoted names including all the aviators names.

Frank T. Crittenden was the first speaker Mayor Tyra called upon. He assured the army officers that his hearers were with them on preparedness, and pledged their support for more adequate national defense.

County Attorney Spoonts and Warren V. Galbreath were the next speakers. A. B. Case predicted more aero squadrons in the not distant future and suggested Fort Worth as a logical station for one of them.

Major Elliott recalled the poor equipment of American troops in the Spanish-American war and said conditions were little better today.

ELLIOTT URGES SUPPORT.

"Texas is a Democratic State," he said in part, "and we have a Democratic President who is pursuing a program of preparedness. Don't lay down. Stay with him, publish it to the world that you are with him. This country must be taken care of."

President Costan of the Aeronautical Association called the aero division the eyes of the army and the navy and he appealed to his hearers as voters to bear preparedness in mind when they went to the polls to vote for congressman at the next elections. He presented cards of honorary membership in the Aeronautical Association to the aviators.

President Keith of the Chamber of Commerce told the visitors Fort Worth hoped some day to have them as citizens instead of visitors.