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Friday, January 28, 1916.

Cardinal's Views.

Surely, Cardinal Gibbons cannot be called an extremist, an armistist or a jingo. His calm judgment, his clarity of vision and freedom from partisan bias have been too often displayed. And when he intimates in the polite phrase of diplomacy that when President Wilson recognized Carranza and his crew as the actually dominant force in Mexico and recognized Carranza as the real head of an assured government in Mexico, it was the culmination and irrevocable blunder of the policy of peaceful waiting.

The Cardinal is not a carping critic of the administration. Instead, he speaks in a regretful tone that the President has acted over-hastily in recognizing Carranza before a stable government had been established and it was demonstrated that it was able to bring order out of chaos, to repress the brigands and bandits who have plundered and pillaged the country and who as a matter of fact, more nearly represent the whole Mexican outfit than any other element. As the Cardinal points out, since the advent of Carranza plunder and pillage have not ceased. Churches have been defiled, priests insulted and nuns outraged no less since the advent of Carranza than before. In short, the scum are in control in Mexico and it were as sensible to recognize it as a stable government as to recognize the Georgia moonshiners as the governmental type of America.

Cardinal Gibbons emphasizes the hatred of all religion and respect for all creeds held by the so-called Carranza Constitution. Like the extreme wing of the French revolutionists, they would abolish all forms of religion, all idea of man's responsibility to God. The Cardinal truly says that no matter what one's creed, he cannot gainsay the fact that every step of the Mexican people upward has been guided by the Catholic Church. To-day, there is no Church in Mexico. Its bishops are exiles. Spiritual, humanitarian and charitable work is no longer possible. Carranza has promised the Church protection provided it keep aloof from politics, but it is evident that the Cardinal fears the "if" means any old excuse for harassing the Church and its loyal priests.

The secular New York "Sun" has this striking comment:—

If Cardinal Gibbons can see "nothing in the immediate future but a continuance of the domination of the forces of irreligion, atheism and anarchy in Mexico" there is the woful record of the revolutionists to justify him. If he believes that "the ultimate destruction of all authority in that land is the logical result of the policy of this Administration from its very inception" here will be no one who has followed the course of events intelligently to gainsay him.

Not Quite the Same-But.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Union and Advertiser, thinks the Administration at Washington is consistent in refusing to advise Americans to refrain from traveling on sea in the war zone, especially in ships of a belligerent nation, and at the same time warning Americans to refrain from travel by land in the Mexican war zone because trouble in the latter case cannot be avoided.

The Union says that Americans have an inherent right to travel on the ocean. Well, Americans who have received concessions in Mexico are not to be blamed if they conceived the idea that the Mexican authorities owed them protection and that they were perfectly safe in pursuing mining in their own properties as would Mexicans be safe under similar conditions in the United States. The American who travels in an English or French or Italian ship has no safe conduct guaranteed by the home government as has the American in Mexico. Not at all. The English or French or Italian government expects the American Government to protect its own traveling citizens. As a matter of fact, they are rather glad to have American passengers on board because they aid to assure the ships safe in case a German or Austrian submarine attacks.

The United States should be in position to assure Americans traveling on the high seas and by land in Mexico and elsewhere of absolute safety of person and belongings.

But are we? And do we?

A False Notion.

Undoubtedly, those of our citizens who desire peace and also that our country never shall engage in warfare are in the great majority in this country. But there is a decided difference among those of the majority as to the best means to achieve this end. One group holds that we should disarm our Army and Navy and announce to the world that the United States hereafter will not engage in warfare, no matter how great the provocation. Another group maintains that the very best way to avoid warfare is to build up an army and navy so strong and powerful that no other nation in the world ever will dare to declare war upon us. Probably, the most notable exponent of the principles of this group is former President Theodore Roosevelt whose favorite slogan is well-known: "Speak softly and carry a big stick; then you will travel far." As far back as when he was Governor of New York state, Colonel Roosevelt enunciated this old Boer proverb as his slogan.

The pacifists hold that the United States is so situated from a tactical and geographical location; that no other nation can make war against us successfully. This being so, they argue that there is no need of any Army or Navy.

Moreover, they assert that an enormous Army and Navy, so far from being a safeguard in favor of peace is likely to be a menace in that its chiefs might become imbued with a spirit of militarism and so actually be the dictators of the nation's policies. In order to achieve the full fruition of militarism, war with another nation would be a necessity sooner or later, and then the United States would be another Germany.

The "Big Stick" adherents pooh-pooh these charges and maintain stoutly that unless we are in state of preparedness, Japan and Russia will menace our Pacific coast and either Germany or England will be in similar position as regards our Atlantic seaboard.

It is up to the average citizen to sift the rival claims and decide because the election of 1916 may be waged on the issue of preparedness and non-preparedness.

Secular Opinion.

There is a New York broker named Hendrick who claims to be a Christian yet has neither reverence nor belief in St. Paul. He has written letters to New York papers in this vein. Apparently, Mr. Hendrick considers St. Paul too much of an evangelist.

It is refreshing to read the following critical estimate of Mr. Hendrick's mental attitude in the secular Rochester "Herald".—

The genius of St. Paul has left an abiding mark upon the world. Mr. Hendrick admits this and deprecates it. But why should he, since he professes to love the character and teachings of Jesus? It was St. Paul's earnest, indefatigable spirit, more than that of any other, that made the cross of Christ triumphant in the world of man. There is no nobler character in history. Even as the great Plato took no pay for the teaching of philosophy, so St. Paul took none for the teaching of the gospel. He was no Billy Sunday, receiving from three thousand to five thousand dollars a week for "religious" vaudeville, but his name and influence have endured for nearly nineteen hundred years, and both will endure when the names of one after another of the sensationalists and mountebanks of pulpitering are lost in oblivion. The charlatan makes money and dies only to be forgotten; the genius and the saint make little or nothing, but they are immortal.

Until Carranza makes good his promise to treat Catholic priests and nuns as human beings, Catholic's cannot recognize him as aught save a savage with bestial instincts.

Have you avoided the grippe so far?

Cardinal Gibbons possesses a firm grasp of affairs, both domestic and foreign.

Decision by England to rescind the order that American Red Cross ships could not carry hospital supplies to the Central Powers will not allay the bitterness caused by the opening by English censors of American private and commercial correspondence with neutral countries. The English pot has not unlimited license to call the German kettle black.

If it were right to send troops to Vera Cruz to teach Huerta a lesson why not order a fleet and brigade to Mexico to protect Americans in danger? Evidently, Carranza cannot or will not afford such protection.

Unless the war conditions are alleviated, consumers of men's clothing will pay at least twenty-five per cent higher prices in the fall of 1916.

Will the suffragists continue their campaign for the ballot in New York state?

The man on the barrel is abroad these days in more than the socialist, the anarchist or the plutocratic class. However the last named class is the ultimate goal and the desire of every man on the barrel or the soap box.

Evidently, the Joplin jury must have had "Gardeen" leanings or the case against the Menace was not presented as it might have been.

Will the ready cash be forthcoming for all those war munition contracts in the United States.

Governor Whitman's decision not to be a candidate for the Presidency does credit to his good sense. His place is in the governor's office in the State of New York.

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