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Friday, May 12, 1916

"Priest and Patriot"

The following editorial from the Louisville "Herald" is so well phrased and breathes so Christian a spirit that we reproduce it in full:—

"Pages of pain that are pages of hope, that is the way the Abbe Felix Klein, Chaplain of the American Ambulance, operating with the Belgium Army, poignantly describes his interesting work, "The War as Seen From an Ambulance.'

"First published in serial form in that most representative of French periodicals, the Revue des Deux Mondes, they at once attracted attention by reason of the nobility and cheerful courage of their character and their beautiful toleration of 'the enemy.' Here were records, but no exaggeration; a perfume and savor of quiet heroism, but no heroics; the work of succor and of sacrifice calmly detailed; a story that grips the emotions without being emotional.

"How sincere he is always, and how convincing. What does the dear Abbe trust but that his readers, living, as it were, among his wounded, may share the tenderness and gratitude that are his; may from their unfailing stock of confidence, gain a little for themselves; and, finally, will not cease to put their trust on High? There can emerge from this hideous struggle, as from a cataclysm of nature, only a greater love of moral order, only a greater sense of dependency.

"He carries the story to the first Christmas in the trenches and a few days beyond. The good priest tells us of that wonderful midnight Mass, he reproduces the sermon. Simply touching, exquisite in sentiment, patriotic, yet breathing no word of rancor or of vengeance. Let us leave him there."

Abbe Klein is remembered by his sprightly impressions of America published a few years since and, especially for its chapter dealing with Rochester and the labors of the late Bishop McQuaid.

Crisis Over.

It looks as if the crisis between Germany and the United States had passed and that the severance of diplomatic relations, which loomed so prominently for the last few weeks, had been averted. However, that relations between the two countries are tense is undoubtedly the case.

Germany's answer to President Wilson's firm-clear-cut note, is a fine specimen of diplomatic evasion of the main point at issue and contains a conditional promise to revise its method of submarine warfare if the United States only will intervene to compel Great Britain to revise her methods of blockade and of intercepting even neutral vessels loaded with neutral or non-contraband cargoes.

Of course, the United States cannot act in this matter simply to meet Germany's demands. The United States deals with each nation as it deals with this country. Germany's course has offended this country so far as it interferes with Americans on the seas. Therefore, we call upon Germany for revision and explanation. Great Britian has offended us in another degree. We call upon her for revision and explanation in so far as these affect the United States.

President Wilson has not been appealed to directly as yet by any of the warring nations to use his efforts to secure peace and end the war. When that is done, if it ever is done, then the President can deal with nations directly on this basis. Until then, it is his evident intention to continue in a strictly neutral position.

In this, we have not the slightest doubt President Wilson meets the wishes of the great majority of the citizens of the United States We are not at all concerned with the wishes and desires of aliens, no matter to what nation they belong. "God Save the King" is no sweeter to most of our ears than the "Wacht am Rhine" or the "Marseillaise."

Centuries Lost.

According to the annual report of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration of the State Industrial Commission, over 868,000 days were lost by the workers of New York state in strikes and lockouts between September 30, 1914 and September 30, 1915 or 2,380 centuries of time lost for one man. At a low figure, the economic waste to the commonwealth would easily figure up to several millions of dollars.

This loss falls not alone on the workers. It falls also upon the employers but chiefly upon the entire commonwealth. It is waste of money, energy and effort that it does seem possible to avoid if only a little more forbearance, little more tact, a little more honesty and a little more common sense were exercised.

Workers are not all to blame for strikes and lockouts. Workers cannot close a plant any more than an employer can compel men to work who are not so disposed. But a little give and take honest business agents, absence of the demagogue and the agitator, would go far toward making for industrial peace and the prevention of industrial unrest

Everybody In.

Coverage of employees engaged in what is listed as "hazardous employment" under the compensation law has been compulsory upon all such employers since January 1, 1914, when the amendment to the State Constitution permitting such compulsory insurance became effective. However, state, county and municipal employees, even when engaged in hazardous occupations were excluded on the theory that it was difficult to calculate the dividing line between compensation and pensions, where such employees came within the scope of existing pension systems.

However the legislature of 1916 amended the compensation law so that all employers, whether engaged in hazardous occupations or not, may mutually agree with their employees that the latter may be placed under the compensation law and the employers relieved of liability under the common law for accident damages. State and municipal employees also come under the compensation law under the amendment of 1916.

New York state, although not the first state to adopt the principle today has the broadest compensation law in the United States and its schedule of Compensation is the most liberal.

Archbishop Hanna's friends in Rochester are legion.

Ireland.

Whether John Redmond or Supreme Court Justice Daniel F. Cohalan be the nearer correct in his conception of the ill-fated "Irish Revolution and Irish Republic" which English soldiers and English bullets snuffed out almost ere it begun, the Irish writer of "In My Study" for The Post Express, with his thinly disguised English sympathies is, far afield when he says the leaders of that revolution and their American sympathizers were the ignoramuses of Ireland. Perusal of the biographies of those already executed tells a far different story.

Misguided the leaders of the Irish rebellion may have been, but if so they have paid the penalty. But how different their fate from that of the Ulstermen who openly armed themselves and threatened secession if England dared to try to pass or carry out even a milk-and-water home rule policy. Instead of arrest and trial, Sir Edward Carson, the arch-rebel, was given a post in the Asquith Cabinet. His lieutenants were rewarded while the rank and file never were even disarmed.

Why, oh why, the marked difference in treatment?

The country breathes easier. Judge Tuthill of Chicago, has reversed his decision that Bacon, not Shakespeare, was the Bard of Avon.

Between Root, Roosevelt and the "favorite sons" the Chicago republican national convention, to say nothing of Justice Hughes, ought to furnish a week's vocal pyrotechnics, at least.

Will John Pallace finally land that coveted collectorship? If he does, William F. Sheehan might feel avenged.

If there is to be no war with Germany, what will the yellow journals do?

Nazareth alumnae should be strong enough to raise a splendid fund for the new convent building. The present location is unsuitable and the quarters, once spacious, have grown cramped and inadequate.

We do not hear so much of the sub-cellar "guardians" in Rochester as we did. Let us hope the serpent of bigotry is killed, not scorched.

Avoid evil gossip, risque stories and bad books. Each leaves a nasty taste in the mouth and a bad impression in the mind.

Rochester proposes to remember William Shakespeare in this year of 1916.

We Catholics have "home mission work" to do in the United States. There are many localities without priest, church or school that even a few cents from each Catholic where they have such blessings would provide.

Catholic charities in Rochester are organized and our overhead expenses do not dissipate the major share of the funds contributed.

Let us so live that our example will win admiration for our faith.

It is a sign of the times to see Catholic fraternal societies represented in civic movements.

Easter bonnets finally came into their own. But it was a weary wait and the Rochester weather man came in for many an objurgation.

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