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Let Us Be Calm!

Germany's almost insolent rejoinder to the President's peace proposals in the shape of notice that she proposed to renew, without conditions, her ruthless submarine warfare not only against ships of the Allies but neutrals as well, left President Wilson no alternative but to sever diplomatic relations with Germany.

While these steps have been taken, the United States has not declared war upon Germany and Germany has not at this writing declared war against the United States. Hence we are not in the war, either upon the side of the Allies or otherwise.

Let us renew our prayers for peace!

Is The Kaiser Crazy?

Has Kaiser Wilhelm gone stark, raving mad? Scarcely any other construction can be put upon his latest move in the shape of an arrogant defiance of the international law in threatening a renewal of the savage submarine warfare which drew forth from President Wilson that severe warning a few months ago.

Notwithstanding the apparent sympathy expressed in some quarters in the United States, probably a clear majority of Americans were strictly neutral in their feelings and cared not to be one fig more whether England won or if Germany were victorious.

Germany's latest defiance is quite a change in the feeling of passive neutrality into active partisanship of the Allies' cause not that the Allies are loved more but that Germany is loved less.

Germany needs friends, at least she needs not to make needless enemies. Her latest course will alienate thousands of Americans and convert them into partisans of the Allies. It looks a foolish, imbecile performance.

Mayor Charles M. Tobin may not regret the loss of the Automobile Club secretaryship. The regular army may claim his time and attention.

Street Car Service.

While every allowance should be made for the bad weather and exceedingly inclement season, nevertheless, to speak plainly, while the street car service of Rochester has been worse during the last few days, the best service we have had of late is nothing like decent or adequate service for a city of the first class.

Again, is the supply of power available sufficient for the commercial strain and the street car service? Again, is the maintenance of the despatching schedule responsible for cars rushing by waiting patrons when there is no "next car" in sight?

Perhaps the new Public Service Commissioner will be able to change these conditions.

Cats and Dogs

It does look as if the poor cats and dogs were to be given the attention of the dignified New York state Legislature. Eged on by the farmers and the others who affect to have discovered that the dogs of New York state are responsible because the farmers of the Empire State no longer raise sheep and calves in any great quantity.

And now the bird lovers and cat breeders have united to exterminate our tabbies. The bird lovers say the cats kill off the birds and to stop the slaughter they propose that each cat shall be licensed, tagged and muzzled when at large.

For Shame!

Would anybody believe that Chicago has become cursed with in their feelings and cared not to be one fig more whether England won or if Germany were victorious.

Such, however, is the case. The Chicago Board of Education deliberately rejected "Murphy school" because, forsooth, the Doctor was a Catholic!

And another remarkable happening in connection with this particular incident was that all the seven Chicago papers suppressed the following remarks by a non-Catholic member of the Board of Education, Dr. Clement:

Protestant and Catholics were united in paying tribute to the skill and the ability of Dr. Murphy as a surgeon and scientist. I did not think any one could be so petty and small as to protest against giving his name to that of a Chicago school.

This is not a question of religion. It is a question of whether John B. Murphy was a great scientist, surgeon and humanitarian. I know from personal experience that he was a great surgeon, that he was recognized as such the world over.

Only small-minded people would find fault with the plan to name a school after Dr. Murphy in this community where he had spent his life. When I was abroad I found Protestants and Catholics united in their love and admiration for this surgeon and I believe this community should be equally broad-minded.

This is certainly a fine advertisement for Chicago's civic spirit!

The C. M. B. A., is sustained in great part, in a decision by Supreme Court Justice Wesley Dudley in its recent decision to readjust rates but he also decided that the Reserve Fund belongs to date, to the old policy holders whose payments created it.

Lincoln and Washington! Two names indissolubly linked with historical epochs in this Republic. Will the name of Woodrow Wilson be indissolubly linked with another?

George Washington did not believe the sainted Mother of God. "I cannot love the Son without honoring the Mother", was what he once said to Father Marchal, afterward Bishop of Baltimore.

The natural history of slander: "You can't believe everything you hear" said one man to his neighbor. "No" said the other "but you can repeat it."

Competitive examinations for Knights of Columbus scholarships will be held April 14, 1917. Application must be in not later than March 15th. Information will be given by Very Rev. Edward A. Pace, D. D., the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

Ambassador Gerard is now eligible to be a candidate for Mayor of Greater New York.

Rochester's Automobile Club surely has a good press agent and his name is Donahue.

Would the Mills health insurance bill be a good economic policy?

Automobile owners are fast becoming as well organized and powerful as the farmers.

Governor Whitman may yet lead the New York troops in action.

The Catholic paper is as much needed in a home as new furniture.

That Rockefeller modern educational school has passed from the first pages.

Theodore Roosevelt broke into the first pages again this week. But it was through the medium of the war scare.

Troop H's orders for home may be postponed for a while.

Church Events for February, 1917.

This is the month of the Holy Family. Days of Abstinence, (besides Fridays): Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21; Ember Day, Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Wednesday, Feb. 14, Feast of St. Valentine. Lent begins on Feb. 21, and ends on Easter Sunday, April 8.

When Pattens Were Worn. Americans find it more difficult than the English to understand what Dickens means when he says in "David Copperfield," "Women went clicking along the pavements in pattens." Pattens were an abbreviated form of stilts.

It appears that pattens were not worn solely by the rich, but were luxuries indulged in by the very poor. In speaking of a person who was not especially speedy, Ben Jonson uses the comparison, "You make no more haste than a beggar upon pattens."

Wrecked by a Knife Blade. A ship was once wrecked on the Irish coast. The captain was a careful one. Nor had the weather been so severe a kind as to explain the wide distance which the vessel had swerved from her proper course. The ship went down, but so much interest attached to the disaster that a diving bell was sunk. Among other portions of the vessel that were examined was the compass that was swung on the deck, and inside the compass box was detected a bit of steel which appeared to be the sharp point of a pocket-knife blade.

It was learned that the day before the wreck a sailor who had been set clearing the compass had used his pocket-knife in the process and had unconsciously broken off the point and left it remaining in the compass. That bit of knife had exerted its influence on the compass and to a degree that deflected the needle from its proper point and situated it as an index of the ship's direction. That bit of knife blade wrecked the vessel.

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