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Friday, April 13, 1917.

Patriotic.

In lofty sentiment, tersely yet vigorously expressed, was Bishop Hickey's response to the letter of Mayor Edgerton for an expression in the war crisis of the position of the Bishop of Rochester and his people.

Stand By!

Now that Congress has declared that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany and President Wilson has issued the executive proclamation to that effect, it is imperative upon all American citizens to stand by the President and to exert every effort to place the United States on the highest plane of preparedness.

All residents of the United States, no matter what their nationality, should and must obey our laws, respect the President's proclamation, refrain from criticism of our officers and our laws, keep their own counsels or else be subjected to forcible restraint. Those who have profited by our liberty customs, have gained their livelihood under the Stars and Stripes, must conform to present conditions. Sedition, either in speech or action cannot and will not be tolerated. Open disrespect for the Stars and Stripes from those who left their native country to escape despotism will be repressed, if necessary, forcibly and vigorously. And this applies not to foreigners of one nationality only.

As a matter of fact, Congress should enact more war measure and that is: Those who choose to make their livelihood in the United States, no matter what their nationality, shall not be permitted to remain here beyond five years without becoming citizens.

If it be urged that such action will encourage reprisals upon Americans resident in foreign countries, our reply is that so be it and that such should be done. Americans have no more right to draw their sustenance from the United States and spend it abroad than have foreigners to amass a competence here and remit it all to the fatherland for investment.

Meanwhile, we can all pray that our entrance into the war may not entail the awful devastation and desolation that has come upon the European countries.

Take Care of Them!

Disappointment and dissatisfaction are expressed because there has not been an instantaneous response to the President's call for volunteers in the Army and Navy.

There may be reasons. In the first place many of the employers of those who volunteered to go to the Mexican frontier last year did not keep their promise to pay the salaries of

the absentees or to retain their positions for them. Even Uncle struck from the rolls those at the front and thus shut off their salaries, however promising restoration to positions when discharged from the Federal military service. As a result those dependent upon the volunteer soldiers suffered materially.

In the second place, many an eligible volunteer is loath to enlist when his chum or neighbor hangs back. But both will fall in military training is made compulsory upon everybody when their name is drawn in the lot.

Either reason is a valid one and the existing conditions can easily be remedied. If we can afford to loan billions to the Allies we can well devote a few millions to providing for those dependent upon the men who are fighting in order that the Nation's honor may be preserved untarnished.

Next make military training compulsory and universal. Then there will be no discrimination, no feeling of jealousy and no notion that favored ones are held at home while those not persons grata to the politicians in control of the situation will be hustled into the posts of danger.

These conditions met, there will be no difficulty in filling up the Army and Navy.

The Legislature.

To the unbiased onlooker it would appear that all the vaudeville is not in the theater but that the grave and venerable legislators of New York state can qualify as farce-comedians. The performance of the last week on Capitol Hill has all the elements of farce-comedy.

The impetuous young Mayor of New York, scenting an easy way to sandbag a possible opponent in the metropolitan arena, naively accused a senator, who happened to be born in Prussia, of so acting in the Legislature that the interests of Germany, more than those of the United States, were conserved.

Whereupon the aforesaid senator arose in the Senate and declared solemnly that his honor had been impugned for which he demanded that the aforesaid Mayor be summoned before the bar of the Senate to retract or be punished. This was voted.

Thereupon the Mayor, flanked by a fleet of corporation attorneys, including the late defeated candidate for President, swooped down upon the Senate and just as solemnly declared that although he did not mean that the senator in question was guilty of treason, he did say and reiterated that, consciously or otherwise, the senator had so acted that Germany had been aided and encouraged.

Whereupon the Senate cried out that the aforesaid senator was the most loyal one of the 51 senators and the mayor was thrust forth from the Capitol without even a slap upon the wrist?

Does this not prove conclusively that not all the farce-comedians have not yet donned the sock and buskin?

American Soldier Praised.

Rt. Rev. J. J. Lawler, Bishop of Lead, South Dakota, delivered a notable address recently to a group of soldiers of Company H., Fourth South Dakota Regiment, in the course of which he paid these splendid compliments to the American soldier:

"Not the old soldiers but our young soldiers should be the heroes. The old soldiers did their part nobly. I will praise their valour with any man; but I claim that it is our young soldiers of today that we must rely for the protection of all that our country holds dear. They are the strong right arm of the present and the hope of the future."

"Let people prate of America's invincibility and the uselessness of preparation. It is a truism that

the nation that is unprepared today will not be invincible tomorrow. It is stalwart young soldiers such as these with their lofty ambitions, their noble ideals, and their boundless enthusiasm who will defend the honor of the Republic against foes from within and foes from without.

"The American soldier needs no apology. He has always given a good account of himself. Under Washington he was as resolute as the old guard at Waterloo. In the Civil War his courage never faltered. In the Spanish-American struggle he was true to the traditions of his forefathers. And still today his patriotism, his initiative, his humane motives, his respect for authority mark him as a soldier with a heart and a conscience."

Grand Prize

Indeed, conditions in France must have changed! The French Academy of Moral and Political Science has awarded to his Eminence, Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium, its grand prize of 15,000 francs destined to recompense, in part, "the finest and greatest acts of devotion of whatever kind." The Academy made the award in these terms:

"In awarding this prize to Cardinal Mercier the academy desired to honor his noble patriotism, his respect of right, his zeal for justice, his firmness in the face of oppression and his devotion for the poor and oppressed. It desired also to render homage in his person to the nation which in so many ways is dear to France."

It behooves everybody to keep cool and not lose his temper.

If a soldier boy tells you not to cross the railroad tracks, obey him. He's different from the switch tender or the signalman. He may shoot and that may mean more than taking a chance that the engine won't reach you.

While Judge Stephens may have been severe on the young man who ran down and killed a young woman, it cannot be said that the sentence was undeserved.

At last the Naval Militia boys are off for duty. And in the ranks are a fair proportion of Catholic men. Many of them of German extraction.

All honor to Dr. Stoll of the Abendpost and Victor Ridder, of the Staats Zeitung in the patriotic stand they have taken now that war has been declared.

Bishop Hickey knows whereof he speaks when he says that Rochester's Catholic population are not lacking in patriotism.

Would that international arbitration of national disputes could be firmly established.

There is to be a new College for women in Manhattan under the direction of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. It has been granted a charter by the Regents of the State of New York.

Most Rev. Sebastian Messmer, bishop of Milwaukee, Wis., recently celebrated the silver jubilee of his elevation to the episcopacy.

Bishop Muldoon, of Rockford, Ill., has been transferred to the See of Los Angeles and Monterey.

The Legislature of Colorado has passed a law prohibiting importation into the State of all liquor, not even excepting wine for medicinal or sacramental purposes. After 90 days all liquor found even in private possession is to be confiscated.

The Bishop of Cork, in condemning immoral publications, de-

clares that if their sale is continued he will publicly name the storekeepers who sell such literature.

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