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Friday, May 25, 1917.

War's Stern Reality!

With the signing by President Wilson of the conscription or draft bill, the proclamation of the President directing all male citizens between the ages of 21 and 30 years to register that they be available for draft into the Army or Navy or into the industrial section of the Nation's war program and the announcement that forthwith General Pershing and a division of United States regular soldiers would be despatched to France to be followed as fast as possible by an army of upward of a million more Americans, brings war as a stern reality home to every American family. It is estimated that the coming draft will reach ten thousand of Rochester's young manhood. This means that one in twenty-five of the city's entire population may be taken for the war. Ten thousand families will be invaded and sons and brothers will leave home "for the period of the war or some time thereafter." For many this departure will spell a last good-bye because if the war continues, it is inevitable that death's inexorable toll will include some from Rochester.

War is not play. It is a stern reality. Once entered upon, it must be prosecuted to the end. The present war may mean the end of monarchical despotism and sound the knell of special privilege and despotic aggrandizement or it may mean the end of individual liberty and the triumph of an arrogant militaristic aristocracy which denies any right or privilege to the ordinary individual beyond what the autocratic State deems he should be permitted to enjoy.

We have entered the European war. We have entrusted our part in it to the President of the United States with full power to prosecute it to the end. We have pledged him our full allegiance and support and that we will hold up his hands. Uncomplainingly we will entrust our destinies, the destinies of the Republic to President Woodrow Wilson.

Just Right!

Probably, Theodore Roosevelt at the head of an American Army in England, in France or in Belgium would arouse a furore of applause, and there is no doubt that in many quarters keen disappointment is felt that President Wilson has decided not to avail himself of the discretion to raise four divisions of volunteers for immediate service in the European war.

But is not the President right? Are not the military experts better judges of what is needed than the enthusiasts, the fervid newspaper editors and the over-zealous admirers of Colonel Teddy? As a matter of fact, has Colonel Roosevelt had the training, the experience or the temperament to command a division of troops

let alone an American Army? Would he be satisfied to accept third or even second to the English or French generals in charge of operations on the French front?

We wonder if the Colonel's wishes had been gratified, if the division had gone to France and had been annihilated because of insufficient training, would the Colonel be as popular then as he is now?

Besides, as the President well says, "War as now conducted, is a matter of precise detail and not a summer picnic."

This fact should sink into the minds of all Americans, many of whom do not appear to realize that modern warfare is not fought to the accompaniment of waving banners, pretty uniforms, and merry music and that after the range finder wins a battle rather than the hand to hand clashes of man to man, modern warfare is prosaic, precise, methodical, calculating and scientific. And its leaders must be men trained in this latter day "intensive warfare."

Day Nursery.

It is a good and worthy charity which is proposed by Father Staub and his associates of the Catholic Charity Guild—the day nursery. In all probability its uses and needs will be more sharply defined as the days go on. But that there is crying need of a place where mothers forced to earn a livelihood by the death or desertion of the provider, may leave their little ones in good and kind hands until the days' work is over, is plainly apparent to Father Staub and his associates since the Charity Guild was instituted.

Rochesterians have been generous in their response for funds to provide this new charity but more will be needed to put it on permanent footing and we trust the needed funds will be forthcoming.

Hats Off to Sisters.

There's no bigotry in the heart of the editor of the Alexandria Gazette, the oldest daily paper in America having been established in 1784. Just read this beautiful editorial tribute to the patriotism of the Sisters of the Holy Cross:

Hats off to the pupils of St. Mary's Academy in this city for the splendid example they are setting to the other schools and our citizens in general. We refer to the patriotism and respect they are showing daily in the school room by saluting and pledging themselves to the United States flag!

Again we say, hats off to them. And also to their teachers who are exhibiting a spirit of patriotism, which is most commendable. It causes the man with red blood in his veins to want to take each one of them by the hand and express his personal appreciation of the manner in which they are doing their duty to the country, while others are too indifferent to even hang out the Stars and Stripes as is being done in practically all the cities throughout the land.

The question has been asked within the past few days if it will be necessary to invoke the law of the state in order to have the flag displayed upon our school buildings as has been requested by various organizations and citizens of the city. It is to be hoped that such measures will not have to be resorted to and thus give a wrong impression of the city.

Hang out the flag! A handsome new American flag has been hung from the main entrance of St. Mary's Academy by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Three cheers for the Sisters! Here's our respects to you!

The soul profits by everything from which the body suffers.

Sixty Years!

It is a rare occurrence for one to celebrate the golden jubilee of his marriage or ordination or any other event which happened after he attained his manhood but the other day Rev. Francis Breymann, of the Society of Jesus, celebrated at St. Stanislaus' House of Retreats in Cleveland the sixtieth anniversary of his enrollment among the Soldiers of Christ. Father Breymann joined the Jesuits in 1857 and has been on the firing line ever since.

During late years Father Breymann's service has been one of prayer and the suffering attendant upon old age, but even in his declining days he has not been idle. With some aid he translated from the German "The Holiness of the Church in the Nineteenth Century," a work that has brought forth commendation from many magazines. Father Breymann has been unable to say mass for the past two years, but he was consoled by the many masses and prayers offered to thank God for his sixty years of religious life and to beg abundant graces or his remaining years.

Our old friend "Charlie" Hall agrees with what Sherman said about war, past, present or future.

Merton E. Lewis has many old-time friends in Rochester and vicinity who are glad that he has been made Attorney-General of New York state.

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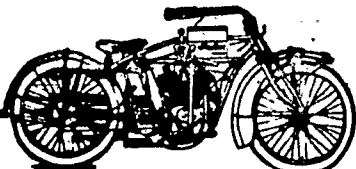
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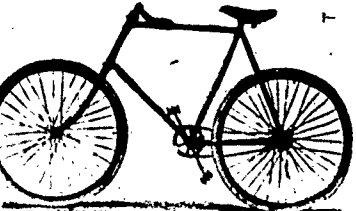
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