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Small Minds.

It is plainly evident that there are many persons of bigoted nature in this country who either do not understand Catholic matters or do not want to understand them.

A case in point is the Pope's peace proposal. No one, except the most ignorant or bigoted believes that the Holy Father was actuated by any other than the highest motives and a desire to see peace and tranquillity restored to the war-stricken sections of the world. Yet he has been attacked personally, his motives have been assailed and in some quarters he has been treated as more an enemy to humanity.

One brilliant suggestion made by a journalistic paragrapher was that if the Pope really wanted to help humanity why did he not insist that Kaiser Wilhelm abdicate? Common decency would set aside such a suggestion unless he also made a necessary requisite of peace that the Emperor of Austria, the Kings of England, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Bulgaria and so on be dethroned and that Republics be installed in these countries. Of course such a suggestion would be absurd but not more so than the beligerent nations care to insist that the Kaiser be dethroned to give way to a president that would be prop-er but for the Pope, in the capacity of a voluntary mediator, to urge that President Wilson recall to these men the adage of "the goose and the golden eggs."

Then there are other penny-a-line scribblers who have styled the Holy Father the Kaiser's errand boy and applied other and more insulting appellations.

Catholics of red blood will resent this attitude. Even if we agree as American Catholics, that the peace terms proposed by the Holy Father are not acceptable we do not propose that our spiritual head shall be insulted and his motives impugned by narrow-minded bigots.

No Time For It!

This is no time for even an organization as powerful as the Navy League evidently thinks itself and as many persons in purely civilian walks of life also think it is to harass and hamstring the administration which may be the net result of bitter, indiscriminate attacks upon Secretary of Navy Daniels. While Mr. Daniels may have made mistakes, unbiased men agree in the purity of his personal motives and conduct and it should be the duty of every body to uphold his hands, unless until better proof of dereliction in office is presented than that so far adduced by the press of the Navy League.

A far sounder and more tenable position is that taken by James M. Lynch when he told the delegates to the Carpenters

State Council in Auburn that "this is no time to criticize the administration at Washington but it is the duty of every patriotic American citizen to hold up the President's hands in this crisis of the country's history."

If the Navy League is hitting Secretary Daniels because he has tried to remove from the Navy the naval stations and marines corps immoral and vicious influences who does it not come out and say so, man-fashion, and give as its belief he is pursuing an unwise policy?

But in pursuing its senseless course, the Navy League is destroying its own usefulness and giving aid and comfort to our enemies. We have no idea that either its officers or members mean to aid in such a result but that is likely to be the net effect of its unsubstantiated attacks upon Mr. Daniels whose policies are presumably those laid down, at least approved by President Wilson.

Highwaymen.

Possibly "Truth", of Buffalo, exaggerates a trifle in the following editorial but those who have to eat on railroad dining cars and in restaurants and hotels in big cities will agree there is more than a modicum of truth in it:

The hotel and restaurant operators throughout the country are inaugurating a food conservation program by means of the abbreviated portion served at the tables. The question, where does the consumer "get off?" may be answered thusly: The consumer does not "get off." It is the proprietors of these places that get off with about 33 1/3 per cent. of the cost of production which they coolly pocket, while prating of their patriotism in conserving the food supply of the nation.

Hotel and first class restaurant prices in the large cities of the United States are higher than they are in London and Paris, according to travellers who have recently visited these places. No "high overhead" arguments can excuse by any stretch of the imagination the restaurant and hotel prices that are being foisted on the American public. The uniformity of these charges by groups of first class hostleries in the large cities leads one to believe that price agreements are in force which are in direct contravention of Federal laws.

The threat of the United States Congressman last week to initiate a Congressional investigation in the premises should serve to recall to these men the adage of "the goose and the golden eggs."

In joining the national conservation campaign by shortening the portions served the customer and the hotel and restaurant interests will do well to abbreviate their prices proportionately or stand the consequences of an enraged and outraged public opinion manifesting itself in a demand for an official investigation by the Federal government.

Which Way?

Our waste problem is well and tersely discussed by the "Municipal Journal" in the following paragraphs:

"Our Allies in the trenches, the munition shops and the grain fields require a certain amount of food to keep them in condition for effective work. To decrease this amount by only twenty-five per cent may change victory to defeat. And an amount equaling this has been habitually wasted or used unnecessarily by the people of the United States is the only country where the recovery of grease and tankage from garbage by reduction is practicable, because only here does enough meat and other food matter reach the garbage pail to make the process profitable. Whatever names may have been

applied to this national habit heretofore—free spending, high living, extravagance, etc.—under present conditions it will be little short of inhuman, for it will be helping to bring starvation to our Allies across the sea."

While there may be apparent liberality in granting exemptions from military service in Rochester examination of the records in each case show careful consideration by the local boards and appropriate application of common sense rule by the examiners.

Friendly interest in William Howard Taft during his recent illness demonstrates the hold this big bluff-genial American ex-President has on the affections of his fellow-citizens.

These are the days when advocates of fantastic schemes of alleged reform break into print and, quite often grab first page location at that. Most of these vagaries are harmless except that they appropriate money and supplies that should go to more practical ends.

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