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Friday, Feb. 8, 1918

"Over the Top"

Rochester's generosity was more than ever in evidence in the splendid showing made in the campaign to secure the Flower City's quota for the Catholic war relief fund. Truly, the amount raised was a splendid tribute to the interest felt in the good work done in the K. of C. camps in this country and abroad. Money is needed to carry on this work and it is plain that Walter Kerman knew our temper when he said "Go ahead with the work. Spend the money. The American people will give us what we need."

As Catholics we are glad. Reports from all sides testify to the way our Catholic boys attend to their spiritual affairs. This is remarked and conceded on all sides. Moreover, it is wearing down sectarian prejudice as nothing else could - "Jack" Robertson voiced broad-minded non-Catholic sentiments when he joined in the K. of C. drive and declared that there was no place for racial or creed lines in the war work.

Not Quite Right.

Well-meaning, possibly, but none the less unnecessary are the persistent demands that President Wilson call in Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root and Leonard Wood and delegate to them his constitutional prerogatives as commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy.

The men and women and papers who voice these demands, curiously enough are opposed politically to President Wilson. Nevertheless, this fact does not necessarily impair the value of their advice if it were sound. But is it? Are those who make these suggestions sufficiently familiar with the inwardness of the situation to offer valuable advice? Is it not wholly possible that the President and his advisers have a better grasp of the situation and its needs than any outsider howsoever well-intentioned he may be? Why not boost the President, instead of knocking?

Taking up the three men mentioned: Wherein has Colonel Roosevelt demonstrated any availability for aid to President Wilson? What has he done but pull back ever since the war began, from his insistence that he be made a major-general and sent to France? True, he said, he did not want to be in command, but who on earth could command Teddy or keep him in the background in any enterprise in which he had a hand? Would the Colonel have been content to exercise the patience of General Pershing in whipping a green force into proper condition?

General Wood has shown himself impatient to superior orders - a sad fault in a military man, however clever he may rate himself

self or be rated by his friends. However, the cables show that General Wood has not been sidetracked or shelved - but is now in France.

Elihu Root is a great American and, in his day, was a wonderful statesman and diplomat. But today he is out of touch with world affairs and his driving force is impaired for such tremendous and wearing work as the present war demands. This was demonstrated in the late constitutional convention and, regrettably must be said, in his mission to Russia when it is now apparent the American did not accurately gauge the real situation or sense the real sentiments of the Russian people - to the great expense of American capital and the embarrassment of the Administration.

It is easy to map out on paper the way to handle a given situation but difficult to handle the same enterprise in practical operation. Let's hold up the President's hands. He has conducted himself superbly in a trying situation.

Poor Logic

"Every man who buys a new overcoat is bidding against Uncle Sam who is buying overcoats for soldiers," says a Catholic contemporary. Poor logic. Uncle Sam is not bidding for the style or quality of overcoats civilians buy. Moreover, if no one buys clothes or overcoats the clothing factories and clothing stores close. If we do not buy clothes and dry goods the retail stores close. When the non-essential industries close, the war industries will not have to advertise and without advertising the newspapers, even the Catholic papers, will have to go out of business.

This same contemporary says: "Shabby clothes and old hats must be worn longer, diet must be cut to the wholesome essentials, and we must no longer hire others to do for us those things which we can do for ourselves." Partly right, especially for those who have money and do not have to seek a job. But just try to get a job with old clothes, shabby hat and down-at-heel shoes and see how often you will be rebuffed. And not all of us can do manual labor which demands only old and shabby clothing.

"Brains", May Be?

Under the caption, "Brains and Guns", a secular contemporary devotes considerable space to a labored criticism of the President and the War Department based on alleged observations of Congressman Medill McCormick of how our soldiers in France are housed and handled.

We will pass over the fact that when Mr. McCormick was supporting Mr. Roosevelt as against Mr. Taft our contemporary did not give his views so much reverence and respect and we do not presume to say Mr. McCormick may not now be actuated - by the best of motives but he is listening hostile to the President. Besides, we have some knowledge of others of the Congressional committee that went to France and if Mr. McCormick be no better informed than they were of men, events and geography in France, he is not capable of criticizing or advising the War Department.

There are Congressmen - and there are other Congressmen. But all the wisdom of all the ages is not today concentrated in any one Congressman.

Up to date, \$200,000 has been expended in the K. of C. war camps for stationery to give the soldier boys. And there was no religious discrimination, either.

Of seventy-five children arrested in juvenile court in Salt Lake City not one was of Catholic faith.

INVALIDS HAVE DONE MUCH

Comfort for Sufferers in Stories of Careers of Noted Authors and Scientists.

Those who are afflicted with ill-health may derive some comfort from the statement, quoted in a recent book on "Suffering and the War," that "College claimed that the greatest works of the nineteenth century were all written by men of feeble health - Spinoza's 'Ethics,' Bacon's 'Novum Organum,' and Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason.'" As another instance of the triumph of the spirit, Sir Isaac Newton, it is stated, according to London 21-Bits, was a most unpromising child. "He showed no aptitude for study, and was first incited by the desire to get ahead of a boy who kicked him."

Another great writer who accomplished much despite the handicap of poor health was Herbert Spencer. Like Newton, as a boy he was backward in his studies. A new life of Spencer by Hugh Elliot says: "He was very backward as a boy in the ordinary subjects of children's lessons. . . . Morally, he was extremely disobedient and contemptuous of authority." At thirteen he found the discipline (of his school) more severe than he cared about, and ran away home to Derby again, walking 48 miles the first day. "Yet as a man, without money, without special education, without health, he produced large volumes of philosophy and science of many diverse kinds, published a variety of mechanical inventions, and on endless other subjects great and small, he set forth a profusion of new and original ideas."

MANY 'SUCKERS' IN NEW YORK

Glib Tongue About All That Is Needed to Get the Money in Eastern Metropolis.

Glib and curious are the two chief characteristics of the smart guy, and there is no one who knows this better than the street fakir. One of those sharp-witted fakirs with a gift of gab made a cleanup in the financial district the other day, remarks the New York Tribune. He went down there just as the deckhands of the big corporations were pouring out of the skyscrapers for a bite to eat. He had a grip full of little black boxes that looked like cameras.

"Here yer are," he shouted, "for two nickels or one dime. The cutest little thing you can imagine. Stand on the sidewalk, fix this little box at the right angle, and you'll be able to look into a second-story window and see what's going on without the slightest inconvenience."

"In the old way, when you wanted to peep through a keyhole you went down on your haunches, at some personal inconvenience. Besides, there was always the danger of being shot in the eye with a hatpin or a knitting needle. Buy one of the cute little toys and you can stand on both feet, and without endangering life or limb, you can see all that's going on in the room. Nearly every one who stopped fished out a dime and bought one. Then a cop came along, the fakir slipped away and the crowd melted. Everybody who bought the little "camera" tried to work it 40 different ways, and then discovered that they had been stung."

How Rome Encouraged Birth Rate.

To encourage the birth rate the Romans made use of the age-long fight of women with property for the power to control it. This power that it took the women of England and America living under the English common law 2,500 years longer to achieve was granted by Numa Pompilius, in 715 B. C., to women who were mothers of three children, who were privileged to have "free administration of their own affairs without guardian or tutor." To the women who had inherited large fortunes this must have been an exceedingly effective inducement to the bearing of large families, and an excellent counteraction to the various influences in Roman life which would tend to keep the birth rate down. This is probably one of the few isolated examples where militaristic ideals worked for the benefit of women.

Patch Up Telephone Poles.

The ever increasing cost of lumber has led to the use of many devices to save wood. One of the most ingenious is the method to save telephone poles, which rot at the base just above and below the surface of the ground. The upper portion remains sound for a longer time than the base. A short pole, creosoted so as to withstand decay, is placed in the ground beside the old pole and firmly fastened to it. This adds several years to the length of time the pole will serve. The arrangement also serves as a protection to pedestrians; for since the part buried rots long before the upper part, the fall might occur most unexpectedly. Popular Science Monthly.

Not Extravagant.

An English, Irish, and Scottish soldier were returning to camp after a stroll. They were footsore and tired, and a kindly farmer on his way home from market gave them a lift on the road.

The soldiers were very grateful and wished to reward the farmer for his kindness.

Said the Englishman: "Let's stand him a drink!"
"Sure," said Pat, "that is agin the law. Let's give him some haccy!"
"Hoot, ma laddies!" interjected the Scot. "Don't be extravagant. Let's shake hands with the man and wish him good night!"

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WITH THE SCIENTISTS

Electric lights that can be used for signaling are included in policemen's helmets that have been invented in England.

A steel for safes that breaks the best bits and defies hydrogen-acetylene blow pipe flames has been perfected in Europe.

By treating young chickens with high frequency, high voltage currents of electricity a London experimenter has made them grow more rapidly.

A highly nutritious bread has been invented by a European scientist who replaces milk and eggs with beef blood, blanched, sterilized and deodorized with hydrogen peroxide, which itself is a substitute for yeast.

CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

A motion picture theater in Piedras Negras has installed one of the largest slugs organs of American manufacture.

The Methodist Episcopal church now numbers 4,180,864 members. This is an increase in one year of 100,051.

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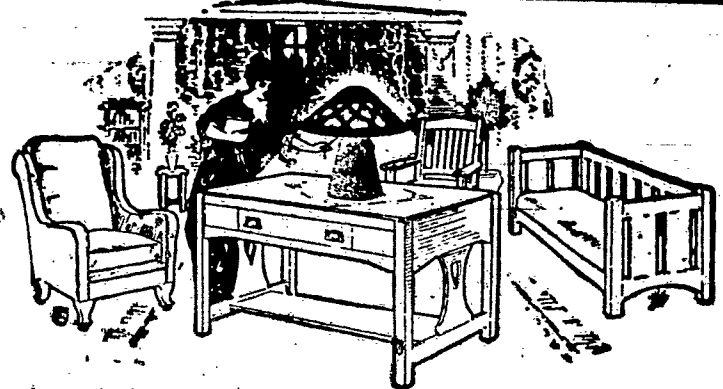
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