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Friday, May 3, 1918.

The Plain Fact.

Viewed from whatever angle you prefer, the present war conveys to the thoughtful Christian man or woman the painful conviction that the lack of reverence on the part of mankind in general for Almighty God, the lack of faith in revealed religion, the erroneous assumption on the part of the Kaiser and his followers that there is an inherent right in rulers to subject their peoples to arbitrary commands which must be obeyed without question and that the king is invested with the powers and attributes of deity and the widespread movement to hypnotize mankind into the belief that science is really superior to deity, in fact amounting to a new religion, that there is no deity but science as manifested in the works and derivatives of nature, that all these are the underlying causes for the great war - greatest in history in more ways than one. The terrible spectacle is presented of men with tenth century savagery invested with all the advance of twentieth century science, utilizing these to annihilate millions of their fellow-men who refuse to accept their dictum of tenth century barbarity. And the irony of it all lies in the fact that this twentieth century scientific achievement is being utilized by these tenth century barbarians to crush out the Nation that a decade hence was lauding this twentieth century godless science as substitute for God. And it is another unexplainable phenomena to these godless men that in proportion to that same nation's return to the Church is holding back the invasion of these tenth century barbarians. Is it not plain to all except those who want to be blind, that this war is a Divine demonstration of the impotency of man's puny efforts as compared to that of Almighty God and also that science is not yet to "rule the world and mislead Almighty God"? And that science, when in the control of men of barbarian mind and heart, is a potent agent for evil to humanity instead of a boon? When all men acknowledged Almighty God instead of flouting Him, then and not until then will permanent peace return to and envelop the world.

Organized Effort.

None of the war activities are organized more systematically, more efficiently or more cohesive-ly than the Catholic War Council. First, there is the executive committee comprising the fourteen archbishops of the United States headed by Cardinals Gibbons, Farley and O'Connell and including our own Archbishop Edward J. Hanna. Then there is the working committee of four bishops who are in touch with the various sections of the country where

cantonments are located and including Auxiliary Bishop Hayes, who cannot afford to invest in New York, who is the chaplain-in-general over all the Catholic chaplains the Army and Navy, both in this country and

These two committees have designated the Knights of Columbus as the active working force to carry out the plans of the executive committee and the committee of bishops. Supreme Knight Flaherty, Secretary McGinley and Colonel P. H. Callahan chairman of the K. of C. war activities committee, are directing heads of the K. of C. activities here while Walter N. Kernan is in charge "over there."

There are to be reports made of the work of the chaplains, the K. of C. war secretaries here and abroad; there are the "drives for funds" to be planned; these plans must be devised whereby our Catholic boys shall be provided with adequate spiritual facilities, likewise wholesome recreation and amusement. Each and every one of these matters is assigned to a committee or an individual to work out, attend to and make reports on all these matters to the committees who in turn, pass on their completed and detailed reports to the executive committee.

These individuals or sub-committees have covered a large amount of ground. They have formulated plans for the co-ordination and federated effort of various Catholic fraternal organizations, the several organizations of Catholic women and so on. A new problem is met in the "War Chest Movement" which has for its aim the raising of one huge subscription yearly in each community, instead of the many calls for separate war activities, the amount so raised to be apportioned to the several organizations represented in the War Chest Association. They may be called upon for their quotas by the national or international organizations. The national war council has appointed a special sub-committee to study the advantages of this war chest plan and to report upon terms the Catholic organizations in each community may participate. It may be said truly that the war crisis has brought about such a nation-wide co-operation between hierarchy, priests and laity as has not been seen before except in detached instances. It may also be said that the Catholic laity never was so well organized, never so keenly alive to its responsibilities as it is today. May this condition ever continue and may its efficiency wax still greater.

Save! Save! Save!

While it may seem superfluous advice to many of us who are blind, that we have been compelled to practise thrift all our lives, never-puny efforts as compared to that of Almighty God and also that science is not yet to "rule the world and mislead Almighty God"? And that science, when in the control of men of barbarian mind and heart, is a potent agent for evil to humanity instead of a boon? When all men acknowledged Almighty God instead of flouting Him, then and not until then will permanent peace return to and envelop the world.

Our boys are offering their lives to free the world of militaristic tyranny. But their efforts will be in vain if we supply not the sinews of war. And our allies in this battle for the right are short of food and supplies as well. If we do not come to the rescue they will be weakened if not defeated. Hence we must make still greater sacrifices, practise still greater self-denial. Perhaps all of us cannot purchase Liberty bonds although there are not many persons who cannot loan Uncle Sam \$50 inside of the next

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