

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Getting at Facts.

It is patent to all unprejudiced observers that all the facts about Ireland and the protest made against conscription have not been published. This is partly due to the racial prejudices of certain editors and newspaper proprietors; partly due to misinformation and partly due to the jaundiced prejudice felt by half-baked bigots against anything and everything that even savors of Catholic thought, church or priesthood.

Sir Horace Plunkett is not a Catholic. He is recognized far and wide as a patriotic Irishman and a loyal British subject and intensely loyal to the Crown. His advice and his opinion are not unlike that of the Catholic Bishops and priests. Conservative Sir Horace has issued a public statement in which he deprecates and reprobates the British policy of military conscription in Ireland, considered by itself. He declares that it should have been preceded by some working measure of self-government in that disturbed country, even though the concession had to take a provisional form as a war expedient, pending a more mature solution of a whole ancient problem.

John B. Howe, editor and publicist, formerly of Rochester and now of Syracuse, may be the author of the following sensible editorial which appeared in the Syracuse "Herald" of which Mr. Howe is one of the editors:

"This is the warning of a wise counsellor. Sooner or later the British ministry may heed it. Unfortunately, the appointment of Field Marshal French, the deposed commander of the British armies in France, is not reassuring. General French was one of those who upheld the Ulster rebellion and the military mutiny in the spring of 1914. Whether the inference be just or not, his latest mission will be accepted in Ireland as an indication that the government intends to apply coercion. Viewed in that light, the selection is apparently as serious a blunder as was the reward of Sir Edward Carson, four years ago the arch-leader of the Ulster rebels and mutineers, with a Cabinet portfolio—an action since happily undone.

"To Americans with Irish blood in their veins it must be a source of the deepest disappointment

and sorrow that any Irish development has occurred to distract and embarrass Great Britain in her splendid resistance to German scoundrelism. But where shall the blame be placed? In two quarters. With the Ulster minority, and with a British Parliament that has permitted its policy to be dictated by that minority. Of all the British dependencies now represented on the battle fields of France by their men or their exiles, Ireland is the only one that is denied the right of self-government—the benefit of democracy. Canada is self-governing and she voted down conscription. Only in Ireland, of all the allied possessions, is there an attempt to impose conscription by outside mandate. Ireland resists, but not because Irishmen are cowards. No other nation of equal size has so many of its sons bearing arms on the blood-stained soil of France and Flanders as Ireland has. It can be asserted with absolute confidence that in the first expeditionary forces under Pershing, including regulars, National guardsmen and volunteers—we leave the late conscription detachments out of the reckoning, as the draft applied to all young men alike—no European race was so largely represented as the Irish.

"Why, then do Irishmen at home oppose compulsory enlistment? Not because they do not sympathize with the allied cause. Not because they are unwilling to fight under strong provocation? In that respect he is the very antithesis of your Bolshevist poltroon. The real reason we have already stated. Irishmen are adverse to taking orders to fight for democracy from a Parliament which, under the bludgeon of a minority Irish faction almost wholly confined to four counties in Ireland, has denied them democracy. That is why Great Britain made a sad error in putting the cart before the horse—in springing military coercion in Ireland before she had accorded Ireland the right of self-determination which President Wilson, on behalf of the American people, has demanded for the 'little nations of Europe.'"

War Chest.

While it is an experiment in Rochester, the "War Chest idea" in which one large fund is raised in one annual drive and from which the quotas of a given community for war activities and fixed charities will be drawn and the community energy and generosity will not be worn to a frazzle by repeated solicitations for this or that activity or charity has worked out well in Syracuse and several other large cities. Besides, it is commending itself to many small communities which do not possess the requisite civic vitality to sustain several drives each year.

If equitable division of the war chest fund can be made, certainly the good people of Rochester should welcome the new idea as they can then prepare their war activity and charity's budget each year the same as they set aside a proportionate share of their income for taxes, rent, interest, club dues, insurance and so on down the list.

While there is no undue preponderance of Catholics on the directorate or Board of officers which will guide the destinies of the new movement, the presence on the Executive Committee of our Rt. Rev. Bishop insures that Catholic Charities and war activities will receive their full quota of the fund subscribed which is both fair and just as there is no selection is apparently as serious a blunder as was the reward of Sir Edward Carson, four years ago the arch-leader of the Ulster rebels and mutineers, with a Cabinet portfolio—an action since happily undone.

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sets aside a certain percentage of his salary or income for the war chest and later on discovers that he is expected to contribute to this or that charity which he has helped to support and which he had included in his war chest subscription, that person is likely to be chagrined and prejudiced against the whole proposition of co-ordinating these agencies.

Close Question.

There is considerable discussion now as to why farmers should not be permitted to collect refuse in Rochester and use it to fatten hogs—the inference being that increased supply of meat will be of benefit both as a food proposition and also to aid in winning the war.

At first blush there would seem to be only one answer and that favorable to the farmer. But there is another side. The city of Rochester, as a health proposition, collects all this refuse so that it may not accumulate and become offensive as well as a menace to health. This costs money. A partial reduction of this expense to the taxpayers, the refuse is reduced to its component parts—such as fats and fertilizer and sold. The proceeds go into the city treasury. There is a shortage of fats needed in soap manufacture and soap is essential to cleanliness and health.

If the farmer is permitted to collect the refuse, he will take only that which he wants and the city collection service will necessarily be maintained to gather up the rest. But the financial return will be lessened by what the farmer collects and for which he will not pay anything.

In other words, the taxpayers will have to foot the bills for the refuse the farmer collects and he will reap all the profit. If it were at all certain that the increased supply of pork would reduce the price of meat to the consumer, the taxpayer might not object so strenuously. But past experience teaches that the farmer, and perhaps he should not be blamed for following nation wide example, is not an advocate of low prices for what he has to sell but only for what he has to buy.

We repeat: there are two sides to every proposition.

It has taken us two years to realize that scattered control and energy cannot avail against an opponent with unified control and unified energy. Having learned that lesson, let us proceed.

By all means let us have a searching investigation of the exact financial condition of the New York State Railways. But there should be no one-sided investigation. There must be a recognized representative of the everyday public on the investigation board. It must not be made up of men who usually ride in automobiles and patronize the street cars but seldom, if the report of the investigators is to command any measure of public belief or confidence.

Governor Whitman deserves public commendation for declining to call a special session of the Legislature just to give opportunity to two warring factions of the prohibition forces a chance to air their differences at the Capitol.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

May, Mary's Month. Whitsunday. 19 St. Peter Coelstine P.C. 20 St. Bernardine of Siena C. 21 St. Felix of Chantal 22 St. Julia V.M. Ember Day 23 St. John B. de Rossi C. 24 Our Lady Help of Christians Ember Day. 25 St. Gregory VIII. Ember Day.

Seavogel's Art Rooms. 66 State Street, Room 2. Picture Framing and Mirrors, Resilvering. And a full line of hand-carved frames. Phone Stog 2092-L.

Rest Rooms For Rural Women

Rest rooms have been established in more than 200 counties in the United States to meet the needs of the country woman in town on business. They provide a place where the United States department of agriculture, where the farm woman has a right, without asking any favors, to the use of facilities for rest and refreshment. They have been established by various rural organizations in co-operation with other local organizations, with individuals and with village, town, or county authorities; by business corporations operating private city markets, and by individual merchants. Where farm women's organizations have been interested in establishing rest rooms, local farm women's clubs have been able to arouse the necessary community interest in the need for rest rooms to insure their financial support. This has been done through co-operating with other local farm women's clubs, with organizations of women in town, with civic leagues, with chambers of commerce and with county agents.

In co-operating with other clubs in establishing a rest room, any local farm woman's club may take the initiative. Opportunity is given at club meetings for discussing the need for a rest room, and other local clubs may be asked to arrange similar discussions. Such co-operation is facilitated in rural communities where local clubs meet together for joint sessions three or four times a year.

Through their organizations town and country women have co-operated in providing rest rooms near railroad stations, where the waiting rooms facilities at the stations were inadequate. They have co-operated in establishing libraries which provide convenient and adequate rest rooms for town and country women. Aroused community interest frequently results in securing a vacant room in the town hall, county courthouse, public market, or other public building.

Frequently the county agent, as the representative of the rural interests of a county, will take the initiative and secure the co-operation of the chamber of commerce or the county commissioners.

Frequently rest rooms are provided in dry goods stores and in grocery stores. A rest room at Kalamazoo, Mich., has been in use since 1882, and has become the common meeting place for country people living in different directions from the city. The number of country women dealing with these business houses warranted the establishment of rest rooms by the proprietors to meet the needs of their customers.

Widows' Pensions.

An act of congress of October 8, 1917, provided that from and after its passage "the rate of pension for a widow of an officer or enlisted man of the army, navy or marine corps of the United States who served in the civil war, the war with Spain, or the Philippine insurrection, now on the pension roll, or hereafter to be placed on the pension roll, and entitled to receive a less rate than hereinafter provided, shall be construed to affect the additional allowance provided by existing pension laws on account of a helpless child or child under sixteen years of age." This law made \$5 a month the uniform rate for all soldiers' widows then on the pension rolls at less than that rate or who should thereafter be placed on the pension roll.

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The Naugahyde Bag

Judging from the interest already manifested in this new bag, the arrival of which at our store was announced last week, it is destined to become a very popular article of luggage. There are good reasons why this should be so—



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Notes at Random

A favorite addition to the kit of the departing soldier and sailor is one of our extra thick—three-ply—Goodyear Water Bottles. The new olive drab Rubber Toilet Sponge in four sizes, is on sale here. A high-grade article which many will be glad to secure. The housewife and the man who sprays are two members of the community who should be interested in the fact that we are prepared for a brisk business in Rubber Gloves.

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A Word to the Wise Is Sufficient

"Knowledge is power," but to have power, there must be steam back of it, and coal to make the steam. So why not apply this lesson to yourself? To have knowledge, to have power, to have life itself, one must have good food, properly cooked and properly seasoned—(don't forget the seasoning). To obtain this in the highest sense of the word, we suggest the

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'H.A. B.', 'Some', 'The is fed foreno toast hungry fuel. Man, thin, p starving get the from t can g that is and such Medic value. Scier prove six tin milk ar flesh t commo nourish danger John's safest for all Get a and at self gal', 'W in re G. ec fr w pt or ht', 'E. F. O. 6 M. I', 'Use Y Coup', 'I are Elna tigh chin For Stan gres t roof', 'B. A. No', 'Gu', '71', 'Speci', 'Now', 'T', 'SH', 'HU', '2', 'Main 2', 'W. Dea', 'TRADE M', 'REP'.