

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT 470 Main St. E. cor. Windsor St. 4th Floor, Rochester, N. Y.

BY THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

If papers not received Saturday notify the office. Report without any delay change of address giving both old and new.

Subscription Rates: Per Year, in Advance \$1.00. Entered at second class mail matter.

ROCHESTER TELEPHONE 2352 BELL TELEPHONE MAIN 1567 Friday, May 31, 1918.

We Are Patriots.

Commendable, indeed was the enterprise displayed by "Extension" in making its April number a special issue devoted to "Catholic War Activities".

One of the leading articles is by Rt. Rev. P. J. Muldoon, Bishop of Rockford, Ill., and chairman of one of the important committees of the Catholic National War Council.

The charge that a Catholic cannot be a patriot has a familiar ring. It is not a new one. The Church lives again the life of her Divine Master.

The State is requisite for our nature, and what is requisite for our nature is of divine origin. In obeying and respecting civil authority we show respect to our own nature.

Rev. Francis J. Finn, S.J., widely known as a writer, is one of Secretary McAduo's best Thrift Stamp salesmen.

Let's Have The Facts!

If the Sinn Feiners in Ireland or in the United States have been conspiring with Germany they should not only be punished severely but ostracised by all loyal Americans and their Allies.

But judgment should be withheld until all the facts in the case are known. Let us have a public trial of the arrested Sinn Feiners and full presentation of the proofs of their alleged complicity in a German conspiracy.

If it be proven that the arrested Sinn Feiners are German conspirators there will be no sympathy for them among the true friends of Ireland in the United States.

But secret trials or conviction upon one-sided evidence will not suffice. The proof of conspiracy with Germany or known German agents must be convincing beyond a doubt.

Peace and Trade.

It is the fashion now for the syndicate war writers, each day or each week, just as Dooley went to iterate and reiterate each Sunday after Peter Dunne became the vogue, to speculate on when the war will end.

While the military writers express the opinion that the war will last several years yet - barraged several "ifs" - the men of peace came sooner. Thomas W. Lamont, one of the keenest minds in the Morgan firm, recently returned from Europe, points out a potent factor in Germany, which may compel peace at almost any day now.

Already, Mr. Lamont thinks Germany's business men are convinced that Germany cannot hope to impress her militarism upon the world or even upon Europe.

In June the diamond jubilee of the founding of Holy Cross College at Worcester, Mass., will be celebrated.

War Time Faculties.

It is announced from Washington that Bishop Hayes, chaplain-general of the Catholic chaplains in war service has granted special war-time faculties to the Catholic Chaplains so that "our boys" will not lack opportunity to practise their faith either in army cantonments or "over there".

The granting of general absolution in time of emergency is a special feature of these faculties, and on several occasions this privilege has been exercised by chaplains in the American camps.

On these occasions the men have been gathered together and, after making a sincere act of contrition, they have been granted general absolution and permitted to receive holy communion.

The new faculties issued to chaplains by Bishop Hayes also provide that under certain conditions a priest may celebrate Mass and a soldier may receive holy communion without fasting.

Mass may also be celebrated after the noon hour, provided it is impossible to celebrate it before that time. The blessed sacrament may be reserved at all times without lights, provided it is reverently kept in a decent place.

Jewish Boy Impressed.

Not alone in this country but abroad is the war teaching non-Catholic's what the Catholic Church stands for. Just read these extracts from a letter written home by a Jewish boy, who is an infantryman in the American Expeditionary Forces in France:

"Today I visited the birthplace of Joan of Arc. The house in which she was born is in a very good state of preservation, as is also the church where she was baptized. In the room in which she was born several statues, and one of them was presented by a Hebrew organization and the Scripture on it was in Hebrew letters. I wish that I might have been able to read it. Am sending Nathan, under separate cover, a French soldier's fatigue hat, which ought to please him. Also in the same package is a small picture of the house in which she (Joan of Arc) was born. Have post cards of the place and will bring them home with me.

"Also visited the Memorial Church which is being built in her honor. There are some wonderful paintings depicting the life of Joan of Arc and also a lot of very nice statuary. This church is not finished yet. It was started twenty-five years ago and it will take ten more years to finish it. Of course, work on it has stopped since the war started."

It is refreshing to note that few reports are heard of looting churches or disrespect shown to holy places as were heard of our soldiers in the Philippines. This is another indirect result of the "side-by-side-shoulder-to-shoulder" of Catholics and non-Catholics in the present war, also the presence of Catholic chaplains with the American troops both abroad and in the cantonments here.

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