

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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BY THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

It is plain that even if an armistice were declared by Thanks giving Day the war will not be over to the extent that our American soldier boys will return to their native country or that restrictions on food consumption and coal or the other dozen or more restrictions that we have been subjected to during the last two years will be removed.

In the first place, a large Allied army and navy will necessarily be retained to insure peace terms being complied with—and to be prepared lest the Huns break the armistice and resume warfare.

Quarantine Off.

Now that the quarantine is lifted and we may resume assistance at Mass; life will once more be worth living and we Catholics will not feel so like heathens. It cannot be denied that even the lukewarm Catholics who thought it would be nice to be like Protestants for once and lay abed as late as one wanted on Sunday mornings have not enjoyed the experience as much as they expected.

Inasmuch as Greater New York did not put in force an arbitrary and universal closing order, even when demanded by the physicians of a particular school of medicine—and the record shows that in this great metropolis with its 5,000,000 population the percentage of cases of influenza and fatalities resultant therefrom was no greater than in the communities where rigid closing of all public places except stores and factories and offices—it is a mooted question whether the hysteria engendered by universal closing did not counter-balance the good effect. It always will be so.

But one thing is patent: the relaxation of hygienic precautions, the laxity in cleanly precautions, the prohibition of all plumbing repairs except in emergency cases and also of ordinary repairs to roofs, because of war conditions contributed materially to the spread of the influenza plague as the record shows greater virulence and fatality in the sections where the dwellers took advantage of the war conditions to return to the old practice of nailing up the shutters for the winter and so excluding God's fresh air and sunlight—the best hygienic agencies ever known. It also cannot be denied that the warnings of the fuel administrators "not to heat out doors" has been interpreted literally by the foreign section of our population who love heat and loathe cold, even if it be in the form of crisp, fresh air. It will be absolutely necessary for the authorities to keep close watch upon the "influenza sections" of Rochester all this winter to insure a proper supply of sunshine and air.

Now that we have made our sacrifice in the supposed interest of the community's health and safety, let every Catholic be at Mass Sunday to thank Almighty God for His mercy in preserving us through the epidemic; to pray for continued mercies and to pray

for a lasting peace throughout the entire world in the near future.

After War.

It is plain that even if an armistice were declared by Thanks giving Day the war will not be over to the extent that our American soldier boys will return to their native country or that restrictions on food consumption and coal or the other dozen or more restrictions that we have been subjected to during the last two years will be removed.

In the first place, a large Allied army and navy will necessarily be retained to insure peace terms being complied with—and to be prepared lest the Huns break the armistice and resume warfare.

In the second place, it is probable that a large Allied force will be necessary to insure stable governments in the Central Powers countries and in Russia. This may take one, two or three years.

In the fourth place, we will have to continue to feed our soldiers over there so long as they stay and also to help feed the starving nations of Europe until their countries are reconstructed and things begin to move as in normal peace times. How long it will take to do this is problematical; may be one, may be two years.

It can be seen very readily that it will be several years before the United States returns to ordinary peace conditions. And, in all probability, things will never be exactly the same as before the war.

One Lie Nailed.

A Mr. Auguste C. Babize, of the "Investment News" has taken upon himself to attempt to continue the sub-cellar big game warfare upon the Catholic Church. In a pamphlet entitled "Pope Benedict, the Hun and Peace Propaganda" Mr. Babize made this bare-faced statement: "Pope Benedict did not remain silent when his voice and his pen, by urging a premature peace, effectually aided the arch-criminal of humanity and Christianity. On the pretense that he wanted peace—who does not want peace—a message was sent forth so inspired by the Hapsburgs, that blood-stained ruling house of Austria; so decidedly prejudicial to civilization that it brought forth a stunning rebuke from no less a man than the great President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson."

To ascertain the correctness of Mr. Babize's statement the Secretary of the Catholic Federation of the United States, on July 22, 1918, addressed a letter to the Secretary of President Wilson, as follows: "A pamphlet has been in circulation in Chicago and elsewhere, in which Auguste C. Babize makes the following statement: 'A message was sent forth (by Pope Benedict) so clearly inspired by the Hapsburgs, that blood-stained ruling house of Austria; so prejudicial to civilization, that it brought forth a stunning rebuke from no less a man than the great President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson.' 'Will you kindly advise us whether such a rebuke was ever administered by the President of the United States?'"

"Very respectfully yours, ANTHONY MATRE, National Secretary, Catholic Federation of the U. S." To the above letter the following response was received: The White House, Washington, D. C.,

July 25, 1918.

Mr. Anthony Matre, Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 22nd of July. There is no foundation in fact for the statement that the President took such action as is attributed to him by Mr. Auguste C. Babize.

Yours faithfully, JOSEPH P. KELLY, Secretary to the President."

Our Roll of Honor.

Every casualty list adds indisputable evidence that our Catholic boys have done their full duty by the Stars and Stripes, the flag typifying their native country or the country of their adopted nationality. And the Catholic soldier boys of America were not of one nationality or ancestry. Americans native born, Irish, Polish, Italian, Slav, and almost every nationality in the world all have given their best for world liberty.

Many there are who made the supreme sacrifice. Many a Catholic family has one, two and even three gold stars on its service flag. Many a heart is sad as the casualty lists come in and yet they would have given them up had they known in advance that their loved one would lie in a hero's grave far from home and family. They have this consolation in their hour of sorrow, their loved one gave up his life for his country.

But the stigma of unpatriotism does not lie against us in this great world struggle.

Let no Catholic able to be out neglect to assist at Mass Sunday.

The late lamented Mr. Sulzer has at least one friend in Monroe County—the Hon. Thomas J. Leddy.

Now keep up the thrift stamp habit!

It was an inspiring spectacle to see Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and Charles E. Hughes clasp hands across the bloody chasm while Charles Seymour Whitman winked the other eye.

Whatever else may be said of Woodrow Wilson, he does not ask anybody to do for him what he hesitates to do himself.

Funny, is it not, that whereas the Rochester papers say the War Board's orders compel them to discontinue the "Sunday colored supplements" the New York papers keep right on publishing these selfsame colored supplements?

The Food Administration seems to delight in issuing orders on Monday and rescinding them on Friday despite the scarcity of white paper.

It would seem that Germany must dismantle her military and naval establishment before any permanent world peace is assured and that after that is done there should be a gradual progressive disarmament of all the nations of the world.

Undoubtedly, there will be a number of revolutions in Europe during the period of readjustment which is why the Allied armies cannot be withdrawn or demobilized right away.

If the present railroad proprietors cannot make money under present rates why not give way to others who may be able to solve the problem. We notice that as soon as a purchaser appeared for the Buffalo street railways, their present proprietors found a way to adjust their difficulties with their striking employees.

Perhaps the building trades will be permitted to resume operations next spring.

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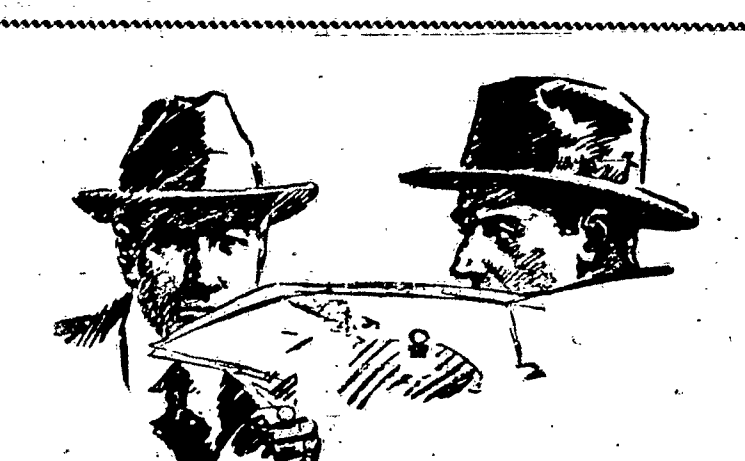
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