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Friday, November 22, 1918

Then and Now.

The other day the editor of the Catholic Journal ran across a copy of the 'Forum' of May 1888 - when the publication cost 50 cents a copy which was more than most paper covered monthly magazines cost in those days.

Seth Low, Senator Shelby M. Cullom, of Illinois, Frederic Taylor, Judge George C. Barrett, of New York, Michael Davitt, Judge R. C. Pitman and Bishop F. S. Chatard who died on September 7th last in the fifty-sixth year of his priesthood and fortieth year of episcopate.

Bishop Chatard's article was on 'Temporal Power and the Papacy', a subject he was well qualified to discuss intelligently by reason of his long residence in Rome, his twelve years rectorship of the American College in Rome, during which time the Vatican Council was held and his intimate personal association of the winning of the war.

With Pope Pius IX. The keynote of Bishop Chatard's article is that just as the United States Government is free from obstruction in them from the Allies than they a material way by the absolute independence of the District of Columbia so the Pope, as the spiritual head of millions of Catholics all over the world, should be absolutely independent of any wheedle by temporal restrictions and not being fettered by municipal ordinances imposed by a temporal ruler, of Rome, who might be hostile to the Church. The Bishop also explains why the Pope cannot pose as a radical interested in the leveling of all forms of government. The Church always sustains the existing form of government. As the Bishop put it "while the Church holds that 'justice being observed', the republican is a good form of government, she takes the common sense view, that the monarchical form is not to be condemned, per se, as bad."

While signs do not point that way, the Peace Congress soon to come, could advance the cause of perpetual peace by assuring the Pope a neutral place of residence from which he could exercise unhampered spiritual sway over his millions of subjects.

Judge Pitman's paper is a covert attack upon the Catholic parochial system and an argument that only the best educated in Russia, and the threatened make the best citizens. True, Judge Pitman conceded that Catholic has as much right to his parochial school as the rich Protestant to his private school, college or seminary but he says that it is unfortunate for the American people that there should not be one national school system. The Judge conceded, even in 1888, that the American school system was godless in its trend and that some instruction in morals or religion was absolutely needed in the schools. The Judge then went on to outline a plan to impart such instruction by Bible

reading, and Scripture quotation. He admitted that his plan might not suit the Catholics but he thought that could be remedied by permitting priests and nuns to impart Catholic religion in school after school hours. The Judge's idea of religious instruction is epitomized by this quotation: "I would have religious instruction as a part of our public education. What religion? The religion that is a part of the common law, the only religion that permeates our literature, and the religion that is related to all our modern civilization Christianity." It is plain that the Judge never heard of the Jews. Perhaps, he was an anti-Semitic. Any way he was not a success as a prophet as witness the closing paragraph of his paper: "I have faith that the American system of public education of the masses in the common schools will triumph over the old-worn theories of training by ecclesiastics. One thing is sure, the Roman Catholic layman in this country of the people must have a recognition not accorded him in Europe; and the style of Catholicism which must ultimately predominate will not be ultramontane. To the practical judgment of the Catholic masses the most determination of this question finally be left, and all that we can do is to maintain and increase the superiority of the common school. I, for one, do not believe that the American citizen, whatever his ancestry or creed, will in the long run, be inclined to pay for an inferior article when he can get a superior at the public expense." The State schools have not increased in superiority and the parochial schools have waxed stronger and better since 1888.

Peace Problem.

While it is to be hoped that such will not prove to be the case, nevertheless indications are strong that problems concerned in the enforcement of peace are likely to be as vexatious as was the winning of the war.

No sooner did the Germans accept the armistice they besought the United States Government to secure for them from the Allies than they frantically implored the President to lighten the terms. Undoubtedly, by so doing they hoped to enlist the sympathy of our soft-hearted pacifists and to wheedle the President into taking a position which would estrange us from the Allied nations, because the Germans of ten have gained by their devious methods of diplomacy what appeared lost in military encounters. Swaggering swabucklers when winning and utterly lacking in sympathy for their opponents, they whine like curs when defeated. Women who tortured and spat upon helpless prisoners of war, send piteous appeals to soft-hearted American women that they are starving and the armistice terms are too severe! "What mercy did the Huns show the Belgian women and children, to say nothing of the Belgian men. How much sympathy or consideration did they have for Cardinal Mercier? We do not need to be revengeful in order to mete out exact justice.

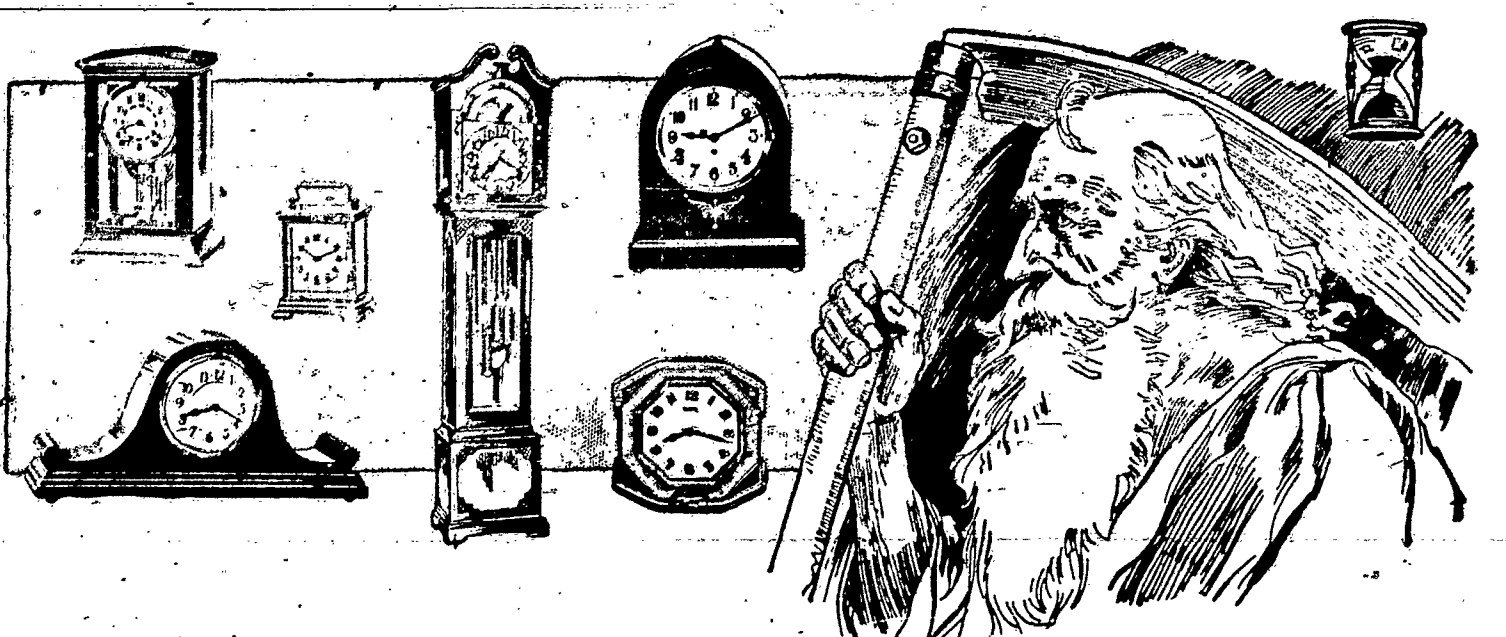
Then there are the present uprisings in Austria and Germany to say nothing of the Bolsheviks in Russia, and the threatened socialist uprisings in France, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden and even in England. Right in our own country the undercurrent of socialist tendency is seen in the objection to any reduction in wages even when the munition product is necessarily curtailed because the war has halted temporarily. This appears an unreasonable attitude but human nature is human nature and when one who has ordinarily earned \$20 or \$25 a week finds his pay envelope needed in the schools. The Judge swelled to \$50 and \$75 a week, then went on to outline a plan to view a return to \$25 a week

even if the awful slaughter in outbreaks of bigotry from the Europe has ceased. War profiteers cowardly pro-Germans who are not confined to the employers but by any means. The workers have been inoculated with the profit virus as well. If there were any immediate possibility of reduced prices of all that enters into living expenses, the reduction in wages might be viewed with more equanimity but when one has become accustomed to living on a \$80 a week and not only we but all our thinking persons because the wages of all needed supplies are held as before, it were better not to have had the higher wages. Of course, the workers in war have been living in an abnormal pace for the last year and back, a half and it will be difficult to readjust themselves to the normal war basis.

Then there are the thousands of persons who have entered governmental service either in regular capacity or as attaches to this or that war activity. These naturally hate to return to private life. Then there are the women who have entered the industries because men were called into military service. Many of these will be glad to return home when "Hubby" comes back. But many a Hubby never will come back and their widows may want to retain their industrial places. And many a woman who has no soldier relative may be loth to give place to the returned soldier. What is to be done in such cases? These are only a few of the perplexing peace problems and they are an earnest of the whole. Infinite patience is needed by the American people if they are to be solved wisely and that American institutions are to continue inviolate.

Still At It?

There are indications that declaration of peace has precipitated



Clocks for Christmas Presents

A good clock is more than a timepiece, more than an article of furniture. The movements of the household revolve about it. Dignified, beautiful, sweet to the ear, restful to the eye, this calm recorder of the passing hours becomes a presiding genius of the home.

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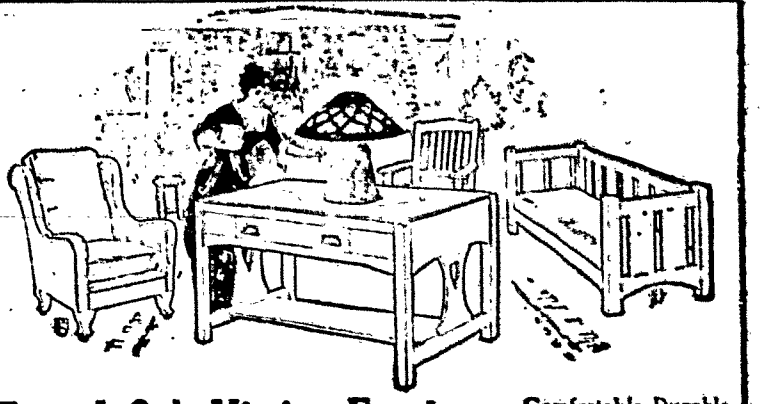
Waltham "Tambour" Striking Mahogany Mantel Clocks, standard double roller lever escapement compensating balance, hairspring is a Breguet, of scientific design, impulse pin is a sapphire, movement plates of cold rolled brass of the best, hour and half-hour strike movement, 4 1/2 inch dial. Moderately priced at \$60.00.

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