

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, December 13 1918. Time Will Tell.

While there need be no sympathy felt for the coterie of disappointed politicians—and they are not herded in anyone party—who were not included or recognized by President Wilson in the Peace Mission, it must be admitted that there are thousands of Americans who are not only ready but eager to support the President in his peace programme...

Unfortunately, perhaps, Woodrow Wilson as President, has not been over-communicative. He is more than reticent, he is secretive. Unlike Taft, who bubbles with good nature, unlike Roosevelt, who was never retiring; unlike McKinley who was urbanity personified, yet Sphinx-like when occasion demanded, Mr. Wilson has never sought public admiration or personal popularity. There is no doubt he takes himself and his position seriously, too much so, perhaps.

When all this is said, however, it must not be forgotten that the President is in a trying position. He is fully aware—more so than we are—of the probability that the Allies may demand material advantages in the settlement of the peace terms, material advantages which will be the disadvantage of the United States. He realizes that the oppressed and downtrodden smaller European peoples look to the United States for justice and fair treatment. He has repeatedly declared that this was not a war of conquest so far as the United States was concerned, nor a war for territorial widening. Inferentially, we cannot permit our Allies to do what we ourselves will not do. And this is not inconsistent with exaction of full and complete reparation and restitution to and from Germany.

It may be understood by fair-minded men that it were not the best way for the President to make known our position until the Allies had "tipped their hands" a little bit, any way. While we may wax impatient at not knowing all that is going on in the President's mind, is it not the part of national prudence that our spokesmen keep silent until the Allies reveal their position? Let us possess our souls in patience until the President has blundered, if he does, which we doubt.

We Co-Operated.

It cannot ever be denied that the Catholics co-operated with every agency at work in war activity during the progress of the great war, now, we hope, closed for good and all.

We supplied our full quota of volunteers and selective draft soldiers and sailors and there is time.

scarcely a parish in the country which is not displaying one or more gold stars on its service flag, indicative of boys who have made the supreme sacrifice. Our Catholic chaplains have been commended and decorated for their courageous devotion to the men for whose spiritual welfare they were accountable.

And our gentle Sisters have done their work on and near the battlefields and in the hospitals while the K. of C. secretaries have supplemented the work of all including the Red Cross.

It has been so everywhere—in England, in France, in Italy, in Belgium and in Russia. As a recent tribute has it:

"It has not been a question of creed or religion, just one of humanity. Suffering human beings needed help and help was forthcoming. Seconding the work of the American Red Cross the sisterhoods of France, the priests of that country and of Italy, have done noble work, often at great personal risk. At La Chau, near Lyons, the Red Cross operates a hospital under the auspices of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Julie is there. On her breast she wears the medal of the Legion of Honor—the highest decoration France could bestow upon her.

"How did Sister Julie earn this distinction? By sticking to her post of duty, looking after a crowd of frightened women and children, the while German shells and bullets whizzed about—the while the brave men of France bled and died to protect her and her charges. And, when finally the French were forced back, Sister Julie was the last civilian to leave.

"So it has been everywhere in France and Italy. Wherever the Red Cross, has brought succor there the sisters and priests have been. When the Piave drove crushed Italy for the time being, hundreds and thousands of terror-stricken refugees poured from the battle zone into the district to the rear. Treviso, Venice and Padua were emptied of their population. In the midst of all this untold misery it was the parish priests who stood out as towers of strength. They were in constant co-operation with the Red Cross, and they constituted the most sympathetic medium of the people—for they knew intimately the wants and troubles of their charges."

Crush It?

If all the daily papers would take the position assumed by the Baltimore "Sun" bigotry never will rear its noxious head very high in the United States. Recently the "Sun" said:—

"The increased democratic pluralities in the third and fourth congressional districts, as well as the handsome vote of Mr. Benson in Baltimore county and in Baltimore city wards, may very probably have been due in part to the anti-Catholic campaign which was waged openly or secretly against the democratic candidates. Certainly that campaign did not help the opposition. Nothing is more offensive to the great majority of Marylanders than religious intolerance, and we are glad to see that has been emphatically rebuked. The worst of tyrants is the man who attempts to proscribe and persecute another because of religious differences. His is a worse than Prussian despotism, and those who advocate and support it are not only odious and detestable, but poisonous to the atmosphere of free government."

"Whenever and wherever this venomous serpent shows itself, the people of Maryland will crush it with an iron heel. That sort of thing cannot flourish here, and any party that associates itself with it is simply inviting defeat."

Let us hope that Catholics will not be the harshest critics of the first Catholic Governor of New York elected since Dongan's

If the report be true that Bishop Hayes is to be elevated to the Archbishopric of New York and Monsignor Lavelle, of New York, is to be Bishop of Albany, then two splendid churchmen will be deservedly honored and New York and Albany are to be congratulated.

It is touching to see one Rochester paper boost a leading stockholder of a competitor for a leading post under Governor-elect Smith.

Did you notice that Uncle George Aldridge never claimed Governor Whitman was counted out?

From all accounts, Carter Glass will make a splendid Secretary of the Treasury.

The Greatest Medical Authorities in the World have made public statements in which they endorse the value of such ingredients as are contained in Father John's Medicine.

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